

Scientists set to look through York Region backyards

BY MIKE ADLER
Staff Writer

It's a bit like having the Crocodile Hunter poke around your backyard. Hundreds of York Region landowners

are being asked to open their properties to scientists intent on noting every frog, flower and bird.

The scientists, working for the Toronto and Region Conservation

Authority, hope to visit Lake Wilcox in Richmond Hill, the hamlet of Victoria Square in Markham, part of Ballantrae in Whitchurch-Stouffville and other areas.

They will look for the 1,000 plant and animal species found in the authority's jurisdiction — as far north as the southern slopes of the Oak Ridges Moraine — and, in particular, the 500 of those species no longer found in urban areas.

These species include ovenbirds and red-shouldered hawks, spring peeper frogs and flying squirrels, white oak trees and maidenhair ferns.

The authority's staff will be looking at natural areas, not at front lawns or under porches. They aren't police; they want to find out what's on properties and what

isn't, so people can make wise decisions in the future. They begin in April by looking for frogs and owls and later move on to wildflowers and breeding birds.

Depending on a property's size, five visits might be necessary, according to Sue Hayes, co-ordinator for the authority's terrestrial field inventories.

"We're not out there digging holes or taking plants away," she said, adding the research teams show respect for property and the staff are all safety-trained.

Property owners, Ms. Hayes said "probably won't even see us".

Property owners contacted by the authority can call 416-661-6600, ext. 5356 or 5225.

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Public Information Centre

BIOSOLIDS MASTER PLAN STUDY



WORKS DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Region of Durham is undertaking a Master Plan Study to identify the preferred method of managing the solid residues that result from the treatment of municipal wastewater at the Region's water pollution control plants. These solid residues are referred to as biosolids. Wastewater and biosolids from York Region are also treated within Durham Region.

The Biosolids Master Plan is being prepared in accordance with the master planning provisions of the *Municipal Class Environmental Assessment*. This process integrates planning for municipal infrastructure requirements with the principals of environmental assessment planning. Based on these planning provisions, alternative methods of managing biosolids are being identified and evaluated based on an assessment of the following factors:

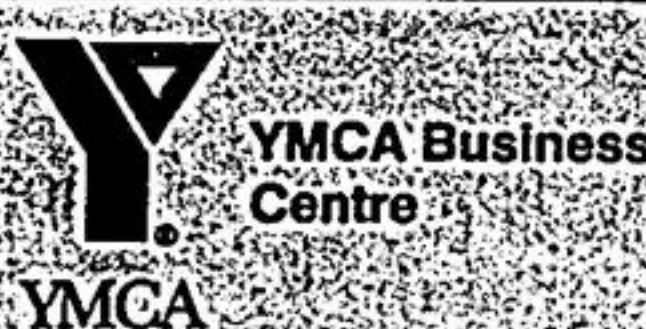
- Natural Environment
- Social Environment
- Economic Environment
- Cultural Environment
- Regulatory Requirements
- Technical Feasibility

A Public Information Centre for this project will be held on **Monday, March 8, 2004, between 4:00pm and 8:00pm at the Pickering Recreation Complex, East Entrance, O'Brien Room, 1867 Valley Farm Road, Pickering.** Representatives from the Region of Durham, and the project consultants, will present information on the project and answer questions from attendees. We encourage your involvement in this study to help us identify the issues that are important to you.

Further information on this study, including details about additional Public Information Centres being held at other locations within the Region of Durham, is available by contacting:

Mr. Rich Tindall, P.Eng., Project Manager Local telephone: (905) 668-7721 Ext. 5363
Region of Durham, Works Department Toll free telephone: 1-800-372-1103
105 Consumers Drive, Box 623 Fax: (905) 668-2051
WHITBY ON L1N 6A3 E-mail: BiosolidsMasterPlan@region.durham.on.ca

Durham Region Works Department
105 Consumers Dr., WHITBY ON L1N 6A3
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