

Community Composting Made Easy: HVRA Launches Pilot Project

Now that Toronto is spending \$60 million per year to ship all of its garbage to Michigan, there is a real urgency to find new ways to reduce our wastes. While the City is planning to provide all downtown households with free compost pickups in two years' time, there are two ways we can compost in the interim. We can purchase a \$15 backyard composter from the City, OR you can join one of HVRA's new community composting pilot projects.

Backyard composting: Make your own compost to fertilize your own lawn and garden. However you can't add meat and dairy products to most bins because they tend to create an

odour and attract rodents. By contrast, when residents use one of the community composting bins, they will be able to compost ALL of their food wastes, including meat and dairy products.

Community composting: joins with restaurant pickup. Participants will collect household food scraps in plastic bags, and simply drop those bags into their community bin. (Using plastic bags will keep the bins clean and reduce odours.) When the bin is full, it will be emptied by the City, provided it is placed beside the green bin at a local restaurant on a pick-up day.

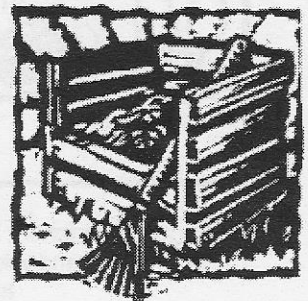
Linking with the City's twice weekly free

pickup of food wastes from restaurants and corner stores, HVRA's Environment Committee will supply 5 free green composting bins, one bin each to five groups of 10 or more households.

To obtain one of the five free bins available in this pilot project:

- * Sign up a minimum of 10 interested households;
- * Pick an accessible but discreet location for the bin, one that is not likely to attract non-compostable wastes;
- * Develop a plan to ensure that when each bin is full, it is placed beside those of a participating restaurant on one of the two designated evenings each week, and retrieved the next morning.

"...there is a real urgency to find new ways to reduce our wastes."



If you would like more information or to participate in this pilot project, please contact Tim Grant at 416-960-1244 or tim@greenteacher.com





Your family, neighbours, pets, and wildlife may be hurt by them.

Please Don't Use Pesticides!

Both our federal and city governments are contemplating banning the cosmetic use of pesticides on lawns and gardens. The Canadian Cancer Society and the Ontario Public Health Association support these bans. Why? All pesticides, whether herbicides, fungicides or insecticides, are poisons: each is designed to kill something, whether insects, moulds or unwanted vegetation. In our downtown neighbourhood, it is almost certain that pesticides will end up on neighbouring properties because their tiny particles remain suspended in the air for at least 30 minutes. Cats, dogs and people carry them into houses, where carpets have been found to contain pesticides as much as a year after outdoor spraying.

Pesticide exposure can cause immediate effects such as nausea and vomiting; eye, skin or respiratory or throat irritation; muscle spasms and death. Exposure has been associated with many types of cancer, behavioural and developmental problems in children, Parkinson's disease, and immune system suppression. Children are especially affected, suffering harm up to 10 times more than adults. Why risk these diseases when safe, effective and inexpensive methods of pesticide-free lawn and garden maintenance are available?

Let's be good neighbours and help maintain a healthy community. Here's what we can do:

- Nourish lawns by adding compost and slow-release organic fertilizers and

- mulching grass clippings.
- Aerate the soil to improve drainage.
- Let the grass grow taller to choke out the light and prevent weeds from establishing.
- Hire young kids to remove dandelions.
- Reseed in the late spring.
- Overseed in the fall with a mixture that includes perennial rye grasses and fine fescues.

For additional information, contact: Toronto Public Health (Health Promotion and Environmental Protection Office) (416) 338-0338, or the Toronto Environmental Alliance, (416) 596-0660, www.torontoenvironment.org. The City of Toronto has white lawn signs which read "Pesticide-Free - Safe for all Living Things". Call 397-LAWN (5296) to get yours free of charge.

HVRA's Environment Committee

Update: Kensington Health Centre Construction

"...there has been a KHC Construction committee established..."

The construction for phase 3 of the Kensington Health Centre (150 bed long term care centre) started last year in November. The target completion date is December 12, 2003. The winter has been brutal and long, however progress has been made.

There has been a KHC Construction committee established to deal with questions and concerns arising during construction. The committee is composed

of three neighbourhood members: Ingrid McKhool, Julie McDowell and Grace DaSilva, as well as, the administrator of KHC, William O'Neil, the site supervisor from Kenaidan, Marcello Zanon and the HVRA liaison board member, Maria Perin.

To get more of an up-date on issues such as construction times, sidewalk, road cleaning, dust control, parking or other issue, please see the HVRA website:

www.harbordvillage.com.

If you have any comments or concerns you can reach: William O'Neil, Administrator at 416-963-5595 or at boneill@tkhc.org; Marcello Zanon, Site Supervisor at 905-670-2660

Julie McDowell, neighbour at jemcd@interlog.com Maria Perin, Liaison at 416-922-6652 or m.perin@sympatico.ca