

Don't be afraid of the dark! Turn off your lights on Saturday

It's Earth Hour on Saturday, March 31st between 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. This is an ideal time to remember to turn off your lights and reduce your energy use.

The objective of Earth Hour is to increase public awareness of the need to decrease energy use and to take action against climate change all year long.

Earth Hour participation is voluntary, fun and informative, so be creative, have fun but stay safe.

"Everyone, including our residents, schools and businesses, can take simple steps to reduce their energy use to fight climate change and bring awareness to Earth Hour to

Fun and simple suggestions to participate in Earth Hour

make it a success," said Mayor Rick Bonnette. "On an issue like climate change, it is important that we take local action while taking a global perspective. I encourage everyone to participate. Everyone's participation is important to making Earth Hour a success."

Here are some simple suggestions:

For residents:

- Register for Earth Hour at www.EarthHourCanada.org. Share your ideas about how you will be participating by e-mailing the Office of Sustainability at jennifers@haltonhills.ca. **Enter into a draw to win**



a gift basket with energy-efficiency products. The draw will take place on tomorrow (Friday).

- Turn off unnecessary lights and unplug electronic equip-

ment.

- Change your traditional light bulbs to efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs.

- Turn down the thermostat.

- Avoid operating major appliances during Earth Hour.

- Enjoy a candlelit dinner with family and friends.

- Read bedtime stories by flashlight.

- Organize community discussions on environmental issues.

- Take a walk through your neighbourhood. Take advantage of the dark skies and star gaze.

- Commit to energy conservation throughout the year.

For businesses:

- Register for Earth Hour at www.EarthHourCanada.org. Share your ideas about how you will be participating by e-mailing the Town of Halton Hill's Office of Sustainability at jennifers@haltonhills.ca. **Enter into a draw to win a gift basket with energy-efficiency products. The draw will take place tomorrow (Friday).**

- Turn off or dim any unnecessary lights (including out-

door signs) and major appliances, without compromising safety and security.

Look for more suggestions and Earth Hour news under Hot Topics at <http://www.theifp.ca/tag/earthhour/>

Earth Hour is in schools on Friday

Halton District School Board schools will set an example for their communities and lead into Earth Hour on Friday, March 30, by taking the following steps:

- Registering their participation at <http://wwf.ca/earth-hour/> and committing to turning off all non-essential interior and exterior lights before going home Friday.

- Teaching students about the environment and using the environment to teach other subjects.

- Turning off as many electric devices as possible during the final hour of school.

- Encouraging energy conservation at home by setting up a tally chart indicating family participation.

Cops to turn off the lights during Earth Hour

From 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 31, Halton Regional Police Service will turn off lights for an hour in non-essential, non-emergency administrative areas.

Public safety and police emergency response services will not be compromised or affected in any way.

"As in previous years, we will once again demonstrate

our commitment to Earth Hour with a focus on administrative areas where there will be no impact on our 24/7 police operations," said Deputy Chief Andrew Fletcher, adding, "These measures will have no effect on police patrol measures or response and public safety will not be compromised."

The Service does not anticipate Earth Hour will result in

any increase in public safety risks, any more than those presented by a short duration power outage or at night when people retire for the evening.

Other Halton Police green initiatives include selecting new patrol vehicles that are expected to have 25% improved fuel efficiency and when replacing equipment, specifying energy efficiency.

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