



**HAIR TODAY:** Regional/Acton Councillor Clark Somerville will lose his newly dyed locks at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) conference this weekend, to raise money for an FCM scholarship program. – Submitted photo

# Here! - Help going green

The Halton Environmental Network (HEN) is pleased to announce receipt of a grant from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment's Community Go Green Fund (CGGF) to help people to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"Interest in solar has been growing steadily since the introduction of the Green Energy Act last year," said Project Coordinator Lisa Seiler. "Our solar tours are drawing 50 to 60 new people each month, and the number of Halton residents who have contacted us about other types of renewable energy is also growing." HERE! will

focus on solar and geothermal technologies for the remainder of 2010. It will also reach beyond the residential sector to include religious institutions, condominium corporations, and small businesses.

CGGF funding has enabled the hiring of two Renewable Energy Technology Specialists on a part-time basis. Graham Flint is an electrical engineer whose 10 kW ground-mounted solar PV system in rural Halton has recently been connected to the grid.

Chris Braekevelt is a mechanical engineer with experience installing geo-

thermal systems. Braekevelt will be handling solar thermal and geothermal issues.

"HERE!'s role is to ensure that Halton's residents' first experience with renewable energy is a positive one," says Flint. "We are HERE! to take the mystery out of renewable energy projects."

"HERE! helps with the full lifecycle of these projects," continues Flint. "We educate about the programs and technologies, we facilitate the introduction to vendors, we assist with evaluating proposals, we support people through any challenges with the process, and we celebrate the

successes and allow other people to follow in their footsteps."

HERE! will be holding two workshops as part of the Oakville Conserves Energy Fair on Saturday, May 29 at Oakville Town Hall. Flint will address solar PV at 10:00 a.m. and Braekevelt will speak on geothermal and solar thermal technologies at 11:00 a.m.

HEN is a non-profit umbrella group for environmental non-profits in Halton. Its mission is to make environmental connections in Halton. HEN is pleased to have the funding to be able to help people connect to green power.

# Are you environmentally savvy

Our quality of life depends on a clean and healthy environment – we owe it to ourselves and our children to preserve and protect the living networks and systems that provide us with health, wealth, food, fuel and the vital services that our lives depend on.

May 30 to June 5 is

Canadian Environment Week. It is the perfect opportunity to learn about what you can do to minimize your environmental footprint.

1. Adding insulation to your walls and attic, and installing weather stripping or caulking around doors and windows can

lower your heating costs

by how much percent?

- a. 15 percent
- b. 25 percent
- c. 35 percent
- d. 50 percent

**Answer: b. 25 percent**

This is done by reducing the amount of energy you need to heat and cool your home.

2. Bees are more import-

ant than poultry in terms of human nutrition.

- a. True
- b. False

**Answer: a. True**

Bees are an essential part of biodiversity. Biodiversity can be defined as being the variety of all life on earth. There are 130,000 plants that need pollination by bees to live. Unfortunately, bees have suffered dramatic declines in recent years, mostly from pesticides introduced by humans.

3. Driving a new car between 320 and 480 kilometres is equal to driving your gas powered lawnmower for how long?

- a. 15 minutes
- b. Half an hour
- c. One hour
- d. Two hours

**Answer: c. one hour**

To reduce air pollution, you should limit the use of small gas-powered machines such as lawnmowers, leaf blowers, chainsaws and snow blowers.

4. Purchasing locally-produced food benefits Canadians by:

- a. Reducing pollution resulting from the shipping of food around the world
- b. Helping maintain farmland and green space our communities
- c. Supporting our local economy
- d. All of the above

**Answer: d. All of the above**

So, eat locally! It is also safer, as food grown in other countries is under different regulations regarding the use of chemicals, some of which

may be banned in Canada due to their known adverse health effects.

5. Setting your thermostat just two degrees lower in the winter and higher in the summer could save you approximately how many kilograms of carbon dioxide each year?

- a. 450 kilograms
- b. 680 kilograms
- c. 910 kilograms
- d. 1500 kilograms

**Answer: c. 910 kilograms**

In the winter, turn down the heat while you're sleeping at night or away during the day. During the summer, keep your windows open at night and close them with the blinds drawn during the day. Keep temperatures moderate at all times to save on heating and cooling costs and help reduce

6. A single dripping hot water faucet can waste up to how many liters of water a month?

- a. 200 liters
- b. 405 liters
- c. 670 liters
- d. 800 liters

**Answer: d. 800 liters**

That not only increases water bills, but also increases the gas or electricity bill for heating the water. So, get that leaky faucet fixed.

9. Every year Canadians bury or cremate how many tons of dead and obsolete computers, monitors, printers, fax machines, TVs, mobile phones and similar products?

- a. 50,000 tons
- b. 72,000 tons
- c. 114,000 tons
- d. 158,000 tons

**Answer: d. 158,000 tons**

These devices contain significant quantities of pollutants such as lead and mercury, some of which eventually leach into our water systems. They also contain recyclable materials such as copper, steel, aluminum and plastic. Donate electronics that you no longer need to Computers for Schools, or contact your local waste management facilities for an electronics recycler in your area.

10. What is the term used to describe something that will break down naturally?

- a. Compostable
- b. Organic
- c. Biodegradable
- d. Degradable

**Answer: c. Biodegradable**

Through the action of a microorganism such as bacteria or fungi, biodegradable products will break down over a period of time. Any product that comes from nature (plants, animals, minerals) will return to nature. But man-made petrochemical products like plastic cannot, leaving them on the earth for centuries to come.

Thank you for taking the time to take our quiz. This is the first step to get informed. Now you have to get involved and act now.

We all can make a difference by taking simple steps as part of our daily lives to protect and preserve the life support systems we rely on every day.

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