

The Green Bin comes to Halton

By ANN KORNUA

The Region of Halton is "dumping" a new concept of trash management on 5,000 Halton households this year to help extend the life of the local landfill. Selected families throughout Halton will be asked to take part in this pilot project to help reduce the amount of garbage that is thrown into the landfill. If this pilot is successful then additional households will be added each year. The project should be fully operational by 2010. Cutting down on the amount of actual trash being sent to the landfill will mean a healthier and greener way of life for Halton residents.

"Taking organic material, like food scraps, out of our garbage bags means taking them out of our landfill," said Regional Chair Joyce Savoline. "Thanks to the diligent recycling of our residents and businesses, Halton already has the best diversion rate in the Greater Toronto Area with more than 40 per cent of our waste being diverted from the landfill. This program will not only help preserve and extend the lifespan of our landfill, but we will also be making valuable compost to benefit Halton residents."

The Green Bin program will let residents put organic waste out for curbside collection. The collected organic material will then be made into high-quality compost for use on surrounding farmlands and parklands. By sorting out materials such as fruits and vegetable scraps, from things like coffee grounds and diapers, residents will help to improve the environment.

Over the past few years across the province a number of municipalities have started a Green Bin program in their communities. Since the program started in the late nineties, each participating household

is on average diverting 200 kg of organics each year from the landfills in Etobicoke and Scarborough communities.

A few weeks ago, Greg Simpson, a High Park resident in Toronto, became aware of the growing trash problems in the city. "One day the city delivered a bin for every unit on every street. Inside each green bin was a smaller container for the kitchen, a mounting bracket and clear instructions on what can go in the bin," Greg explains. "I was sceptical at first, but I found a place for the bin under the sink. The instructions state that it's fine to put your waste in loosely-tied shopping bags inside the green bin, which makes things much easier. That way the outdoor bin can stay cleaner, without requiring a lining."

"Honestly, I am most enthused by the knowledge that Toronto saves \$30 a tonne on green bin waste, compared to plain garbage," Greg says. "Recycling was new once, too, and now we all do it automatically. One day, actual non-reusable garbage will be strange and rare."

Over 41 per cent of waste diversion to our landfills has been achieved by recycling alone. This program is anticipated to reach an additional 15-20 per cent diversion for a total of 55-60 per cent of solid waste product kept out of the landfill. This responsible waste management program will help aid in extending the life of the landfill and thereby improving the quality of the environment for generations to come.



Greg Simpson of Toronto has no complaints at all when using his new Green Bin and recommends that other communities pick up on this eco-savvy program to help cut back on solid waste building up in our landfills.

The charge of the Light Parade

By JENNIFER ENRIGHT

The Parade of Lights at Country Heritage Park (CHP) proved so popular last year that the park has decided to repeat the event on November 27 and 28.

Beginning at 6:30 pm on both nights, people can enter the park to get ready for the parade which begins at 7 pm. Admission is by cash donation, and there's no set fee so people can donate an amount of their choice.

The parade, which takes place along roads inside the park, will feature tractors, farm equipment and machinery all decorated with Christmas lights. Against the darkened sky, the parade looks like a "moving sea of lights," says

CHP's General Manager Reg Cressman.

Reg says the view of the parade is rather unique in part because of the flat terrain at the park. He says people can actually see the entire length of the parade with nothing obstructing their view. "When you stand to see the parade you will see the entire parade start to move."

Following the parade, people can enjoy refreshments at the Gambrel Barn, listen to music, say hello to Santa Claus or take a tractor drawn wagon tour around the park grounds.

For more information on Country Heritage Park, call 905-878-8151 or 1-888-307-3276 or visit the website at www.countryheritagepark.com.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Country Heritage Park's Parade of Lights attracted over 2,000 people last year, and the park's General Manager Reg Cressman is expecting another good turnout this year. Last year the parade included a sleigh driven by one of Santa's reindeer and a display featuring Santa's workshop.

2nd Annual Heritage Parade of Lights

Country Heritage Park

A Farm & Country Experience

Milton, Ontario

November 27th & 28th

Gates open at 6:30 p.m.
Parade starts at 7:00 p.m.



- ◆ Spectacular Parade of antique tractors and machinery decorated with coloured lights
- ◆ Refreshments served indoors following the parade
- ◆ Admission is by cash donation

...and lots more for the whole family!

Check out our website

www.countryheritagepark.com

for event updates!

905-878-8151