

The fifth annual Halton Eco Festival

BY ANN KORNUA

The fifth annual Eco Festival will run this April 2 from 10 am to 6 pm at the Glen Abbey Recreation Centre in Oakville. This year's theme is "Improving our environment, health, and community". The first 500 visitors will receive a free cloth tote bag provided by EcoSource. Inside the tote are freebies such as energy saving bulbs donated by Habitat for Humanity. The event will cost \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and free for kids 12 and under. To save a dollar off the admission fee, bring a bag of clothes for donation to the Canadian Diabetes Association. One bag of donated used clothes means one less bag of clothes thrown out in our landfills.

Debbie Smart, Coordinator of Wastewise in Halton Hills will be an exhibitor again this year. "The annual Halton Eco Festival provides us with an incredible opportunity to share information with everyone that cares about the natural environment in Halton Region," she said. "It brings all of us together and I love the chance to become more familiar with other environmental organizations here, too," she added.

The Eco Kids Fun Area offers activities such as paper cranes and garbage art sculpture, scavenger hunts, ecology stories, face painting, ecological board games, and creating fun mobiles. The first fifty kids visiting the Eco Kids Fun Area will receive a free goody bag provided by Whole Foods Market in Oakville.

Also featured in the gym area are four keynote speakers including Dr. David Rosen: *The effects of the environment on brain development in children*; Martin Tamlyn: *Gardening with children*; David H. Martin: *Green Energy in Ontario and the climate crisis*; and, Bill Kemp: *Energy in the Home: "Smart Power."*

Silent auction, one-hour workshops, displays, door prizes, and more await the eco savvy at this year's Halton Eco Fest. For more information, please contact the Oakville Community Center for Peace, Ecology and Human Rights at 905-849-5501. Pick up admission entrance buttons in advance for only \$5 from OCCPEHR, 148 Kerr Street. Check out the event website at www.haltonecofest.ca.

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