

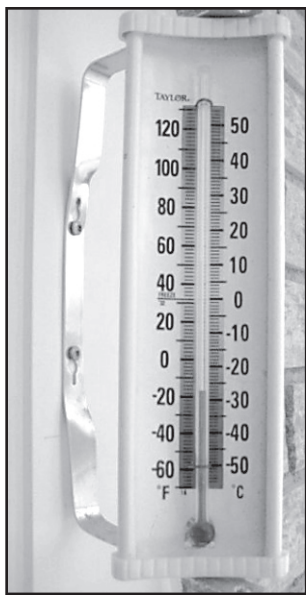
# Stretch of mild weather helped make Feb. bearable

For many, February was a pleasant change for January, says Environment Canada in its monthly summary. Instead of the bone-chilling values seen then, February brought somewhat above-normal temperatures across the province.

In Northwestern Ontario, and in spots in eastern Ontario, temperatures were two to three degrees above normal. The rest of the province reported values closer to normal.

Snowfall reported in places as wide apart as Ottawa and Wiarton were the lowest amounts since 1990's.

The expected thaw in January never really materialized for most of Southern Ontario. How-



**March came in like a lion with temperatures running as low as 27 degrees C Tuesday.**

ever, February saw a stretch of mild weather, from the 7-12. During

this mild spell, the large amounts of snow on the ground that had accumulated in many areas disappeared in a number of localities. Because the ground was frozen, there was no capacity to absorb all of the water, and so it quickly flowed into rivers and streams.

The warmer temperatures were another complication. These caused frozen rivers to break up and form ice jams, which compounded the flooding issues in some areas. By the end of the thaw, most regions in Southwestern and South Central Ontario – excluding the traditional snowbelt areas near Lake Huron and Georgian Bay – had little in the way of snow left on the ground.

However, the month wrapped up with cold winds that sent temperatures plummeting to well below zero by February 27. The clouds cleared to make way for blue skies and frigid temperatures that extended into the first three days of March.

Those who wondered whether the frigid weather would ever end were cleared by forecasts that the mercury would start climbing by mid week and rise above freezing by Friday.

# Earth Hour celebrated on March 28 at 8:30pm

**By Frances Niblock**

Local residents are invited to gaze at the stars in a dark sky on March 28 between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. to help the Town celebrate Earth Hour, a time when all non-essential municipal lights will be turned off in a public awareness campaign designed to draw attention to energy conservation.

Mayor Rick Bonnette said he hopes they can expand on the success of last year's Earth Hour, the first time the Town was involved with the event.

"We had a 9.4 per cent reduction in energy consumption which was fourth in the GTA – we had a lot of competition – and this was enough to power 4,800 homes," Bonnette said at last Monday's Council meeting as he encouraged everyone to safely participate in the event.

Damian Szybalski, the Town's Sustainability

Coordinator said the object of the hour is to do something tangible to try to alleviate climate change by turning off any unnecessary lights and appliances, turning down the heat and encouraging businesses to turn off their signs.

Any participation by the town must reflect so-called PAREE principals – Practical, Affordable, Reasonable, Enforceable and Educational – and include a number of Town

initiatives including a star gazing event in Cedarvale Park, Earth Hour menus, with candlelight, at local restaurants and participation by local merchants with deals on energy saving items.

Participation in Earth Hour is measured by the World Wildlife Federation and anyone who takes part in the event is asked to register their involvement at [www.earthhourcanada.org](http://www.earthhourcanada.org)

*It's that time of year again!*

## Citizen of the Year Nominations

The Acton Rotary Club is seeking nominations for **Acton's Citizen of the Year**

Nominations with supporting explanation to be mailed to:  
**Citizen of the Year, c/o Acton Rotary Club**  
 Box 22, Acton, L7J 2M2  
 or Email [dbrobert@sympatico.ca](mailto:dbrobert@sympatico.ca)  
 Deadline: March 31, 2009



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## GreenCart Tips

- Put your GreenCart out at the curb every week, even if it is only partially full.
- Only put your GreenCart at the curb. Do not place your Kitchen Catcher or compostable bags at the curb; the Kitchen Catcher is more likely to blow away in the wind and compostable bags may leak or break apart. They are only meant to be liners.
- Ensure the GreenCart lid is closed and locked.
- Avoid insects and other pests by sprinkling a handful of salt, garden lime, baking soda or powdered ginger in the GreenCart or Kitchen Catcher.
- Wrap meat and bones in paper and add additional layers of paper to the GreenCart each time you empty your Kitchen Catcher.
- To reduce odours, clean out your fridge the day before GreenCart collection.
- Store meat, poultry, fish and bones in the freezer until your collection day.
- Empty the contents of your Kitchen Catcher into your GreenCart daily.
- To determine whether paper products are compostable and can go into the GreenCart – give them a rip. If the paper product is difficult to rip, or if there is visible plastic or metallic lining, it cannot go in the GreenCart.
- If you choose to line your GreenCart, you can use newspapers, flyers, cardboard boxes, paper yard waste bags, paper food waste bags, and certified compostable bags with the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) logo:

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