

Library contest: research online and win a computer

From October 2-31, your local public or school library will give you a chance to win by entering a Virtual Treasure Hunt contest.

Answers to the three questions on the contest ballot can be found in some of the many information-rich resources available at your library.

The contest has been put together by HALINET (the Halton Information Network), a joint partnership of information and education providers whose goal is to raise awareness of online information resources available free of charge in Halton region— at local libraries to all residents and through schools to all children in every grade.

During E-wareness Month, participating locations will provide contest ballots to students and library patrons. Prizes will be awarded at each partner location, with a chance to win a regional grand prize of a laptop computer, a second prize of a 19" flat panel monitor, and a third prize of a colour inkjet printer.

"Many people struggle through too much information found using a Google

search," said Geoff Cannon, Manager of Public Services at the Halton Hills Public Library. "Libraries want to help students and researchers learn important skills that will encourage them to be selective. What most people don't know is that they can find good quality, free information by looking to their library's electronic resources."

Participating partners include: Halton District School Board, Halton Catholic District School Board, Burlington Public Library, Halton Hills Public Library, Milton Public Library, and Oakville Public Library.

For information about the E-wareness Month Virtual Treasure Hunt or local events, please contact your local public or school library.



Drinking & Driving A DEAD END

If you get behind the wheel, after you've had a drink or two, you're already headed in the wrong direction. Don't make a trip to the hospital or the morgue part of your day. Steer clear of trouble. Head home sober.

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THE CONSERVATION ZONE HOME ELECTRICITY TRICKS

Peter Love
Chief Energy Conservation Officer of Ontario

Phantoms are afoot in Ontario!
Halloween is just around the corner and the ghosts and goblins will be out in force. But did you know that there are phantoms lurking in your home all year round stealing your electricity?

If you've never heard of "phantom load", you're certainly not alone. These energy stealers live among us every day in the form of a steady, slow drip of wasted energy from the many appliances and other equipment in our homes.

Add up the phantom kilowatt-hours used in the more than 4 million Ontario households, and it's easy to see how much energy is wasted every day. According to Natural Resources Canada, these lost kilowatt-hours represent up to six per cent of our energy consumption per year, or nearly a whole month's worth of electricity.

Finding the phantoms
When you turn off an appliance, is it really off? Not always! From coffee-makers to televisions to laptop computers, many electrical appliances can't be switched off completely without unplugging them.

Today, an average home may contain at least 25 phantom loads: cordless phones, televisions, DVD players – even doorbells.

Like most phantoms, phantom loads are easier to spot at night. Track them down by turning off all your lights and looking for the telltale glow of LEDs or other tiny lights. It can be shocking to realize how many of these green or red-eyed phantoms stare back at you!

Who you gonna call? Load Busters!
Power bars can help stop electricity losses due to phantom load. By plugging your computer, television, DVD player and stereo into a power bar, you can stop them from drawing phantom load simply by switching off the power bar.

And as always, switching to ENERGY STAR® models for those appliances that are impractical to unplug is also a good way to conserve electricity.

The Conservation Bureau develops and delivers programs to help Ontario residents conserve energy and save money. Please visit www.ConservationBureau.on.ca

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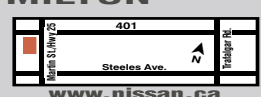
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