

Region services aid in spring cleaning

Now that the weather has finally started to warm up, I can hardly wait to get my garden growing.

This year, I will be using my Household Guide to Water Efficiency to help select plants that require less water, and I will be following the guide's natural techniques to encourage a healthy, drought-resistant lawn.

If you would like to receive a copy of the Household Guide to Water Efficiency, call us at 905-825-6000 / toll free 1-866-4HALTON.

Spring also means trimming back shrubs and collecting the last of autumn's leaves. Some of them can go in the compostor, while others are collected curbside as part of the region's yard waste program.

Last fall, Halton Region phased out the use of plastic yard waste bags to reduce waste. This change has already started to improve the quality of compost we are able to offer residents at our compost give-away events.

I encourage you to take advantage of Halton's Special Collection program, and the year-round services at our Waste Management Site to dispose of those unwanted items that may have collected in the yard, attic or basement.

Halton's Waste Management Site is a one-stop location for reusing and recycling, offering a Salvation Army depot for reusable clothing and household

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Joyce Savoline

items, a household hazardous waste depot for household chemicals including lawn fertilizer, and a paint swap shed where you can drop off or pick up partially used household paints and stains.

Halton's Waste Management Site will also accept old tires for recycling. It's a good idea to get rid of these and other items that catch rain water on your property, because they can serve as breeding sites for mosquitoes, which may carry the West Nile virus.

Learn more about Halton's approach to dealing with West Nile virus through our 2003 WNV Response Plan. We are planning an open house in Halton Hills on Tuesday, May 20 at the Gallery in the Halton Hills Cultural Centre, 9 Church Street from 3-8 p.m.

This event is an opportunity for Halton residents to drop in and meet public health officials, municipal and industry partners.

—Joyce Savoline is the chair of Halton Region

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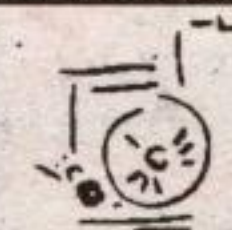
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Advertorial

Summer Learning!

"Oh, No! Summer is coming!" exclaimed Susan Munday, a mother of two. "My kids seem to slip backwards every summer!" By the end of June, they are doing quite well in school," she went on, "yet when September rolls around, they are slow to get going again. It takes them two months of agony before they get back on track. Is there anything that I can do to help them overcome this problem?"

The answer is YES! Enroll your child in a program at an Oxford Learning Centre. Oxford's summer programs are designed to help kids stay sharp and have fun!

"Students need a break in the summer," says Dr. Nick Whitehead, one of the founders of the Oxford Learning Centres "They need to relax, refocus and have fun but, they do not need to walk away from academic activities entirely. Our programs are designed to help kids sharpen their basic skills in reading, math, writing, organization and studying.

The issue is not one of forgetting. It is far more important than that. For the most part, students can and do forget virtually everything they have learned during a school year well before the next school year begins. Try this test for yourself. Sit down in a quiet spot and jot down titles of anything you can remember from your own school experience. This test should amaze you. By the end of high school alone, a student will have spent more than 15,000 hours in school! If you are like most of us, you will remember very little from those 15,000 hours.

This must mean that the "stuff" we learn in school is not really as important as we think. What is important, however, is that we learn how to think, to organize, to focus! We must learn to trust our own minds, and develop confidence in our ability to understand. When we know "how to learn", we can learn new "stuff" whenever it is important. That is what we lose in the summer. We lose the mental focus, the sharpness, the on-task ability. By the end of a typical summer, kids often go from high levels of these "thinking and learning" skills to virtually none.

You can help your child stay focused this summer with a program at the Oxford Learning Centre in Georgetown. The results will show in September.

To learn more about our program, please call the centre at 905-877-3163.

SUMMER Learning Adventure!

A great time to catch up and move ahead!

Starting our learning program this summer can help your child catch up and get ahead! A poor report card will not be an option next year. Call us today, we will help you achieve your goals.

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