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Taking action to preserve our world

By Kate Gilderdale
 Stouffville This Month

Whether you want to save the planet, or would like to save your family some hard-earned dollars, EcoAction's information meeting at Parkview Village Auditorium Oct. 23 is an excellent place to start.

EcoAction Teams is an Earth Day Canada program that helps Canadians achieve a healthier lifestyle. "Whether you live in a rural community or urban area, EcoAction Teams strives to meet the diverse needs of your community," said Farrah Byckalo-Khan of Earth Day Canada.

"Our activity guides outline practical tips and actions in areas such as waste reduction, energy and water conservation and transportation." Participants work together to track their progress and savings, and the results are posted on the program's website at www.ecoaction-teams.ca.

"This is a very flexible program," said Gerald Reesor-Grooters of the Community Mennonite Church of Stouffville. Eleven families from the

church formed a local EcoAction Team as a pilot project and found that, by using simple tactics to conserve energy and avoid waste, the average family can save money, as well as preserving precious resources.

"(The program) suggests simple steps to move towards a more sustainable lifestyle." And it can be tailored to individual circumstances. "As a team member, you'll gain practical skills that allow you to reduce your personal impact on the environment and save on household expenses year after year," Ms. Reesor-Grooters

noted.

The information meeting is for anyone who is interested in learning more about EcoAction Teams. "You do not have to implement all activities (in the program). Certain ones may not apply -- like car-pooling when you live in a

rural area like I do. Others might be too high-cost to implement right away, like energy-efficient doors and windows."

For more details on the information meeting, which takes place at 8 p.m. Oct. 23, call Gerald Reesor-Grooters at 905-642-6130.

Lions Rabies Clinic in Ballantrae

The Ballantrae Lions will host a Rabies Clinic at the Ballantrae Community Centre on Aurora Sideroad east of Hwy. 48 from 1 to 3 p.m. Oct. 18.

Dr. B.A. Laing of the Town and Country Veterinary Clinic in Stouffville will be in attendance at the centre and owners can have their pets vaccinated against rabies for \$15 per animal. Everyone welcome.

Just walkin' the dog for sight and hearing

The Stouffville Lions Club invites residents to participate in the Lions Foundation of Canada's Walk for Dog Guides, which raises funds to buy guide dogs for people with vision or hearing difficulties, as well as those suffering from other physical disabilities.

"It's the first time our club has participated, and we cover all the expenses for the walk with the help of sponsors and assistance from the community," explained Lion Tom Winters. "A hundred percent of the money raised on the day goes to the foundation."

Walkers, who are encouraged to bring

their dogs to the event, can pick up pledge forms from local schools and veterinarians, public buildings including the town office and the library, and the Pet Stop in downtown Stouffville. The walk takes place Oct. 11, with registration starting at 9 a.m. and walkers setting off on the 5 km route at 10 a.m.

"We will head off from Latham Hall, do the walk, then have some contests -- one will probably be a beauty contest for the dogs," said Mr. Winters. "We're going to have some fun and give out some prizes." For more information visit www.dogguides.com or call 905-640-1867.

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