



# Halton Environmental Network

Wednesday, August 18, 2010

## LATE SUMMER BULLETIN

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### HEN NEWS

- There will be no bulletin next week. We will be back to our regular schedule starting September 1.
- **HERE! Halton Enablers of Renewable Energy upcoming events:**
  - You are invited to our **HERE! focus group** on Thursday, August 19, 7-9pm in Oakville.
  - We will be holding a **renewable energy tour**, including both solar and geothermal installations in Acton, on Sunday, August 28 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Donation of \$10 requested.
  - We will be holding a **Renewable Energy Fair** at the Halton Regional Centre on Saturday, September 11 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Exhibits by solar and geothermal businesses. Workshops on solar PV, solar hot water and pool systems, geothermal systems, and more. Free to attend. For details on any of our events, 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

- Cooling an Ontario home can add up to 50% of the household electricity consumption in summer and contributes to peak demand periods. Replacing an older central air conditioner with a more energy-efficient unit could equate to electricity savings of up to 40% on air conditioning. [source: Waterloo Region Green Solutions]

### 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.

	WHEN	WHO	WHAT	WHERE	LINK/PHONE
N	<b>Thurs. Aug. 19</b> 2-4 p.m. or 7-9 p.m.	Milton Transit	Public Information Sessions	2-4 Milton Library (Beaty Branch) 7-9 Town Hall	<a href="http://www.milton.ca">www.milton.ca</a> 905-864-4141
N	<b>Thurs. Aug. 19</b> 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Milton Hydro	Wind Turbine Pilot Project open house	Milton Sports Centre, 605 Santa Maria Blvd., Milton	<a href="http://www.miltonhydro.com">www.miltonhydro.com</a> 905-876-4611
	<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

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	WHEN	WHO	WHAT	WHERE	LINK/PHONE
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
	<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>Sat. Aug. 28</b> 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Royal Botanical Gardens	Creating Depth in a Watercolour Landscape	RBG Centre, 680 Plains Rd. W., Burlington	<a href="http://www.rbg.ca">www.rbg.ca</a> 1-800-694-4769 \$50; register by Aug. 19
	<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>Sun. Aug. 29</b> 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	<b>HEN</b>	Solar and Geothermal Tour	Acton	<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
	<b>Sept. 11-12</b>	Friends of the Greenbelt	Tour de Greenbelt	Niagara Region	<a href="http://www.tourdegreenbelt.ca">www.tourdegreenbelt.ca</a>
	<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	<b>Sat. Sept. 11</b> 9:30 a.m.	Royal Botanical Gardens	Autumn Wildflower Walks	RBG - Rock Chapel	<a href="http://www.rbg.ca">www.rbg.ca</a> 1-800-694-4769 \$10; register by Sept. 2
N	<b>Sat. Sept. 11</b> 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	<b>HEN</b>	Renewable Energy Fair	Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Rd., Oakville	<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>Sat. Sept. 11</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>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	<b>Sun. Sept. 12</b> 8:00 a.m.	Royal Botanical Gardens	Autumn Bird Walks	RBG – North Shore Trail	<a href="http://www.rbg.ca">www.rbg.ca</a> 1-800-694-4769 \$10; register by Sept. 3
N	<b>Sun. Sept. 12</b> 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Credit Valley Conservation	Controlling Invasives on your Property	Terra Cotta Conser- vation Area, 14452 Winston Churchill	<a href="http://www.creditvalleyca.ca">www.creditvalleyca.ca</a> 905-670-1615 ext. 263
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

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	WHEN	WHO	WHAT	WHERE	LINK/PHONE
N	<b>Thur. Sept. 16</b>		International Day for Preservation of the Ozone Layer		<a href="http://ozone.unep.org">http://ozone.unep.org</a>
	<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” – Bridget Stutchbury	Oakville Conference Centre, 2515 Wycroft Rd., Oakville	<a href="mailto:bwylie@globalserv.net">bwylie@globalserv.net</a> 905-827-6302 \$40
N	<b>Thur. Sept. 16</b> 7:00 p.m.	BurlingtonGreen	“The Age of Stupid” screening	Burlington Central Library, 2331 New St.	<a href="http://www.burlingtongreen.org">www.burlingtongreen.org</a> 905-466-2171 \$5
V	<b>Sept. 18-26</b>	Vancouver Aquarium	Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup	Across Canada	<a href="http://www.shorelinecleanup.ca">www.shorelinecleanup.ca</a>
N	<b>Sat. Sept. 18</b> 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Hamilton Naturalists’ Club	Stewardship Workshop: Leave a Natural Legacy	838 Mineral Springs Road, Ancaster	<a href="http://www.hamiltonnature.org">www.hamiltonnature.org</a> 905-524-3339 Register by Sept. 14
U	<b>Sat. Sept. 18</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
	<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>Tues. Sept. 21</b> 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Royal Botanical Gardens	Heritage Trees – Preserving our Natural Roots	RBG Centre, 680 Plains Rd. W., Burlington	<a href="http://www.rbg.ca">www.rbg.ca</a> 1-800-694-4769 \$15; register by Sept. 12
	<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> 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Everdale Organic Farm	Foraging for Wild Edibles	Everdale Farm, 5812 Sixth Line, Hillsburgh	<a href="http://www.everdale.org">www.everdale.org</a> 519-855-4859 \$75
N	<b>Sat. Sept. 25</b> 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Royal Botanical Gardens	The All You Can Eat Gardening Workshops	RBG Centre, 680 Plains Rd. W., Burlington	<a href="http://www.rbg.ca">www.rbg.ca</a> 1-800-694-4769 \$45; register by Sept. 16
	<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
N	<b>Sat. Sept. 25</b> 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Bay Area Restoration Council	Multicultural Waterfest	Bayfront Park boat launch, Hamilton	<a href="http://www.hamiltonharbour.ca">www.hamiltonharbour.ca</a> 905-527-7111
	<b>Sept.28-Oct.1</b>	Halton Region & Conservation Halton	Halton Children’s Water Festival	Kelso Conservation Area	<a href="http://www.hcwf.ca">www.hcwf.ca</a> 905-336-1158 ext. 284
N	<b>Sat. Oct. 2</b> 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Royal Botanical Gardens	Build Your Own Cold Frame Workshop	RBG Centre, 680 Plains Rd. W., Burlington	<a href="http://www.rbg.ca">www.rbg.ca</a> 1-800-694-4769 \$130; register by Sept. 23
N	<b>Sun. Oct. 10</b>	350.org	A Day to Celebrate Climate Solutions	international	<a href="http://putsolaron.it/">http://putsolaron.it/</a> <a href="http://www.350.org">www.350.org</a>
N	<b>Thurs. Oct. 28</b> 9:15 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	<b>BurlingtonGreen</b>	Imprints 2010 Youth Conference	RBG Centre, 680 Plains Rd. W., Burlington	<a href="http://www.burlingtongreen.org">www.burlingtongreen.org</a>

### HALTON NEWS

- **Halton communities did well in the recent Power Pledge Challenge.** Halton Hills placed 5<sup>th</sup>, Burlington placed 16<sup>th</sup>, and Milton placed 18<sup>th</sup> out of 90 communities across Ontario that registered for the challenge. The results were based on the highest number of Power Pledges per capita. For more information, visit <http://www.powerpledge.ca>. Pledges will be taken until August 31.
- **The Town of Oakville recently received a Recognition of Achievement Award** at the GTA Clean Air Council's Clean Air and Climate Change Summit. Initiatives include phasing out bottled water from Town Hall, green purchasing and green fleet procedures, and corporate energy and community action plans. See [http://www.oakville.ca/nr-10june11\\_1.htm](http://www.oakville.ca/nr-10june11_1.htm).
- The Town of Oakville and AMEC Earth and Environmental Inc. have launched a program to inventory Oakville's ash trees to **prevent destruction by the Emerald Ash Borer**. The program uses hyperspectral remote sensing technology. See press release at [http://www.oakville.ca/nr-10aug10\\_1.htm](http://www.oakville.ca/nr-10aug10_1.htm).
- **Burlington City Council has opposed the Niagara to GTA corridor** being proposed by the MTO. The corridor would cut across the escarpment in Burlington. See press release at <http://cms.burlington.ca/Page6399.aspx>.
- **Burlington Transit is pleased to release its new micro-site** at <http://www.burlington.ca/transit>. The site includes a trip-planning option through Google Maps.
- **Milton Transit will be implementing new transit routes and schedules effective Tuesday, September 7.** Public information sessions are scheduled for August 18 and 19. Milton Transit is also pleased to announce the **new Transit Day Pass**, which will allow one adult and up to three children to ride all day for \$7.
- The August 2010 issue of the **Town of Halton Hills' Our Sustainability Journey... newsletter** is now available at: [http://www.haltonhills.ca/sustainability/newsletters/Issue8\\_August2010.pdf](http://www.haltonhills.ca/sustainability/newsletters/Issue8_August2010.pdf)
- Conservation Halton is holding the fourth of four **family outdoor movie nights** this Friday, August 20 at Kelso Conservation Area. The movie is "Up". Showtime is 15-20 minutes after sunset. Popcorn and drinks will be available. Admission is free with regular park admission. The pre-show entertainment includes a visit from Mountsberg's Birds of Prey at 8:00 p.m. Call 905-878-5011 for more information.
- **All the local farmers' markets are now open.** Support local farmers at:
  - 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
- The Harbourside Organic Farmers' Market is pleased to present **Oakville Galleries' "Garden Vision"** throughout August and September. Visit the market for a wide range of food and other organic vendors.
- **Spaces for some ages and programs are still available at the summer day camp** offered by **Royal Botanical Gardens** until September 3. Visit <http://www.rbg.ca/pages/daycamps.html>.

## OTHER NEWS AND COMMENTARY

- John Wilkinson has been named Ontario's Minister of the Environment in today's **cabinet shuffle**. He is the MPP for Perth-Wellington, has been Minister of Revenue for the past year, and is a Certified Financial Planner. For full details, see <http://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2010/08/economy-health-care-and-education-the-focus-of-new-cabinet.html>.
- The Ontario Power Authority (OPA) has established a **new class for ground-mounted solar photovoltaic systems under 10 kW** at a rate of 64.2¢/kWh. Applicants for ground-mounted systems prior to the announcement and all rooftop installations under 10 kW will continue to receive the 80.2¢/kWh rate. The new rate reflects better production for ground-mounted tracking systems. See <http://microfit.powerauthority.on.ca/Program-updates/ground-mount.php>.
- The Elora Environment Centre has created a **tree swap program**. The program allows people who have a tree they no longer want to offer their tree to be transplanted into the yard of someone who wants it. Visit [http://www.thereep.ca/index.cfm?page=tree\\_swap](http://www.thereep.ca/index.cfm?page=tree_swap).
- A data-storage expert says that **the greenhouse gases created from sending a 4.7 megabyte email attachment is similar to that of boiling a kettle of water 17.5 times**. See <http://freakonomics.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/08/12/dirty-data/>.
- Researchers in Finland have found that **human urine works well as a fertilizer** for a variety of vegetables. Urine contains the necessary nutrients of nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus. Recycling urine could make agriculture and wastewater treatment more sustainable. See <http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/discoblog/2010/07/23/using-urine-to-make-the-garden-grow/>.
- A year after Ontario's cosmetic pesticide ban, studies show that **there has been an 80% decline in most common pesticides in surface waters**. See <http://www.treehugger.com/files/2010/07/ontario-cosmetic-pesticide-ban-decline-pollution.php>.
- Climate scientists forecast more heat, fires, and floods in the future as **current extreme-weather events across the globe fit the predicted pattern of climate change**. See article at <http://theglobeandmail.com/news/world/article1671364.ece>.
- The old-fashioned practice of **making ice for cooling** is becoming cool again. With time-of-use electricity billing, ice can be made in off-peak hours and stored for later use. See article at <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/article1660883/>.

## ACTION ALERTS

- HEN member group PERL has worked for five years to get the governments to deny an application for a new quarry on Mount Nemo. In October, the Ontario Municipal Board will start to hear the application. PERL is fundraising now and asks for your **help by adopting a "Jeff"** (Jefferson salamander). Visit <http://www.perlofburlington.org>.
- Results of testing for lead and bisphenol A (BPA) by Statistics Canada shows lead levels decreasing but BPA levels increasing in younger generations. Environmental Defence would like you to sign their **petition asking the federal government to ban BPA from all food and beverage containers**. Visit [http://petition.environmentaldefence.ca/bpa\\_in\\_drink\\_cans/](http://petition.environmentaldefence.ca/bpa_in_drink_cans/).
- In the wake of the oil spill disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, Nature Canada has created a **petition asking the federal government to place a moratorium on new off-shore drilling projects**. Visit <http://www.naturecanada.ca/>.
- **Win some great prizes in the PeakBusters Cool Challenge contest**. If you haven't already done so, enroll in your utility's peaksaver program to set back your air conditioner on smog alert days. Visit <http://www.peakbusters.ca/> for details.
- The deadline for comment on the **review of the Provincial Policy Statement, 2005 (PPS)** is August 31. This has been posted to the EBR as #010-9766. Visit <http://ontario.ca/pps>.