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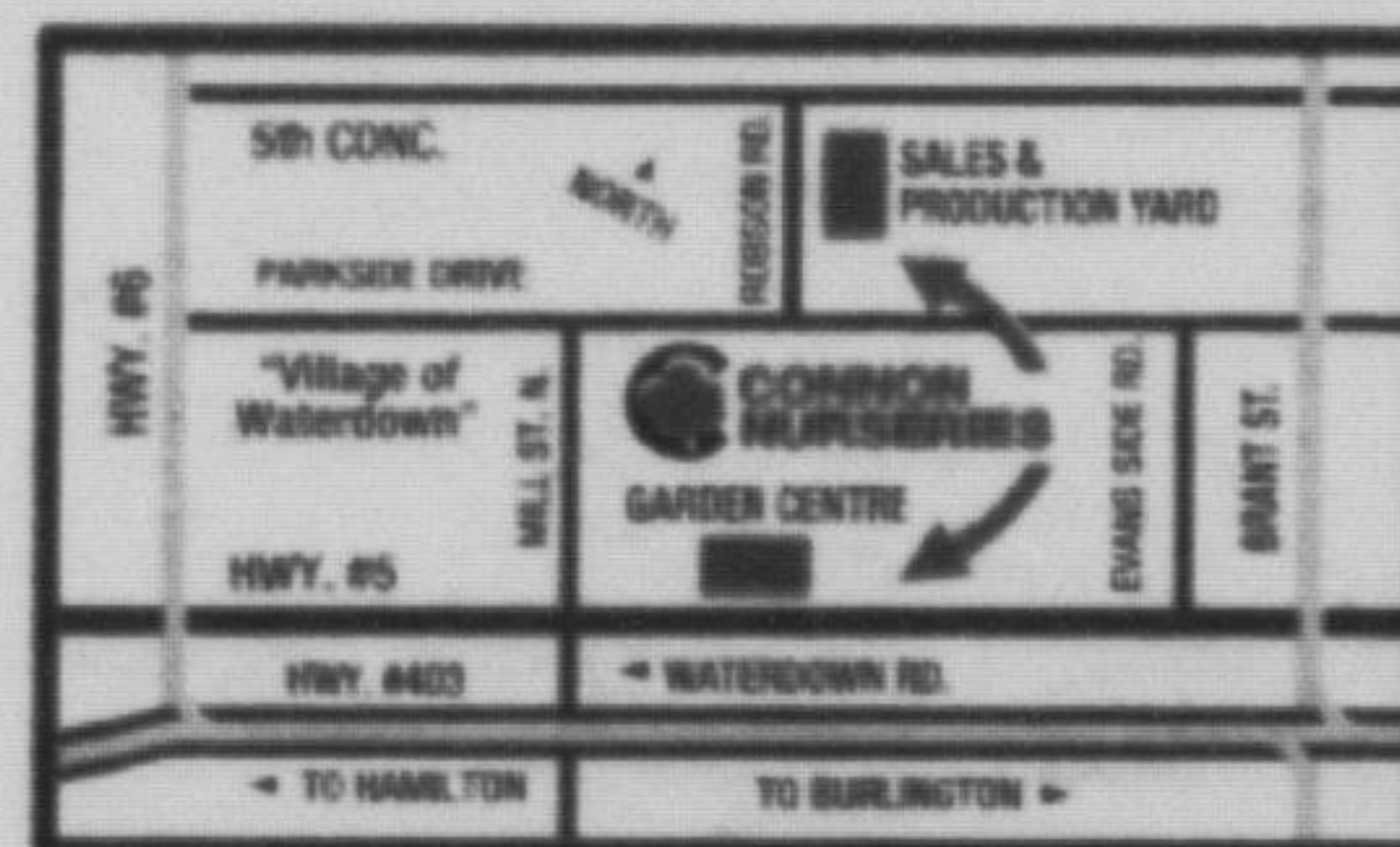


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Annual spring compost giveaway to start soon

Residents can pick up compost May 6 to 11 at waste management site

Halton Region will once again host its popular annual Spring Compost Giveaway.

The event will run from Monday, May 6 to Saturday, May 11 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Halton Waste Management Site (HWMS), 5400 R.R. 25. In 2012, about 31,000 tonnes of yard waste, such as leaves, garden trimmings and brush, was collected in Halton and turned into high-quality compost at HWMS.

The resulting compost is now ready for residents to use in their own gardens and landscaping projects.

During last year's compost giveaway events, 4,600 residents came to HWMS and picked up about 2,000 tonnes of compost.

Residents attending the event are encouraged to bring a cash donation or non-perishable food items. In 2012, Halton residents donated 6,000 kg of food and \$10,650 for local food banks.

"Halton residents are the best in the province when it comes to diverting residential waste away from the landfill," said Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr.

"Through participation in waste diversion programs like the yard waste collection program, Halton households continue to divert 60 per cent of waste away from the landfill, up from 40 per cent in 2007.

"These efforts will help conserve the landfill, one of the region's most valuable physical assets, and save taxpayers \$15 million."

Residents are reminded to bring their own bags or reusable containers (maximum seven per household) and their own shovel.

Residents are responsible for shoveling and bagging their own compost. The compost should be mixed with topsoil or another gardening fill — 60 per cent topsoil and 40 per cent compost — for the best growing results.