

Environmental resolutions for the New Year

Many of us set goals for self-improvement at the start of the year to motivate ourselves to change. Perhaps making a similar list of environmental resolutions would help us act on our good intentions towards the environment.

1. Review your home heating systems, your water heater and your insulation. Much of the energy consumed in the average Canadian home is wasted because of inefficient heating systems.

Tuning up an oil furnace, applying caulking and weatherstripping to seal cracks, insulating the attic and upgrading or replacing the windows in your home can reduce energy loss and heating bills.

2. Check your appliances' energy consumption. Keeping your refrigerator and freezer even five degrees colder than necessary will increase your energy consumption by as much as 25 per cent.

According to guidelines provided by Ontario Hydro, refrigerators should be kept at between two degrees and five degrees Centigrade and the freezer compartments and the freezer at -18 degrees Centigrade.

Every six months, condenser coils at the back of the fridge should be cleaned carefully with the brush or nozzle attachment of the vacuum cleaner.

After appliances, water heaters are the second largest energy user in your home. In a home without a dishwasher, you can safely turn down the thermostat on your water heater to 54 degrees Centigrade.

Turning off the heater when you leave home for a weekend or take a vacation is also recommended.

CSA-certified insulating blankets also help reduce energy waste. These blankets can be installed around all CSA-certified water heaters set at 60 degrees C or less.

3. Turn off the lights when you leave the room and choose light bulbs with conservation in mind. One 100 watt bulb gives almost as much light as two 60 watts and uses less energy.

Compact fluorescent bulbs are the latest innovation in efficient lighting. Although they cost more than the traditional incandescent bulb, they use less electricity and pay off in lower energy costs.

4. Conserve water. Keeping the water running while you brush your teeth, shave or wash dishes is a bad habit that in time squanders an astonishing amount of water.

5. Garbage The average Canadian household throws out a tonne of garbage a year. Practice the three "R's" - reduce, reuse and recycle (in that order) Reduce means avoiding unnecessary, heavily packaged or disposable goods.

Reusing can entail borrowing, bartering, renting or repairing items to prevent using items only once.

Look for goods packaged in recyclable materials - glass, metal or paper; avoid plastic and styrofoam. You can also recycle kitchen food scraps in compost bins.

If your community has a curbside recycling program, make your participation easier by setting up separate bins in your home for different products.

6. Handle and dispose of toxic wastes such as paints and thinners, oven cleaners, car batteries, antifreeze and pesticides with care. Simply throwing them in the trash or flushing them down the drain eventually contaminates the soil, water and air.

7. Reward companies whose goods are less harmful to the environment. CSA is the testing and certification agency for Environment Canada's Environmental Choice Program.

Under this program, guidelines have been developed in product categories such as re-refined motor oil, thermal insulation, plastic fencing and water-based paint.

Draft guidelines have also been established for newspapers, heat recovery ventilators, energy-efficient lamps, compost and water-conserving products.

If products in a category are made, used, or disposed of in a way that causes significantly less harm to the environment than others in the same category, their manufacturers are allowed to display the EcoLogo mark.

8. Become fuel-efficient. Cars emit carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons - gases that contribute to the greenhouse effect, acid rain and ozone smog.

Give your car a tune-up. The more gas your car consumes, the more harm it does to the environment. Keeping your car tuned up makes it more fuel efficient and cuts down on toxic emissions.

Carpooling is another gas-sparing initiative, one that helps your pocketbook as well as the environment.

Courtesy CSA & the Consumer

Ontario Special Investigations Unit appointments announced

Two senior appointments have been made to the Ontario Special Investigations Unit.

John Harty Osler, Director of the Special Investigations Unit (SIU), announced the appointment of J. Gordon Wilson, as Chief Investigator.

Wilson will have responsibility for all investigations province-wide other than those involving the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force.

Reporting to the Director, Wilson will be responsible for the training of all investigators.

Wilson was a member of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force for 31 years, most recently at the rank of Inspector in charge of investigations specialist and is familiar with all aspects of policing, from homicide to community service.

Wilson's appointment will take effect January 14, 1991.

Milan Then was appointed as Senior Investigator and will have responsibility for investigations involving the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force.

Reporting to the Director, Then will also supervise communications and community relations for the SIU.

Then brings 15 years experience with the ombudsman of Ontario, having held positions of Executive Assistant, Assistant Director of Investigations and Director of Communications.

Then also served as a

Probation and Parole Officer prior to his service with the Ombudsman. His appointment will take effect immediately.

As Director of the SIU, Mr. Osler, a retired Justice of the Supreme Court of Ontario, heads the Special Investigations Unit, an independent civilian body that will investigate incidents in which a serious injury or death has occurred that may have resulted from criminal offenses committed by police officers in Ontario.

The SIU has been in operation since it was proclaimed under the new Police Services Act and reports the results of its investigations to the Attorney General.

"I am confident that as an independent, impartial and professional civilian body, we will be able to play an important role in enhancing public confidence in police agencies," said Mr. Osler.

In keeping with the purpose of the SIU, the Director cannot be a current or former police officer and the Unit's investigators cannot be police officers.

Investigators can be former police officers as their roles require experience in the conduct of criminal investigations.

However, an investigator cannot participate in an investigation involving a police force of which he or she was a member.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Terrace Bay Schreiber News welcomes letters to the editor on any subject. Letters can be mailed to the News, Box 579, Terrace Bay, P0T 2W0, or dropped off at the News office at 13 Simcoe Plaza in Terrace Bay.

Letters must be signed and have the phone number and address of the author for verification.

We will not knowingly print false, libelous or anonymous comments.

Letters to the editor are important to community newspapers. They serve to reflect opinions of members of the community we serve. However, we must insist on these rules to ensure that this very important forum is used responsibly.



The Terrace Bay Minor Hockey raffle for a trip for two to Toronto to see the Leafs play was won by Ken Courneya.

Thanks to everyone who supported our raffle and special thanks to our sponsors: Air Canada for round trip tickets from Thunder Bay to Toronto, C.P. Rail for two nights accommodation at the Royal York Hotel and Metalwelding Supply for hockey game tickets.

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Kevin Scott and Carol Junker are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Graig Frederick Ryan, on January 8, 1991 at York County Hospital in New Market. Proud Grandmothers are Rita Scott of Schreiber and Joyce Junker of Ancaster.



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