

# Wildlife and wetlands relief from concrete jungle

By Nancy Hopkins  
Stouffville This Month

World famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright once said, "Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you."

Since 1990, the non-profit Community Resources Centre has put his words into practice, carrying out projects that monitor the wetlands and wildlife on our own doorstep. Under the direction of its program co-ordinator, Musselman's Lake resident Mark Carroll, the group is looking for youth and adults to become involved in frog monitoring, bird counting and identification, tree planti-

ng or any of their many other environmental initiatives.

The centre is specifically in need of eyes and ears to survey the local frog population for 15 minutes, one or two evenings a week until the end of June, or on a more casual basis. Frogs and toads are very vulnerable to environmental change and therefore good indicators of the health of a watershed.

Surveyors receive an information package containing a simple coding system and data collection form to monitor frog noises, marking code zero for no frog sound right up to code three for total peeping, croaking chaos. The results will be put into the

database of the province-wide Frogwatch-Ontario program.

"Last year we got going on this frog monitoring and the kids absolutely loved it. It was amazing how many young kids know their frogs," says Lemonville resident Dave Probert, an enthusiastic participant in Community Resources Centre undertakings. Mr. Probert plans to be part of a fall project identifying and counting the bird population in the Lemonville community, and encourages others to join forces in preserving the wetlands and wildlife in their part of the township. In his words, "We don't live in the concrete jungle."

At this time of year, helping hands are also needed to plant trees. Students are encouraged to become involved in any of the Centre's projects, and the time they put in can be used towards the volunteer hours required for high school graduation.

Watching the ever-changing local environment ensures that the centre is constantly in action. Local Girl Guides are part of an ongoing No Idling

Zone program designed to cut down areas where vehicles are allowed to idle. Many local children have spent time at the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) building bird boxes, learning about wildlife habitats and hiking

as part of the recent National Wildlife Week celebrations.

The centre can also provide many resources to encourage proper care of the environment, and Mr. Carroll welcomes inquiries from residents. "If you are looking to re-naturalize or

enhance your property and unsure what to do, we will get you (going) in the right direction," he said.

To learn how you can help the local environment, call Mark Carroll at 416-282-5911 or send an e-mail to musselmans@sym-patico.ca.



A group of adults and young people at the Community Resources Centre in Whitchurch-Stouffville are working on projects to protect the environment. Back: Shelley Aldred, Mark Carroll, Megan Polley. Middle: Haley Hillman, Alexia Gross, Paige Lyrette, Adrienne Deeley, Kathryn George, Sharon Burdette. Front: Samantha Howe, Danielle Burdette, Daisy Pyman, Shelby Ondrus, Haley Catalanò.

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