

Give your home an energy check up

Your doctor insists on seeing you at least once a year. But have you considered the same sort of schedule for your home's general health?

After the coldest winter in the last 35 years, this spring and summer make the perfect time to go through an annual checklist of items, ensuring your home's overall energy efficiency. According to the Ontario Natural Gas Alliance, investing minimal time can translate into maximum savings on household bills. In 2013, average natural gas residential customers in Ontario saved about \$500 on their bills, compared to 2008.

According to ONGA, a simple checklist every year can identify ways to potentially save money and keep your home humming, energy-wise. Keeping natural gas's affordability in mind is another way to help achieve cost savings.

Light it up

Check all light sources to ensure that you're using energy efficient bulbs, and replace wherever possible. Compact fluorescent and LED bulbs may cost more at the outset, but they will often last at least 10 times as long vs. standard filament bulbs, and use up to one-fifth the energy.

Get down low

Baseboards and vents are prime spots for air leakage. And when you spend



hard-earned dollars heating and cooling your home, the last thing you want is to see that money flow outside. Check that baseboards are caulked properly, where the trim meets the wall and the floor.

Seal the deal

Like baseboards, improperly sealed windows and doors can be a source of leaked energy savings. Ensure that trim work is caulked and weather-stripped on all sides. Consider replacing a mail slot with an exterior mailbox.

Switch for savings

If natural gas is available in your area, consider taking advantage of the fuel to heat your home and for items such as your water tank and even your clothes dryer. With natural gas prices expected to remain low and affordable for decades to come, a natural gas-powered dryer can help save up to 75 per cent compared to models that run strictly on electricity.

For more information, visit www.cleanandaffordable.ca

www.newscanada.com

The Flower Shed

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\$5 OFF
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OFFER EXPIRES JUNE 8th



Halton.ca ☎ 311

2014 Rain Barrel



\$39.95
(tax included)

Truckload Sales Events

Part of Halton's water efficiency program

Date	Location
Saturday, May 24, 2014 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Halton Regional Centre, (enter off North Service Road) 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville
Saturday, May 31, 2014 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Robert C. Austin Operations Centre, 11620 Trafalgar Road, Georgetown
Saturday, June 7, 2014 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Milton GO Train Station Parking Lot 780 Main Street East (Main, west of Thompson) Milton
Saturday, June 14, 2014 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Mapleview Mall, (lower parking lot by the Bay) 900 Maple Avenue, Burlington

Halton residents only

(must provide proof of Halton Region residency)

New this year: optional online pre-payment and home delivery service available directly through the supplier.

For more information visit Halton.ca/rainbarrels

Road safety is everyone's responsibility during the Victoria Day long weekend and every day.

Canada Road Safety Week is May 13-19, which includes the May long weekend. For many, Victoria Day represents the kick-off for summer with more people travelling for social gatherings or going outside to get active and enjoying the weather. That means we need to do everything we can to keep our roads safe.

Please remember to observe the speed limit, avoid distractions, wear your seatbelt and only drive sober. If you notice someone driving aggressively, you can report them anonymously through the Road Watch program at HaltonRoadWatch.ca. If you suspect someone is intoxicated while driving, please call 911. Working together, we can keep Halton's roads safe.



Gary Carr
Regional Chair

Meetings at Halton Region

1151 Bronte Rd., Oakville L6M 3L1

May 20 9:30 a.m. Health & Social Services Cttee. **May 21 1:30 p.m.** Admin & Finance Cttee.
May 21 9:30 a.m. Planning & Public Works Cttee. **May 28 9:30 a.m.** Regional Council

Meetings can be viewed at www.halton.ca/meetings.

Please contact us as soon as possible if you have any accessibility needs at Halton Region events or meetings.