

Use flashlights, not candles: Stouffville fire department

Earth Hour organizers are encouraging individuals, businesses and government to help reduce electricity and create awareness on climate change by turning their lights off for one hour.

It is expected millions of Ontarians will participate Saturday at 8 p.m.

With the lights turned off, Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire and Emergency Services strongly recommends that residents use flashlights or battery operated lanterns for light.

If you must use candles, you need to take special care to prevent fire:

- Use sturdy candleholders that won't tip or burn. Those with glass shades or chimneys are best.
- Keep lit candles a safe distance away from anything that can burn.
- Keep candles, matches and light-

ers out of the reach of children.

- Always stay in the room where candles are being used. Blow all candles out when you leave the room.
- Keep candles out of all bedrooms.

"With an increase in candle use, there is an increased risk of fire," said Patrick Burke, Fire Marshal of Ontario. "Before you light any candles, make sure to test all of the smoke alarms in your home to ensure they are working."

It's the law to have working smoke alarms on every storey of your home. Smoke alarms can provide an early warning of fire and a home fire escape plan will help ensure you and your family get out safely.

"While I do encourage everyone to get involved in this worthy initiative, I am strongly urging people to prevent fires while participating," Mr. Burke said.

Things to do in the dark

What to do Saturday while the lights are off:

- Have a glow-in-the-dark martini party. Place glow-in-the-dark ice cubes in martini glasses.
- Play a game of Twister. This knot-tying game is a lot of fun to play, lights on or off.
- Spark up some romance. Nothing says love like a picnic in the living room with candles.
- Bring out the flashlights and marshmallows for a campfire and tell ghost stories. Perfect for an eerie night.
- Use flashlights and glow sticks to play hide and go seek. This back yard game is great for children.
- Take some "me" time. Relax. Nap.

— Town of Newmarket



Lights at arena, streets remain on during hour

From page 1.

► Go to earthhour.org for more information

Johnson, president and CEO of Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce.

"We're sending our members an e-mail asking them to participate," said Ms. Johnson. "I think businesses will participate if its reasonable for them to do so."

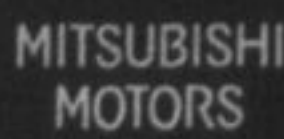
The chamber makes an effort every day of the year to conserve energy, Mrs. Johnson said.

"Everything that can be turned off is turned off," Mrs. Johnson said. "When the computers aren't being used, they're turned off. When no one's in the room, we turn the

lights off." While the town plans on going dark in support of the event in most places, there are some lights that will not be shut off.

"The Lebovic Centre and the arena's lighting will not be shut off during that time because those facilities are still open," said Mr. Emmer-son.

He added all events at the facilities, including a weekend minor hockey tournament, will go on as scheduled and street lights will remain on as well.



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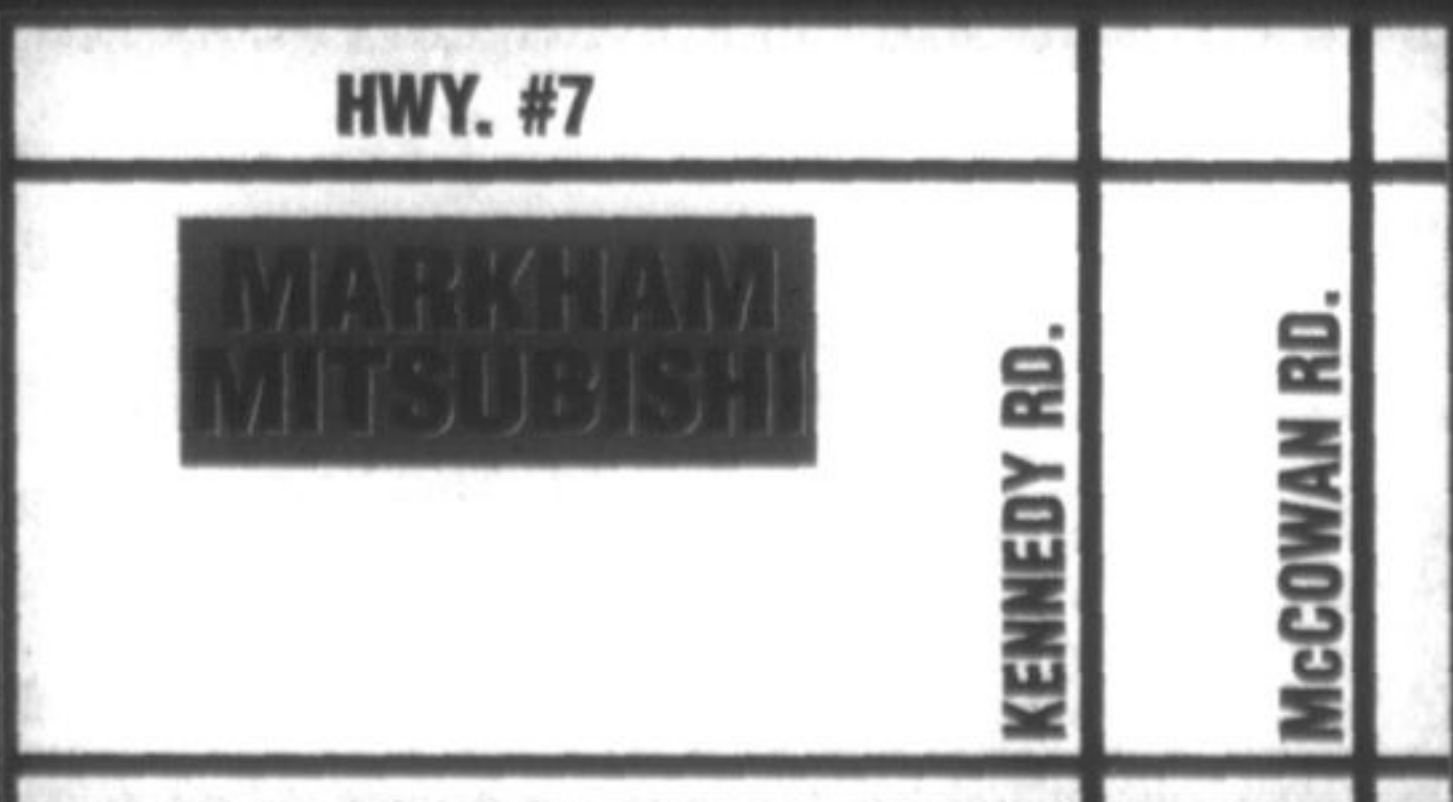
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