

Mountsberg launches new energy conservation workshops for area schools

Mountsberg Conservation Area has launched its new energy workshops for school children.

The first 'Watt's the Difference' orientation session for Halton-area school teachers took place recently.

Through 'Watt's the Difference,' 2,500 students will learn basic energy concepts, how energy is used in their home, how their family can use less energy, and how energy can be generated in a renewable way.

Students will participate in class discussions, home-based activities, field trips, energy audits and follow-up activities to foster long-term behavioral change.

The program strives to show how seemingly small changes in our energy consumption habits can have a tremendous impact and foster a conserving culture.

Program goals are to generate understanding of energy-related concepts and how renewable energy is guaranteed, to raise students awareness of individual energy usage, and to develop real world strategies to reduce consumption.

Students in Grades 3 to 10 are eligible to participate, and education kits have been developed and

distributed to 50 Halton schools.

Participation in the program includes a free field trip to the Mountsberg Energy Institute for Renewable Energy. Solar panel installations and an operating windmill on site at Mountsberg will let the students explore the facility and complete an energy audit of Mountsberg's interpretive centre, monitor energy production on-line pre and post visit, and explore other ways to conserve energy.

The Waterloo Region District School Board and Energy+, Cambridge and North Dumphries Hydro Inc. developed the program.

Sponsors and partners that have helped make the Watt's the Difference program available at Mountsberg Conservation Area to Halton-area school children include: Conservation Halton, the Conservation Halton Foundation, the Halton Learning Foundation, Halton District School Board, Halton Catholic School Board, Halton Hills Hydro Inc., Burlington Hydro, Oakville Hydro, Milton Hydro, and the Community Conservation Initiative program of the Ontario Ministry of Energy.



Dolf DeJong, park manager for Crawford Lake and Mountsberg Conservation Areas shows off some of the EduKits which were recently distributed to 80 teachers from area schools. Each kit contains \$500 worth of products and background materials to help teachers conduct classroom demonstrations for Conservation Halton's new Watt's the Difference program. Submitted photo



By Cory Soal
R.H.A.D.

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