

# Town wants residents to consider safety first when taking part in Earth Hour

**CYNTHIA GAMBLE**  
Staff Writer

'Safety first' was the message Halton Hills council sent out to local businesses interested in voluntarily participating in the upcoming Earth Hour event.

The Town of Halton Hills has signed on to be part of a worldwide movement—Earth Hour on Saturday, March 29, 8-9 p.m.— to show its commitment to the environment and its new Green Plan.

While the Town is encouraging local residents, organizations and businesses to become involved, it's not mandatory.

"This is strictly volunteer," said Mayor

Rick Bonnette. "Most businesses will have to keep lights on for security reasons and safety purposes."

He suggested, for example, that restaurants' dining rooms rely on candlelight for that hour, but obviously lights will remain on in the kitchen.

"Really what we want to do is send out the message that this event is happening and the objective is increasing public awareness," the mayor said.

Already at least three local participants have registered on the international website: Christ the King Secondary School, Georgetown Salvation Army Community Church and Circus Strategic

Communications.

The purpose of Earth Hour is to increase public awareness of the need to decrease energy use and take action on climate change. It originated in Australia last year when more than 2.2 million people and 2,100 businesses took part.

This year, the Town will turn off all non-essential lights, without jeopardizing public safety, at its facilities. Due to the timing of Earth Hour, most of the buildings will be closed with lights off anyways. However at the arenas where the minor hockey Day of Champs is ongoing, only the non-necessary lights will be turned off (as normal practice). Similarly lights will

not be turned off at the Hornby Community Centre where a euchre club plays. However, lights at parks and outdoor rinks will be turned off for one hour, as will lights on the Eighth Line pathway from Maple Avenue to the Gellert Centre.

A budget of \$2,000 has been set aside to promote the event, and the Town will begin planning a bigger and better Earth Hour in 2009 after reviewing this year's initiative.

To find out more about the Earth Hour global event go to [www.wwf.ca/EarthHour](http://www.wwf.ca/EarthHour) or [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org). The Town's website is [www.haltonhills.ca](http://www.haltonhills.ca) for a list of affected facilities.



## The Regional Municipality of Halton

[www.halton.ca](http://www.halton.ca)

### More Blue & Green for a Better Planet



### Do your part – use your GreenCart

Did you know that around 45% of the average garbage bag in Halton is made up of leftover food and compostable paper that could be turned into compost and diverted from our landfill site? By using your GreenCart you can help us to extend the life of the landfill, reduce greenhouse gas emissions improving air quality, and conserve our valuable natural resources.

Visit [www.halton.ca/greencart](http://www.halton.ca/greencart) for more information.

### GreenCart Open Houses

#### Want to learn more about Halton Region's new waste collection changes including the GreenCart?

Attend an open house to learn more about the GreenCart program that begins April 7, 2008. Learn about acceptable materials, easy ways to keep the GreenCart clean, where materials go, and why this program is important to a sustainable Halton.



Date	Location
<b>Tuesday, March 25</b> 5 to 8 p.m.	<b>Halton Hills Public Library – Acton Branch</b> 17 River Street, Acton
<b>Thursday, March 27</b> 5 to 8 p.m.	<b>Burlington Seniors' Centre</b> 2285 New Street, Burlington
<b>Saturday, March 29</b> 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.	<b>YMCA of Oakville</b> 410 Rebecca Street, Oakville
<b>Monday, March 31</b> 5 to 8 p.m.	<b>Gellert Community Centre</b> 10241 8th Line, Georgetown
<b>Wednesday, April 2</b> 5 to 8 p.m.	<b>E. J. James Public School</b> 338 Cairncroft Road, Oakville
<b>Thursday, April 3</b> 5 to 8 p.m.	<b>Milton Leisure Centre</b> 1100 Main Street East, Milton
<b>Saturday, April 5</b> 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	<b>Tansley Woods Community Centre</b> 1996 Itabashi Way, Burlington
<b>Tuesday, April 8</b> 5 to 8 p.m.	<b>Brookville Public School</b> 11325 Guelph Line, Campbellville
<b>Thursday, April 10</b> 5 to 8 p.m.	<b>Conservation Halton Administrative Office</b> 2596 Britannia Road West, Burlington
<b>Saturday, April 12</b> 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	<b>Milton Sports Centre</b> 605 Santa Maria Boulevard, Milton
<b>Tuesday, April 15</b> 5 to 8 p.m.	<b>Pineview Public School</b> 13074 No. 5 Side Road, Georgetown
<b>Thursday, April 17</b> 5 to 8 p.m.	<b>Glen Abbey Community Centre</b> 1415 Third Line, Oakville

### Halton Region's waste collection services are changing beginning April 7, 2008

- **Weekly GreenCart collection** to recycle kitchen and compostable paper.
- **Weekly Blue Box collection** – now there is no need to separate papers from containers
- **Garbage collection** every other week with a six bag/can limit. Check your Waste Management Guide and Collection Calendar for your scheduled collection day.