

After air, water is our most precious resource

By BARBARA HALSALL

After air, water is our next most precious resource. Water is needed by all living things. This is a very broad topic and so in this column I will only look at consumption. The region has just instituted permanent lawn water restrictions and so I think this is a timely topic.

Canadians use 5,000 litres of water each day. This is a staggering amount compared to the British who use 840 L each and the Swiss who use 350 L each. How is it that we are so wasteful? Water has been plentiful and cheap in this country. We take it for granted. Areas with water meters use about half as much water as areas without meters so give Halton good marks there. We could, however, do much better.

Examine your habits. Do you leave the water running while you brush your teeth? If you do try putting the stopper in the sink while you do a thorough brushing. See how much water is wasted while the toothbrush is in your mouth.

If you let the tap run to get the water hot or cold, what is happen-



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ing to that water? Perhaps you could fill the watering can or a bucket for washing the car. Using a bucket and sponge on the car is better than having the hose run during the whole job.

Lawn watering, when it is your day, should not be done in full sun as a great deal is lost through evaporation and you are paying for that. Early morning is probably best.

The Green Consumer Guide tells us, "A tap leaking only one drop


per second wastes more than 25 L of water per day, or 9,000 L per year. The problem is often a worn-out washer, which costs less than 10 cents to replace." Repair those taps.

You regular toilet uses about 20 L of water per flush. You can reduce this by placing a brick or a plastic container full of water in the tank to occupy space. Be sure it does not interfere with the mechanics of the flush. There are toilets available now that use only

11-13 L per flush. Most plumbing stores can order these.

If you have questions about Ontario's water resources or anything on the environment, attend the Environmental Forum organized by P.O.W.E.R. The 4 candidates for Halton North will be at Sacre-Coeur Hall on Guelph Street, Tuesday, August 21 at 7:30 p.m. After each has presented their environmental platform there will be time for your questions. Who will best protect the en-


vironment? Come and judge for yourself. Note: this event replaces P.O.W.E.R.'s monthly general meeting.



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The four candidates will give prepared speeches and also answer questions from the audience

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