

Community Clean-Up Day: Pitch in for a great cause.



When we all pull together, great things happen. That's the spirit behind Tim Hortons Community Clean-Up, where Tim Hortons gets together with you to clean up our community. So come out and join us for the 20-Minute Makeover on Friday April 18 and a Community Clean-Up Day on Saturday April 19. Please visit: www.haltonhills.ca/townhall for further details.



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Town's Green Plan— a step towards sustainability

JANE FOGAL
Special to The IFP

Last spring Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette proposed forming a Green Plan Task Force because the environment had clearly become a major concern for our residents.

The Task Force was appointed last summer with instructions to get the job done by November.

The Task Force itself was comprised of eight people selected to represent a broad spectrum of interests and knowledge from the community along with four councillors and the mayor.

From the beginning it was clear that everyone was brimming with ideas and ready to get to work. All were sincere in their desire to make tangible changes in Halton Hills that would benefit the environment.

The environment is, of course, a very large and complex topic. Where does one begin and where does one end when concrete actions need to fall out in the finished product?

Some people wanted to talk about principles and sustainability frameworks. Others wanted to measure where we are at before making any changes. Some wanted to consult with experts and others who have done this exercise before. A few just wanted to get on with it and propose actions. It took a skilled facilitator to bring the group to a consensus so that we could move forward.

It was decided that we should indeed look at other plans and also invite

experts to speak to the group about their experiences. This helped to build confidence because it showed that the most important thing is to get started. This would be the first step in our quest to make a difference. We didn't need to be afraid of missing something or making it less than perfect.

In the end the Green Plan meets the goal of being practical and affordable. It is a very clear, concise, easy to read document that will guide the town in its goal to reduce our environmental impact. You can find it at www.haltonhills.ca. We welcome your feedback.

The Green Plan is an excellent first step that will need to be followed up by further actions. Implementation will require dedicated staff resources and council attention before we will see results. Staff is currently preparing a report that will offer options to council.

When we look beyond this plan we see that there is much to do if the goal is to live in a sustainable manner. If we are truly to leave our part of the world in as good shape as we found it, then we will need to change much of what we are doing.

However, considering how stressed out everyone seems to be these days, maybe slowing down, taking a walk, eating a great meal made from local food and taking in local theatre for entertainment wouldn't be such a bad change after all.

—Jane Fogal is the Ward 3&4 Regional Councillor for Halton Hills

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