



# Halton Environmental Network

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

## MID-SUMMER BULLETIN

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### HEN NEWS

- **NEW HEN WEBSITE!** We are very excited to launch our new website. Although it's not quite finished, it's time to let you take a look. We have stopped updating our old site. Go to <http://haltonenvironment.ca>. Any feedback would be appreciated.
- **Bulletins** will be less frequent over the summer. The next bulletin is scheduled for August 18.
- **HERE! Halton Enablers of Renewable Energy upcoming events:**
  - We will be holding a geothermal tour and information session on Thursday, August 12 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in Georgetown.
  - You are invited to give input to the HERE! team on Thursday, August 19, 7-9pm in Oakville.
  - For details or to register for either event, email [here.office@gmail.com](mailto:here.office@gmail.com) or call 905-299-2327.
- **Facebook** – Visit our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Halton-Environmental-Network/305626700043> and become a Fan!

### ENVIRO TIP

- During hot summer days, keep your curtains closed and lights off. Both actions will help reduce the need for air conditioning. Reducing energy use reduces the need for fossil fuel generated electricity, and thus reduces the severity of smog days.

### EVENTS (N=new entry, U=updated entry, F=family activity, V=volunteer activity)

Disclaimer: HEN does not take a position on the issues presented at these events. They are listed as events that are potentially of interest to our readership.

U F

WHEN	WHO	WHAT	WHERE	LINK/PHONE
<b>Fri. July 30</b> 8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Conservation Halton	Outdoor Family Movie Night: Alvin and the Chipmunks	Kelso Conservation Area, Milton	<a href="http://www.conservationhalton.ca">www.conservationhalton.ca</a> 905-878-5011
<b>Wed. Aug. 4</b> 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Royal Botanical Gardens	Canning the Fruits of our Labour – Late Harvest	RBG Centre, 680 Plains Rd. W., Burlington	<a href="http://www.rbg.ca">www.rbg.ca</a> 1-800-694-4769 \$35; register ASAP



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	WHEN	WHO	WHAT	WHERE	LINK/PHONE
U F	<b>Fri. Aug. 6</b> 8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Conservation Halton	Outdoor Family Movie Night: Night at the Museum 2	Kelso Conservation Area, Milton	<a href="http://www.conservationhalton.ca">www.conservationhalton.ca</a> 905-878-5011
	<b>Sat. Aug. 7</b> 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Everdale Organic Farm	The Lost Art of Canning and Home Preserving	Everdale Farm, 5812 Sixth Line, Hillsburgh	<a href="http://www.everdale.org">www.everdale.org</a> 519-855-4859 \$92; bring lunch
F	<b>Sat. Aug. 7</b> 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Conservation Halton	An Evening with the Bats	Mountsberg Conservation Area, Campbellville	<a href="http://www.conservationhalton.ca">www.conservationhalton.ca</a> 905-854-2276 \$15/adult; \$10/child 5-14
F	<b>Sun. Aug. 8</b> 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Willow Park Ecology Centre	Butterfly Day	Willow Park Ecology Centre, Mary St., Norval	<a href="http://www.willowparkecology.com">www.willowparkecology.com</a> 905-702-9055
	<b>Wed. Aug. 11</b>		Power Pledge Challenge	Across Ontario	<a href="http://www.powerpledge.ca">www.powerpledge.ca</a>
N	<b>Thurs. Aug. 12</b> 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	<b>HEN</b>	Geothermal Information and Tour	Devereaux House, 11494 Trafalgar Rd., Georgetown	<a href="http://halton.ourpower.ca">http://halton.ourpower.ca</a> <a href="mailto:hrrsp.admin@gmail.com">hrrsp.admin@gmail.com</a> 905-299-2327
N	<b>Thurs. Aug. 12</b> 9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Royal Botanical Gardens	Perseid Meteor Shower Watching	RBG Nature Centre, 16 Old Guelph Rd., Dundas	<a href="http://www.rbg.ca">www.rbg.ca</a> 1-800-694-4769 \$13.50; register by Aug. 3
U F	<b>Fri. Aug. 13</b> 8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Conservation Halton	Outdoor Family Movie Night: How to Train your Dragon	Kelso Conservation Area, Milton	<a href="http://www.conservationhalton.ca">www.conservationhalton.ca</a> 905-878-5011
	<b>Sat. Aug. 14</b>		Blackout Day	Across Ontario	<a href="http://www.blackoutday.ca">www.blackoutday.ca</a>
N F	<b>Sat. Aug. 14</b> 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Credit Valley Conservation	Mighty Morphin' Butterflies	Terra Cotta Conser- vation Area, 14452 Winston Churchill	<a href="http://www.creditvalleyca.ca">www.creditvalleyca.ca</a> 905-670-1615 ext. 221 Park admission applies.
N	<b>Sat. Aug. 14</b> 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.		Oakville Green Drinks	Queen's Head Pub, 118 Dunn St., Oakville	<a href="http://www.meetup.com/ecopartners">www.meetup.com/ecopartners</a>
F	<b>Sun. Aug. 15</b> 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Royal Botanical Gardens	Going Buggy	RBG Nature Centre, 16 Old Guelph Rd., Dundas	<a href="http://www.rbg.ca">www.rbg.ca</a> 1-800-694-4769 \$10/person; \$25/family
N F	<b>Sun. Aug. 15</b> 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Conservation Halton	The Spirit Sings	Crawford Lake Conservation Area, Campbellville	<a href="http://www.conservationhalton.ca">www.conservationhalton.ca</a> 905-854-0234 \$24/adult; \$15/senior, child
N	<b>Thurs. Aug. 19</b> 7:00 p.m.	BurlingtonGreen	"H2Oil" screening	Burlington Central Library, 2331 New St.	<a href="http://www.burlingtongreen.org">www.burlingtongreen.org</a> 905-466-2171 \$5
N F	<b>Fri. Aug. 20</b> 8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Conservation Halton	Outdoor Family Movie Night: Up	Kelso Conservation Area, Milton	<a href="http://www.conservationhalton.ca">www.conservationhalton.ca</a> 905-878-5011
	<b>Sat. Aug. 21</b> 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Everdale Organic Farm	Introduction to Cob Construction	Everdale Farm, 5812 Sixth Line, Hillsburgh	<a href="http://www.everdale.org">www.everdale.org</a> 519-855-4859 \$92
F	<b>Sun. Aug. 22</b> 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Royal Botanical Gardens	RBG Geo-Quest	RBG Nature Centre, 16 Old Guelph Rd., Dundas	<a href="http://www.rbg.ca">www.rbg.ca</a> 1-800-694-4769 \$13.50/person; \$38/family

## Halton Environmental Network

	WHEN	WHO	WHAT	WHERE	LINK/PHONE
N	<b>Sat. Aug. 28</b> 10:00-1:00 or 2:00-5:00	Everdale Organic Farm	Build your own Cold Frame	Everdale Farm, 5812 Sixth Line, Hillsburgh	<a href="http://www.everdale.org">www.everdale.org</a> 519-855-4859 \$125
N	<b>Sun. Aug. 29</b> 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Willow Park Ecology Centre	Volunteer Appreciation Day	Willow Park Ecology Centre, Mary St., Norval	<a href="http://www.willowparkecology.com">www.willowparkecology.com</a> 905-702-9055 Call to volunteer.
N	<b>Sept. 11-12</b>	Friends of the Greenbelt	Tour de Greenbelt	Niagara Region	<a href="http://www.tourdegreenbelt.ca">www.tourdegreenbelt.ca</a>
N	<b>Sat. Sept. 11</b> 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Royal Botanical Gardens	Naturally Inspired – photography workshop (beg.)	RBG Nature Centre, 16 Old Guelph Rd., Dundas	<a href="http://www.rbg.ca">www.rbg.ca</a> 1-800-694-4769 \$72; register by Sept. 2
N F	<b>Sept. 11-12</b> 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Royal Botanical Gardens	Family Overnight Campout	RBG Nature Centre, 16 Old Guelph Rd., Dundas	<a href="http://www.rbg.ca">www.rbg.ca</a> 1-800-694-4769 \$40/person; \$130/family
N F	<b>Sun. Sept. 12</b> 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Royal Botanical Gardens	The Endangered Butternut Tree	RBG Nature Centre, 16 Old Guelph Rd., Dundas	<a href="http://www.rbg.ca">www.rbg.ca</a> 1-800-694-4769 \$10/person; \$25/family
N	<b>Thur. Sept. 16</b> 6:00 p.m. for 7:00 p.m.	Canadian Club of Halton Peel	Monthly dinner – “The Secret Lives of Birds”	Oakville Conference Centre, 2515 Wycroft Rd	<a href="mailto:bwylie@globalserv.net">bwylie@globalserv.net</a> 905-827-6302 \$40
N	<b>Sat. Sept. 19</b> 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Royal Botanical Gardens	Natural Foods and Wild Edibles	RBG Centre, 680 Plains Rd. W., Burlington	<a href="http://www.rbg.ca">www.rbg.ca</a> 1-800-694-4769 \$28; register by Sept. 10
N	<b>Mon. Sept. 20</b> 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Royal Botanical Gardens	Cold Frames and Season Extension Techniques	RBG Centre, 680 Plains Rd. W., Burlington	<a href="http://www.rbg.ca">www.rbg.ca</a> 1-800-694-4769 \$30; register by Sept. 11
N	<b>Sept. 25-26</b>	Friends of the Greenbelt	Tour de Greenbelt	York, Durham Regions	<a href="http://www.tourdegreenbelt.ca">www.tourdegreenbelt.ca</a>
N	<b>Sat. Sept. 25</b> 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Royal Botanical Gardens	Naturally Inspired – photography workshop (int.)	RBG Nature Centre, 16 Old Guelph Rd., Dundas	<a href="http://www.rbg.ca">www.rbg.ca</a> 1-800-694-4769 \$72; register by Sept. 16
N	<b>Sat. Sept. 25</b> 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Royal Botanical Gardens	Fall Pruning Workshop	RBG Nature Centre, 16 Old Guelph Rd., Dundas	<a href="http://www.rbg.ca">www.rbg.ca</a> 1-800-694-4769 \$28; register by Sept. 16

### HALTON NEWS

- Willow Park Ecology Centre (WPEC) Stewardship Committee has partnered with the Ministry of Natural Resources through their Stewardship Rangers program to survey the local WPEC in the floodplain of Silver Creek where it joins the Credit River. On July 28, 29, and 30, volunteers and Rangers will be working together to sample the 2.1-hectare eco-park. See article at <http://www.insidehalton.com/community/environment/article/852411>. This project involves HEN member groups Willow Park Ecology Centre and the Association for Education Resources (ACER).
- As part of reaching the long-term vision of restoring the natural features of the Glenorchy Conservation Area in Oakville, Conservation Halton is embarking on the first step in a 10 year restoration plan. With the assistance of the Oakville Community Foundation, **Conservation Halton staff will begin a seed collection program in 2010 to collect native seed stock from Glenorchy Conservation Area** and adjacent areas for use in subsequent restoration initiatives.

## Halton **Environmental** Network

- Summer evenings in Ontario's natural areas are a time of magic. The summer breeze stirs forest leaves, crickets sing and owls call. Adults can slow down and reconnect to the world around them and children thrill at the excitement of moonlight nature walks, or storytelling around a crackling fire. You do not have to travel far to experience the wonder of a traditional summer evening, as on Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, Crawford Lake Conservation Area will host its annual ***Spirit Sings*** event. See calendar for details.
- On Thursday, August 19, BurlingtonGreen will be hosting a screening of another award winning documentary as part of their 2010 Eco-film festival. The film will be the very timely "H2Oil". The event will include post film discussion on how you can take individual and collective actions to address the issue. Visit <http://www.burlingtongreen.org> or see calendar for details.
- Halton Region has confirmed that the Town of **Halton Hills will be able to allocate 1,200 Single Detached Equivalent (SDEs) for construction of new homes and businesses**. A permit has been granted to take the water for this construction from the Cedarvale well field. See article at <http://www.insidehalton.com/news/article/850623>.
- Work on widening of Upper Middle Road in west Oakville has halted pending approval by the Ministry of Natural Resources. **Halton Region is working to ensure the protection of the Redside Dace**, a resident of Twelve Mile Creek which runs under the road through a culvert. Story at <http://www.insidehalton.com/news/article/851116>.
- The **gasoline spill in Bronte Creek** that was discovered in March **could take two years to clean up**. See article at <http://www.insidehalton.com/news/article/844915>.
- **All the local farmers' markets are now open**. Support local farmers at:
  - \*NEW\* **Acton Farmers' Market**, Willow St. between Mill and Church Sts. – Thursdays 3-7
  - Aldershot Farmers' Market**, 35 Plains Rd. E., Burlington –Sundays and Thursdays 8:00
  - Burlington Mall**, Guelph Line and Fairview St., Burlington, south of Zellers – Wednesdays 8-2, Fridays 8-4, Saturdays 8-2
  - Georgetown Farmers' Market**, downtown Main St., Georgetown – Saturdays 8:30-1
  - Harbourside Organic Farmers' Market**, Navy St. & Lakeshore Rd., Oakville – Saturdays 9:30-2
  - Hopedale Mall**, Third Line and Rebecca St., Oakville, south of Zellers – Saturdays 8-2:30
  - Kerr Village Farmer's Market**, Heritage Square, 323 Kerr St., Oakville – Saturdays 9-1
  - Milton Farmers' Market**, downtown Main St., Milton – Saturdays 7-12
  - Oakville Place Farmers' Market**, Trafalgar Rd. at QEW, north parking lot – Thursdays 8-2

## OTHER NEWS AND COMMENTARY

- **The provincial government is taking 90 days to review Ontario's eco fee**, which came into effect July 1 and was subsequently scrapped. The fee was to help fund a recycling program for a variety of potentially hazardous materials. See <http://www.cbc.ca/technology/story/2010/07/20/ontario-eco-fees691.html> for news coverage. **The Environmental Commissioner of Ontario has just released a guide to Eco Fees and the Management of Household Hazardous Wastes**. That can be found at [http://www.eco.on.ca/eng/uploads/eng\\_pdfs/2010/2010%20Ecofees.pdf](http://www.eco.on.ca/eng/uploads/eng_pdfs/2010/2010%20Ecofees.pdf).
- The Green Print, **Markham's Sustainability Plan, is now out in draft form for public consultation**. See <http://www.markham.ca/sustainability>.
- A coalition of farmers, residents, and green activists are **suing the provincial government for shoving through a gas-fired power plant next to the Holland Marsh**. The coalition says the province is contradicting its own Greenbelt Act. See story at <http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/article/839532>.
- **By working together, Ontario and Quebec can reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of their electricity systems while also keeping rates in check for businesses and consumers**. Ontario and Quebec are ideal electricity partners: Quebec's power demand peaks in winter while Ontario

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demand peaks in summer when air conditioners are running full out. Ontario can send Quebec power from its wind turbines in winter, while Quebec can send Ontario hydro power in spring and summer. This saves Quebec from having to pursue costly new mega-dams and Ontario from having to build more expensive natural gas peaking plants. See <http://www.cleanairalliance.org>.

- The recently passed **federal budget contains a change that could permanently damage environmental protection in Canada**. The change makes it easier for corporations to submit to environmental assessments that have only limited scope or avoid them altogether. See article at <http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/federalbudget/article/835436>.
- **Canada and the U.S. are involved in a “carbon sequestration” project in Saskatchewan and North Dakota**. Underground pipes feed greenhouse gases from a coal gasification facility in Beulah, ND to oil fields in Weyburn, SK. According to the article, pumping the gas into aging oil fields can help produce more oil. See <http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/article/838192>.
- **All the world's topsoil is set to vanish within the next century** if current patterns do not change, according to a study conducted by researchers from the University of Sydney and presented at the Carbon Farming conference. The soil-depleting effects of chronic mismanagement, including overuse of plowing, overapplication of synthetic fertilizers, poor erosion control and unsustainable farming (such as in former tropical rainforests), are being exacerbated by global warming and development. Coupled with a growing world population, this poses a recipe for food disaster. See <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/agriculture/farming/6828878/Britain-facing-food-crisis-as-worlds-soil-vanishes-in-60-years.html>.
- June's combined global land and ocean surface temperature made it **the warmest June on record**. It was also the warmest month on record for worldwide average land surface temperature. See NOAA Weather at [http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100715\\_globalstats.html](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100715_globalstats.html). In addition, **the Great Lakes could hit record temperatures this summer**. See <http://www.thestar.com/news/world/article/837546>.
- **Cruise lines are being affected by tighter emission regulations**. By 2012, all ships nearing North American shores will need to comply with a maximum 1% sulphur content rule. The average sulphur content is currently 2.5%. The maximum is already 0.1% while in European ports. See article at <http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/article/838191>.
- Earth Day Canada has produced some **tips for planning a green vacation**. Visit [http://www.ecoactionteams.ca/pub/resources/articles/green\\_getaway.php](http://www.ecoactionteams.ca/pub/resources/articles/green_getaway.php).
- **A new report from the United Kingdom recommends a 21-hour work week**. Keys to this arrangement are more equitably accounting for unpaid labour and redistributing paid labour. In addition to increasing productivity, fewer work hours would translate into a reduced carbon footprint. See article at <http://www.utne.com/Politics/Leisure-Productivity-21-Hour-Work-Week.aspx>.

### ACTION ALERTS

- **Saturday, August 14 is the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the massive blackout across the Northeastern U.S. and Ontario**. Take the challenge and celebrate this day by powering down and having fun with the lights off. Visit <http://www.blackoutday.ca>. Since the day falls on a weekend, the municipal Power Pledge Challenge asks you to power down on a business day, Wednesday, August 11. Visit <http://www.powerpledge.ca> to join that challenge.
- On **10/10/10**, thousands of communities will join together to celebrate climate solutions. All over the world, we'll be putting up solar panels, installing wind turbines, digging community gardens, and more. The event is being labelled a Global Work Party. Visit <http://putsolaron.it/> to find out more and sign a petition.

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- **What are all those chemicals in your shampoo, your lipstick, your aftershave? And what do they have to do with asthma, breast cancer and learning disabilities?** To find out, watch “*The Story of Cosmetics*”, a 7-minute film exposing the ugly truth about personal care products. While Canada does somewhat better than the U.S., many of the issues are Canadian problems too. Environmental Defence is asking you to sign a petition at [http://petition.environmentaldefence.ca/Just\\_Beautiful/](http://petition.environmentaldefence.ca/Just_Beautiful/).

### DAY CAMPS FOR KIDS

- **Some spaces are still available at these summer day camps** offered by HEN member groups:
  - **Royal Botanical Gardens**, July 5 to September 3, ages 4-12 plus teen leadership program; visit <http://www.rbg.ca/pages/daycamps.html>
  - **Conservation Halton**, Ways of the Woods, June 28 to September 3, ages 6-14; special Raptor Camp August 2 to 6 and August 30 to September 3; visit <http://www.conservationhalton.ca/ShowCategory.cfm?cubCatId=1096>

### VOLUNTEER POSTINGS

- It's your chance to get your hands dirty and **help out Bronte Creek** on Saturday, August 7 or 14 from 9:00 to 12:00. Trout Unlimited Canada's Bronte Creek Watershed Renewal Program aims to protect the many beautiful portions of Bronte Creek while engaging local residents in restoring the aquatic ecosystem of this environmentally significant watershed. Contact Mary Finch at [mfinch@tucanada.org](mailto:mfinch@tucanada.org) or 519-824-4120 ext. 53020
- **Help protect Terra Cotta Conservation Area from invasives** on Sunday, August 8 from 9:00 to 3:00. This is the third workday for volunteers to come together and help map invasive species at Terra Cotta. Volunteers will assist with data collection by walking the property with a device to locate invasive plants. Contact Freyja Forsyth at 905-670-1615 ext. 481 or [fforsyth@creditvalleyca.ca](mailto:fforsyth@creditvalleyca.ca).
- **Help monitor the health of the Credit River by volunteering at an electrofishing station near you.** This monitoring technique is used to inventory fish species and populations. CVC depends on volunteers to help carry out this type of monitoring. See <http://www.creditvalleyca.ca> or call 905-670-1615 ext. 221 for more information or to register. Locations vary. Many days throughout the summer.

### JOB OPENING

- Habitat for Humanity Halton is looking for a **Coordinator of Volunteer Services**. Proactive, experienced individuals are encouraged to apply. Application deadline is Wednesday, August 18. Visit <http://www.habitathalton.ca>.

### RESOURCES AVAILABLE

- Sustainability Network – **Resources for environmental non-profits** –The July newsletter can be found at <http://sustainabilitynetwork.cmail1.com/T/ViewEmail/y/E9773F5B3BE4FF75>.
- The Canada Revenue Agency has developed a publication called “**Harmonized Sales Tax for Ontario and British Columbia – Questions and Answers for Public Service Bodies**”. Public Service Bodies include charities and non-profit organizations. The document can be found at <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/gi/notice253/notice253-e.pdf>.