

# Town Digest



**FIREMAN FUN:** A good time was had by all at the 10th annual Acton Firemen's Ball on Saturday at the Legion. Some, like Acton's Allan Kennedy (top) were marked by the party that included a buffet, dancing to a DJ, prizes and a silent auction. Christy Gedge (left) and Tracy Beirnes also tied one on. – Submitted photos

## Earth Hour

The lights will go out all over Halton Hills on March 27 between 8:30 and 9:30 in the morning to mark Earth Hour - an annual world-wide event to raise awareness of the need to cut energy use and fight climate change.

Last year, the Earth Hour event in Halton Hills garnered a 13.5 per cent energy consumption reduction - saving enough electricity to power approximately 6,500 homes for an hour. World-wide,

one-billion people celebrated Earth Hour in 90 countries last year - Halton Hills was one of 300 Canadian celebrations.

In a press release Mayor Rick Bonnette said Earth Day has been a success for two years.

"This year, we hope to do the same by demonstrating that it is possible to take meaningful and practical local action against climate change," Bonnette said, adding participation by residents, businesses and community organization is

key to achieving the goal.

## Earth Day

The Town will expand its Earth Day celebration events this year to include environmental education and engagement at the Georgetown Market Place.

Environmental displays will be set up in the mall for an Earth Day Fair from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Plans are in the works for several practical workshops, entertainment and an animal exhibit.

Along with the popular

tree sale at the works yard on April 24 there will be a waste drop off, compost and mulch sale and barbecue.

At a recent Council meeting, Regional/Ward Two Councillor Jane Fogal said the Town's 20-Minute Makeover will be a 22-Minute Makeover this year - people can work 10 per cent longer and harder. It's April 22, which is the 40th anniversary of Earth Day.

The Town-wide cleanup day is April 17.

## Fresh Food Box program

For about an hour on Tuesday, February 23, the cafeteria of the Civic Centre offered a distinctive aroma. The scent in the air reminded visitors and Town staff of the fresh produce found at a farmers' market on a warm summer's day. However, why this scent at the

Civic Centre, especially in February? On the recommendation of the Town's Staff Sustainability Team, a group dedicated to sustainability, introduced the Halton Fresh Food Box program for Town staff.

The Halton Fresh Food Box program promotes affordable and healthy eating, and supports local farmers by sourcing locally-grown and seasonal foods, as much as possible. The Halton Fresh Food Box is run by over 150 volunteers, and is partly funded by Halton Region and the Ontario Trillium Foundation. For neighbourhoods in Ac-

ton and Georgetown, the food boxes are packaged on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Georgetown Christian Fellowship Church.

Delivery occurs using a hybrid truck.

Participating Town staff receive a box of fresh produce once a month. Each box typically includes between 12 and 15 different kinds of fresh produce, typically sourced from within a 100 km radius of Halton Region. The produce is selected based on availability, the season, quality, freshness and price. In out-of-season months (e.g. during

the winter), typically approximately 50 per cent of the food box's contents is sourced locally, where as during the Ontario growing season (e.g. during the summer), the aim is to have 100 per cent of the produce sourced locally.

Depending on the size of the food box, staff pay either \$13 or \$17 per month for the food. On the first delivery date Town staff picked up 600 pounds of fresh food, thereby taking a big bite of local food.

By participating in the Fresh Food Box program, Town staff are helping make a difference by:

- Eating fresh and nutritious produce;
- Enjoying healthy living;
- Supporting local agriculture and farmers;
- Reducing air pollution by purchasing foods that are locally grown rather than picked when not ripe and transported thousands of kilometres, especially during the Ontario growing season;
- Creating a sense of community;
- Building an awareness of sustainability; and
- Helping to implement the Green Plan.

If you or your organization is interested in learning more about the Halton Fresh Food Box program, please contact Brenda Moher, Program Manager at 905-634-8645 or at [hgf@stchristophers-burlington.com](mailto:hgf@stchristophers-burlington.com). Any local produce growers interested in supplying the Halton Fresh Food Box are also invited to call.

## Curves works to help women live healthier.

There's never been a better time to join than during our Curves Food Drive. Our 30-minute circuit works every major muscle group so you can burn up to 500 calories. It's good for everyone.

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370-374 Queen Street East  
Acton, Ontario L7J 2Y5

905-702-0418

41 Main St South  
Georgetown, Ontario L7G 3G2

\*Food or cash donation required to local food bank determined by club. Offer based on first visit enrollment, minimum 12 mo. c.d./e.ft program. New members only. Not valid with any other offer. Valid only at participating locations through 3.20.10 (USA) and 3.13.10 (Canada). © 2010 Curves International, Inc.

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