

MPP Sullivan to chair energy use committee

Halton Centre MPP Barbara Sullivan has been named chairman of a committee which will examine the use of energy in Ontario.

The local politician will lead the Select Committee on Energy in its studies with particular emphasis on Ontario's contribution to global warming and carbon dioxide emissions, said Ms Sullivan.

"We have some clear problems. People often don't understand that by using energy wastefully, they may be contributing to global warming. Industries may be reluctant to switch to energy-efficient processes and equipment because of the costs involved."

Committee members are expected to consider all energy sources including natural gas, oil, coal, electricity and alternative energy, and their applications in industry, commerce, transportation, as well as in residential and institutional sectors.

They will also examine potential

natural "sinks" where carbon dioxide is reduced naturally, such as in forests, Ms. Sullivan said.

"We know that to stabilize the current concentration of carbon dioxide in the upper atmosphere, today's global emissions would have to be cut by 50 per cent. We also know that international trends in energy consumption show increasing energy utilization."

The all-party committee will involve first-rate scientists, economists and researchers in its work, and should have a significant impact on provincial and national decision-making, she added.

"Members from all political parties who are part of the committee see this mandate as an opportunity to explore a key public issue and to put forward options for short and long-term goals. We want to hear from people about their views and there will be a public hearing process included in our deliberations."

It's spring at Bronte Park

Spring will come early at Bronte Creek Provincial Park. In February, spring lambs will mark the beginning of many new births at the park's Spruce Lane Farm and Childrens Farm. Two litters of pigs will arrive at the Childrens Farm as well next month and the lambs will join them in March. April will bring chicks at the Spruce Lane Farm for Easter and a Percheron foal and a calf are expected in May. More calves will be born in June and the Childrens Farm will feature baby donkeys. The farms are open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the Spruce Lane Farm House is open Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bronte Creek Provincial Park is located between Oakville and Burlington, north of the QEW. Take exit 109 north on Burloak Drive to the Park entrance. Call 827-6911 for more information.

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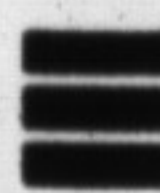
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