

# EARTH HOUR

Halton Region's thinking green Page 4



THE INDEPENDENT & FREE PRESS

Halton Hills' Community Newspaper

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Have fun, but be safe during Earth Hour

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Special pullout section



## Where will you be when the lights go out?

ANDREA LEFEBVRE  
Special to The IFP

This weekend you'll be able to see Halton Hills in a whole new light—the dark.

On Saturday night, the Town of Halton Hills will join cities across Canada and around the world by turning off the lights for Earth Hour. The Town is inviting residents and local businesses to participate as well by switching off their lights and other non-essential electricity between 8 and 9 p.m. on Saturday March 29.

The goal of the hour-long blackout is to show people how easy it is to save electricity.

"The hope is that people will continue to conserve energy all year round," says Damian Szybalski, a policy planner with the Town of Halton Hills and the man behind the Town's involvement in Earth Hour.

Earth Hour started last year in Sydney, Australia. More than 2.2 million people in that city switched off their lights, televisions and computers and spent a quiet hour in the dark. That one hour caused a 10 per cent reduction in Sydney's electricity consumption.

This year, the event has gone international with cities like Toronto, San Francisco, Dublin and Copenhagen joining Sydney in an hour of darkness.

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With Earth Hour coming Saturday night, staff at Wastewise in Georgetown are making plans to encourage customers to turn off the lights for an hour. On hand to promote the event was (from left) Wastewise operations technician Beth Riechlmayr, manager Debbie Smart and volunteer Paifton Bond, 9, as they tested the light form a few candles.

Photo by Ted Brown

  
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