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The Canada Employment Centre for Students held an employer appreciation ceremony Wednesday, thanking exceptional employers in Halton Hills who especially went out of their way to hire students. Pictured above, from left; Mike Stultz, Manager of Pizza Hut, Gord Purchase, District Manager of Harvey's serving Swiss Chalet, Ronia Beemsterboer, Employment Counsellor for YMCA youth employment services, Debbie Smart, Operations manager of Wastewise and Rob Rosie, manager of All Star Student Painters. Eleven area employers in total participated in the program, employing 180 students. The Youth Employment Office closes this Thursday.

photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW



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What's black and white, and read all over?

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Geothermal system hits Halton

From the dog-days of summer through the depths of winter, temperatures in the ground around a typical North American home remain constant at about 10 degrees Celsius.

A geothermal system taps into that free, renewable energy, capturing heat for your house and water tank in winter, and releasing excess heat into the earth in

The concept may be difficult to grasp at first. Terrance Lobzun, head of marketing services for WaterFurnace Inc., a southern Ontario company which manufactures one of the most advanced geothermal systems, explains that it works like a refrigerator.

Heat is extracted out of a fridge and released into the air by the coils on the back of the fridge. A geothermal unit extracts heat out of the house in summer and releases it into coils buried in the ground. In winter, heat is picked up from the ground by the same coils using a liquid similar to the windshield wiper antifreeze in a car, and brought into the house. The heat is distributed through standard forced air vents, and excess energy

can be diverted to a hot water tank.

The price tag also might be difficult to grasp initially. The cost of installing a geothermal unit, including burying the coils in the ground, is often over \$10,000, depending on the size of the house. However, there can be tremendous savings in fuel costs, especially when compared to the cost of electric or oil heat.

M.A.R.C.H. Mechanical Ltd. in Milton, the local distributor for WaterFurnace, finds the geothermal systems are most popular for properties which do not have access to natural gas lines, such as cottages or out-of-town lots, where bills for electric heat, for instance, can run hundreds of dollars a month. And WaterFurnace has recently released a new line designed to be more economical.

Lobzun also says the geothermal units appeal to people who are interested in the environment. The systems are extremely energy efficient, reduce the need for burning fossil fuel, and work quietly. There are also safety benefits, since there is no need to keep a pilot light burning.



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