

Oakville turned off '160,000 light bulbs' for Earth Hour

by Julia Le

Oakville Beaver Staff

Oakville residents took Earth Hour to heart Saturday with the results showing electricity demand dropped by 5.3 per cent.

That's equivalent to turning off about 160,000 60-watt light bulbs, according to Oakville Hydro.

"Earth Hour provides each of us with a chance to not only act as greener citizens, but to also share and influence others to live greener lives," said Rob Lister, Oakville Hydro president and CEO.

"Sustainability and energy management are key environmental initiatives at Oakville Hydro and this year's Earth Hour results are a testament to the commitment our community has towards energy conservation."

Last year's energy savings was 2.9 per cent, showing Oakville stepped up its participation significantly this year in the global event, which encourages people, businesses and governments around the world to turn off unnecessary lights and electronics in an effort to conserve power.

Earth Hour, which was created by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) with a lights-out event in Sydney, Australia in 2007, has grown to engage more than 7,000 cities and towns worldwide in more than 160 countries.



The Cawthra Park Chamber Choir performs at the *Songs And Prayer for the Earth* concert, held at St. Jude's Anglican Church. This year's annual Earth Hour candlelight concert raised funds for the Halton Environmental Network (HEN). | photo by James Hoggett - special to the Beaver

Mayor Rob Burton thanked residents on behalf of Town council for participating in the event that demonstrates support for climate change reduction efforts.

Residents shared their Earth Hour highlights with the Town through Twitter and Facebook showing activities they partici-

pated in to pass the hour. They included hide-and-seek in the dark and choir singing by candlelight.

The Town hopes more people will engage in energy reduction and conservation year-round.

"Together we're creating a cleaner, greener

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president/CEO, Oakville Hydro

town,” said Burton. “Our hope is that residents take up the challenge to reduce energy use every day.”

Lister echoed the mayor's comments noting, “Oakville Hydro is focused on making energy savings a year-long event.”

“With the saveONenergy program, run by the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) and delivered by Oakville Hydro, citizens of Oakville can take energy conservation beyond the hour,” he said.

“Whether you're looking for energy-saving tips, rebates on energy-efficient products, or tools to help you manage your consumption, we've got you covered.”

For more information on what Oakville is doing to conserve energy, visit www.oakville.ca and search energy conservation in the top right search box.

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