

'The End of Suburbia'

By BERNADETTE WARD

North America's addiction to fossil fuels and the possible fallout from oil depletion was the subject of the movie "The End of Suburbia" and the discussion that followed on May 26 at the Meeting Place in Oakville.

"People need to start talking about these issues...we must start taking action to address the very real and present problems before they spiral out of control," said Liz Benneian, organizer of the event.

The 78-long film produced by Barry Silverthorne, documents the history of suburbia; how it sprang from the need for people to escape the filthy, noisy slums that had developed with the Industrial Revolution and has evolved into the sprawling, disconnected and oil dependent landscape of today.

"Cheap fossil fuels make modern life possible," says narrator Barrie Zwicker, a Canadian broadcaster and writer. "And there is no other way of life that uses as much of this energy than suburbia."

The film is a less than flattering look at the North American tendency to conspicuous consumption and the mindset that we can continue on the way we are going.

The film points out that nearly half of our population lives in suburbia and is utterly dependent on fossil fuels and the related technologies and that the absence of those fuels could be catastrophic.

Heating our homes and driving to work are the obvious, but fossil fuels are interwoven in aspects of our lives that we may not consider such as medicine and the food system. Not only are we currently paying to have much of our food shipped to us from around the globe, the yields are also dependent on pesticides and herbicides that are members of the petroleum family.

We would think, says Matthew Simmons, an energy investment banker interviewed for the film, that the black out in August of 2003 would have rung some alarm bells for people.

"We just didn't get it," he notes.

Economic growth is tied, he says to electric energy growth and he believes North America's capacity for growing hydroelectric power is coming to an end.

Not a reassuring outlook, especially when combined with the knowledge that oil production globally is now on the arc of decline and that within five to ten years, the situation could be dire.

The movie is full of interviews of those deemed experts in their field and who shower the viewer with statistics, information and scenarios that most would likely find distressing and depressing, as the discussion that followed the movie facilitated by Mike Balkwill, showed.

"I think the term 'oil depletion' is about as sexy as long johns," said Oakville M.P.P. Kevin Flynn who attended the screening and discussion and who noted that people have to change their behaviour in terms of consumption and conservation.

The nearly 200 people in the audience were clearly dismayed and, although most were aware of the decline of oil reserves, concerned about how society was going to manage once the wells run dry and were interested in the solutions to the problem.

"We need some kind of massive collective wake up," said Balkwill.

For more information about *The End of Suburbia* or to arrange a public screening of the movie, contact Liz Benneian at lizcnd@yahoo.com or try the website www.endofsuburbia.com.

•The Milton Courthouse, 491 Steeles Avenue East will be holding a **charity Garage Sale, BBQ and Bake Sale** from 8:00am to 1:00 pm. Proceeds to medical research for 15 charities; Cancer Society, Heart & Stroke Society, Diabetes, Alzheimer's Society and others.

June 5
•**Smooth Jazz in the Country**, 1pm - 5pm at Springer House located at 2373 Dundas St. Burlington - Breast Cancer Support Services of Burlington and Area. Purchase your tickets in advance for \$40. Call 905-634-2333 or email stevenson@breastcancersupport.org

•Esqueing Historical Society **Annual Pot Luck Dinner** in Limehouse- Limehouse Kiln Society will give a guided tour of the kilns. Recommended are adequate footwear, clothing and insect repellent. Limehouse Memorial Hall - 6:00 Supper; 7:15pm Tour

June 9
•First meeting of the **Georgetown Film Club** - discussing films that members are encouraged to view prior to the meeting. Silver Creek Espresso Bar, 76 Main St. in Georgetown Featured movie to be discussed: William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*, currently available on DVD www.georgetownfilmclub.com

June 11
•**Beef on a Bun** - with coleslaw, baked beans, pie and refreshments for only \$8. 5 - 7pm Limehouse Presbyterian Church. Tickets call Judy 905-877-2032 or Pam 519-853-0347.

•**Giant Street Sale** - Turtle Lake Drive (off Dublin Line) in Acton Rain or shine, 8 am - 3 pm - Proceeds to benefit Breast Cancer Research /The Weekend to End Breast Cancer. Call Jane at 853 5692 for details.

•The Town of Milton's Community Services Department invites the public to attend the official **opening celebration** for the redeveloped **Drumquin Park**, located on Britannia Road, just west of Trafalgar Road. at 11 am free barbecue and more! 905-878-7252, ext. 2189 or visit www.milton.ca

June 12
•**Rockwood United Church 138th Anniversary Service** at 11 am featuring Father Mark Curtis. Refreshments to follow the service. Everyone welcome.

•**Christian Music in the Park** -2 to 6 pm. Victoria Square, in front of Milton Town Hall to enjoy an afternoon of Christian Music in the Park. Free will offering.

CAMPBELLVILLE

"Experience the Village"

91st Birthday Celebration
June 11 & 12

Fun for the Whole Family All Weekend Long

Saturday

- Pancake Breakfast at The Trill and TL's
- Residents Garage Sales
- Battle of the Bands at Mohawk Inn

Evening Entertainment including:

Magic show, Leather Fashion Show, Dancers and music by Alysha Brooke and Friends

Sunday

- Cloggers
- Cake cutting
- Mexican Dancers
- Fish Pond
- Performance by the winning band

Music & Sound by: Greg Parsons Productions 905-299-0528

SPONSORED BY THE CAMPBELLVILLE & AREA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

THE HALTON COMPASS

For more information call Kathy 905-854-1093

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Have your coupon stamped by minimum 5 participating vendors

halton happenings

Please note: Halton Happenings is a free editorial service to non-profit groups, churches, schools, and charities only. Deadline for submission is Tuesday at noon prior to insertion on Friday. Please restrict information supplied to include the date, time, venue, organization and contact details for your event. The Halton Compass reserves the right to edit each submission for brevity. Inclusion is at the discretion of the publisher and is dependent on space. To submit an event for Halton Happenings call 905-854-3333 or email info@haltoncompass.com

June 4

•"Spring Fling" at Martin Street School at 11am-2pm. Games, jumping houses, raffles, silent auction, tearoom, and our famous Dunk Tank. Join us for a day of fun.

•Upper Credit Humane Society's Charity **Giant Trunk Sale** in the parking lot at Sobey's, Hwy 7, Acton. Set up time 8am. Shopping starts at 9am. For more info call Darlene 519-853-4313 or Zelda 905-873-4764

•**2nd Annual Dog Day** in the Park 11am-3pm Prospect Park, Acton - rain or shine. Enjoy the demos and info from Dog Charities & Groups.

•**Giant Charity Trunk Sale** - Located at Sobey's in Acton. Set up for Vendors is 8 am and shopping starts at 9 am - 1 pm. Cost \$20 per parking spot, \$15 if prepaid for vendors. Contact Darlene at 519-853-4313 or Zelda at 905-873-4764 to reserve your spot. All proceeds go to Upper Credit Humane Society.

•**Annual Chicken Barbecue** at Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church 3097 - 15th Sideroad (5 minutes north of Campbellville) 4:30 to 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$12.50 in advance or \$15 at the door. For tickets call 905-854-1055 or 905-876-3322.

•**Giant Yard Sale** (plus plants & baking) at St. John's Anglican Church, Stewarttown (corner of Trafalgar Rd. & 15 Side Road) Sale starts at 8 am.

•**Family Fun Day** - Pot Luck Supper, Clowns, Face Painting, Karaoke Singing, Games, and Fun. All families with children are invited. 5:00 pm at St. Andrews United Church 89 Mountainview Rd. S. Call the church office for more information at 905-877-4482.

•**Car Wash Charity BBQ** - 10 am to 2 pm at Acton Auto Tech. Proceeds to benefit breast cancer research/the Walk to End Breast Cancer.