



# 2013 Rain Barrel SALES

\$40 each  
(cash only)

## Catch The Rain

Date	Location
Saturday, May 11, 2013 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. ✓	Robert C. Austin Operations Centre, 11620 Trafalgar Road, Georgetown
Saturday, May 25, 2013 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Milton GO Station Parking Lot 780 Main Street East (west of Thompson) Milton
Saturday, June 1, 2013 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Halton Regional Centre, (off North Service Road) 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville
Saturday, June 8, 2013 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Mapleview Mall, (lower parking lot by the Bay) 900 Maple Avenue, Burlington

- Must provide proof of Halton Region residency (e.g. Driver's License)
- Includes secure mosquito screen and handy dispensing hose

For more information dial 311 or visit  
[www.halton.ca/waterconservation](http://www.halton.ca/waterconservation)

### Keeping our roads safe for everyone

Drive SAFE (Safety Awareness For Everyone) is a partnership between Halton Region and Halton Regional Police Service to promote road safety. This year, we're reminding drivers to keep their eyes on the road and their hands on the wheel. To take the pledge against distracted driving, visit [www.halton.ca/distracted](http://www.halton.ca/distracted).

Distracted driving can also lead to drivers running red lights, so to help remind people to stop on red, we're also installing five new red light cameras across Halton this summer. For locations and details, visit [www.halton.ca/stoponred](http://www.halton.ca/stoponred).

To learn more about the Drive SAFE program visit our website, [www.halton.ca/drivesafe](http://www.halton.ca/drivesafe). Working together we can keep Halton's roads safe.



Gary Carr  
Regional Chair

#### Halton Regional Meeting Schedule

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

May 29 9:30 a.m. Regional Council

Please contact us, as soon as possible, if you have any accessibility needs at Halton Region events or meetings.

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# Every garden requires some maintenance

Over the last decade, the idea of a zero-maintenance garden has become the holy grail of outdoor spaces.

Imagine, a yard that always looks amazing and requires no effort on the part of the homeowner— a personal utopia that remains exactly as you left it. But don't hold your breath. Most experts agree there is no such thing as a zero-maintenance garden. Even if you paved your entire yard and installed plastic plants, nature would find a way to be a part of your perfect space.

The best we can achieve is less maintenance. Every single thing you put in your outdoor space requires effort. Even dirt requires work. Making your life easier is all about making the best choices for you and your space.

I laugh out loud when clients ask me for a nice big lawn as part of their easy-to-care-for backyard.

In my experience, there is nothing more time consuming or labour intensive than grass. We have this misconception that a lawn should look like the pictures on the fertilizer bag and people spend all summer trying to make it happen.

My neighbour Jim has the best grass I've ever seen. I decided to track the amount of time he spent in one week making it perfect. With weeding, watering, cutting, edging, trimming, and fertilizing, Jim spent almost 20 hours working on his lawn...and I didn't see him actually enjoying it.

Personally, that's not how I want to fill my weekends.

As a designer however, I know that filling a large backyard with a grassless creation is expensive. I'd also be fighting a tradition that has been a part of the North American home for longer than I've been alive.

So instead of doing away with the lawn, maybe the better answer is to redefine it.

The marketplace is now full of options that are alternates to our customary Kentucky Blue grass seed. Some people have opted for clover lawns; others have gone with mixes



that utilize native fescue seeds. Both are definitely less maintenance than what we are used to, but they both still require some effort.

To help with this, technology is also changing through the introduction of new battery-operated tools

that are easy to use and easy to care for.

The Black & Decker 19-inch 36V Self-Propelled Cordless Mower (SPCM1936) is my new favourite outdoor toy.

Not only can I adjust the mowing speed to my personal pace, its one-touch height adjustment allows me to choose my desired grass height – all with the pull of a single lever. Cutting grass has never been so easy

Maybe the key to discovering the zero-maintenance garden isn't trying to get rid of all the things that require work, the key is to make the work more enjoyable because then it isn't really a chore anymore!

Like I've always said, "When the tools becomes toys, the job becomes a hobby!" One day we could all enjoy the yard work so much that we actually consider it a pleasure!

Maybe I'll file this idea right beside my photo of the yeti.

—www.newscanada.com