

## Water: The importance of conservation



by Regional Chair Gary Carr

### Spring rain barrel sales

As we move into warmer spring weather with summer not too far away, I want to take this opportunity to remind residents about the importance of water

conservation both inside and outside your home. Coming up in May, as part of Halton Region's water conservation program, the Region will once again be hosting four rain barrel sales events to promote wise outdoor water use. In 2009, over 6000 rain barrels were sold to Halton residents and we hope to make this year's events even more successful. Be sure to visit [www.halton.ca/waterconservation](http://www.halton.ca/waterconservation) in mid-April for specific dates and locations.

### Outdoor water use: Know your colour, know your limits

In the summer months water consumption can double, largely due to lawn watering. In order to ensure a reliable, continuous supply of water for essential and emergency needs, Halton has launched a new outdoor water use strategy designed to quickly and effectively communicate any outdoor water use restrictions that may be required. The numeric and colour coded system establishes three levels of outdoor water use depending on criteria such as water demand, reservoir levels, aquifer levels and anticipated weather patterns. For more information dial 311 or visit [www.halton.ca/waterconservation](http://www.halton.ca/waterconservation).

#### The following simple measures can help reduce outdoor water consumption:

- Set up sprinklers so they water only the lawn or garden, and not the road or sidewalk.
- Don't wash your driveway. Use a rake or broom, and dispose of the debris with your yard waste.
- If you own an automatic irrigation system, install moisture sensors or a central controller to avoid lawn watering during or right after significant rainfall.
- Know how to turn off your automatic irrigation system in the event of any outdoor water use restrictions.



### Conserve water with a low flow, high efficiency toilet

Consider changing your old inefficient toilet to reduce your water consumption and your impact on the environment. A limited number of rebates for \$60 or \$75 are available to residents of single-family homes who purchase and install a Halton-approved water efficient toilet. To maximize participation and ensure fairness for all homeowners, the program is limited to a total of one toilet rebate per household. For a list of acceptable toilets and the terms and conditions for a rebate, dial 311 or visit [www.halton.ca/toiletrebate](http://www.halton.ca/toiletrebate).

## Remember the 4 Rs of wise water use

**Reduce:** Be mindful of the water you are using and look for ways to reduce it such as turning the tap off while you brush your teeth, shave or wash dishes. By filling a cup or the sink with water when doing these tasks you can reduce water use by 60 to 80 percent.

**Retrofit:** Replace old appliances and fixtures with new water efficient models, or consider retrofitting existing models with water saving devices. For example, low flow shower heads and toilets, front loading washing machines and water efficient humidifiers use half the water compared to non-water efficient models.

**Repair:** Repair leaks! In one year, a leak of one drip per second can waste 10,000 litres of water. By doing something as simple as replacing a faulty washer in your faucet, or a toilet flapper more than two years old, you can improve your water efficiency.

**Reuse:** Find uses for water waste in the inside and outside of your home. For example, utilize the Suds Saver option on your washing machine by using the previous wash cycles rinse water for the wash cycle of your next load of laundry.

**To order a free copy of the Household Guide to Water Efficiency please contact Halton Region.**

#### Meetings at Halton Region Headquarters

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|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Apr. 2</b>             | Offices closed for Good Friday |
| <b>Apr. 13, 9:30 a.m.</b> | Health & Social Services Cte   |
| <b>Apr. 14, 9:30 a.m.</b> | Planning & Public Works Cte    |
| <b>Apr. 14, 1:30 p.m.</b> | Administration & Finance Cte   |
| <b>Apr. 21, 9:30 a.m.</b> | Regional Council Meeting       |

Meetings can be viewed at [www.halton.ca](http://www.halton.ca)