

# Trudeau challenges Halton's youth to effect change

By Ryan Bolton  
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

Everyone does matter and every choice that we make will make a difference for the future, was Justin Trudeau's message at the recent Halton Regional Chair's Environmental Awards Ceremony.

"We each have that power, and right now, more than ever before, it is extremely important that we start using that power that every single one of us has," said Trudeau.

The event was organized to recognize and celebrate Halton's youth and their environmental initiatives. Before

Trudeau took the stage, winners of the Halton Youth Awards for Environmental Excellence and the Halton Environmental Scholarship Awards were handed out to the recipients.

Before he began his speech, Trudeau asked the youth in the crowd to stand up in front of the sold-out audience.

"Every adult in this room is looking at them and smiling and saying, 'Yes, those are our leaders of tomorrow,'" said Trudeau. "Well stop that... We need to understand that the young people that you see in this room are our leaders today."

Throughout the speech, the 36-year-

old mentioned the importance of the individual, and more specifically the youth, who can effect change.

"Everyone is causing climate change, not just one person," he said to an attentive crowd of 540. "We, as a species, can no longer simply react to the things going on around us."

Trudeau mentioned that it was not only vital to think about what was occurring worldwide with the environment, but to more importantly take action.

"We are going to lead to collapse unless we start thinking deeply and broadly of the consequences of what we do," he said.

Trudeau asserted that by thinking broadly, we need to muse about sustainability today for a brighter future. As an example, the environmental-activist mentioned how he purchases free trade coffee from an organic and sustainable company in the rain forest.

We should think about the consequences of our actions in the future, Trudeau. Purchasing a fuel-efficient vehicle now, he said, will cut back significantly on greenhouse gases in the future.

Trudeau brought up numerous environmental topics to think about and question. Fresh water, he noted, will eventually become a scarce resource and we need to start conserving and taking responsibility of our water use now.

"Did you know that Canadians are the highest per person users, and therefore wasters, of water in the world?" asked Trudeau. "We need to be smarter about all kinds of things."

Understanding that the world is no longer a "small world," the Ottawa-native asserted that it was time that we start to accept change instead of fight it. It will be the little actions that everyone does, however, that will have the print-

• see STUDENTS on page A13



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**SPEAKING OUT:** Justin Trudeau addresses the crowd at the Halton Regional Chair's Breakfast.

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#### SATURDAY MAY 10, 2-4PM

- 81 - 204 Millside Dr., \$218,000, Jesse Barnes
- 466 Farlow Cres., \$367,888, Barb King
- 187 Martin St., \$529,000, Sheryl Gray
- 151 Court St., \$399,900, Clayton Hackenbrook
- 233 Sherwood Rd., \$299,900, Craig Hackenbrook
- 615 Foster Cr., \$389,900, Gladys Cranford
- 793 Willow Ave., \$369,900, Randy Drohan
- 241 Woodward Ave., \$499,900, Teri-Lynn & Norm Hilson
- Remax Real Estate Centre, 905-878-7777

1:30-4:30 pm, 932 Laurier., \$304,900, Adina Nonis

- 742 Irving Terrace, \$312,000, Angel Lyons
- 1506 Harwood, \$294,900, Gaby Bajin
- 13171 First Line, \$564,900, Debra Turk
- Royal LePage Meadowtowne, 905-878-8101

#### SUNDAY MAY 11, 2-4PM

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- 187 Martin St., \$529,000, Sheryl Gray
- 233 Sherwood Rd., \$299,900, Jalaj Arora
- 615 Foster Cr., \$389,900, Gladys Cranford
- 793 Willow Ave., \$369,900, Melodie Rose
- 241 Woodward Ave., \$499,900, Teri-Lynn & Norm Hilson
- 371 - 3 Bronte St. S., \$217,900, Michele Oest
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- 1157 Houston Dr., \$449,900, Joyce Hagevik
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