



The Town of Halton Hills

GREEN PLAN

NOVEMBER 2007

Council Approved: June 2008

Updated: February 2009

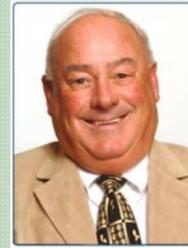




MAYOR'S NOTE

On behalf of Council I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the dedicated work of the Mayor's Green Plan Task Force. Without their efforts, this Halton Hills Green Plan, would not have been achievable. Halton Hills Council supported this initiative and put their faith in those interested and willing to serve on the Task Force. The resulting report sets the stage for future efforts in our never ending journey towards environmental protection and a sustainable Halton Hills community

Rick Bonette



John Duncan
Ward 4 Councillor



Jane Fogal
Regional Councillor
Wards 3 & 4



Jon Hurst
Ward 1 Councillor



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Moya Johnson
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Dave Kentner
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Regional Councillor
Wards 1 & 2



Joan Robson
Ward 2 Councillor

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“The Land of the Tall Pines”

Halton Hills’ relationship with its natural features is an integral part of its history. Lands that now comprise Halton Hills once belonged to the Mississauga Indian Reserve, thus generating the colloquial term Esquesing, meaning the “land of the tall pines”.

Readers of the Halton Hills Green Plan will no doubt note the frequent use of pine tree illustrations as a reminder of the Town’s heritage and as an inspiration for our future.



Acknowledgement

Pictures included within the Green Plan are courtesy of:

- The Independent & Free Press
- Christine Upton
- Councillor Clark Somerville
- Wayne Scott
- Credit Valley Conservation
- The Town of Halton Hills

PREAMBLE

We live

in a changing world.

Every day our weather patterns are shifting. We see evidence that our temperatures are rising and that the global ice caps are melting.

We live

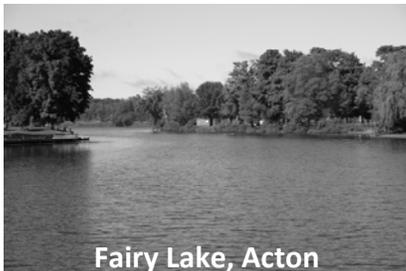
on a deteriorating planet.

Our planet is finite. Concerns are increasing as we see the ecological balance being threatened, wildlife habitat being lost and freshwater lake levels receding.

We live

in challenging times.

Many health issues stem from air pollution, and lifestyle choices have a direct impact on our surroundings. Social inequities are being magnified.



Fairy Lake, Acton

We live

in a caring community.

Halton Hills residents, businesses and the municipality have all demonstrated a commitment to protecting the environment through many initiatives. Evidence of “thinking globally and acting locally” abounds in our Town. There is clear awareness and interest within our community to make changes that will protect the environment and ultimately lead towards sustainability.

This “Green Plan” represents the beginning of the Town’s program that will ultimately lead the community in a direction that will “Preserve, Protect and Enhance Our Environment” in accordance with the Town’s Strategic Plan.

We need

your comments.

Please take a few moments to read this Green Plan.

Send your comments on the Green Plan, and the beginning of our community’s journey towards an improved environment and sustainability to:

Damian Szybalski

Sustainability Coordinator

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Email: greenplan@haltonhills.ca

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Halton Hills ON L7G 5G2

Website: haltonhills.ca/sustainability

CHAPTER 1

The Mayor Envisions a “Green Plan”

Background

In 2006 Halton Hills Council adopted a new Official Plan which incorporated an environment-first philosophy.

In the spring of 2007, Mayor Rick Bonnette noted that not a day went by without a story on television or a headline in the newspapers identifying an ever increasing concern regarding the long-term health of our environment.

In keeping with the Town’s “environment-first” approach, the Mayor took action to establish a green footprint for the municipality.

“My concept for a Green Plan imagines Halton Hills to be a community of leaders – not followers”

Mayor Rick Bonnette

In May of 2007, the Mayor brought forward a motion to Council “that a PAREE (practical, affordable, reasonable, enforceable and educational) Green Plan be developed for the Town of Halton Hills demonstrating Halton Hills’ commitment to preserving, protecting and enhancing our environment, and setting priorities in Service and Program delivery in a manner that will contribute to the implementation of the Town’s Green Plan”.

With the full support of Council, a six month project to prepare a Green Plan commenced.

Mayor’s Green Task Force is Assembled

A Task Force was formed by Mayor Rick Bonnette to galvanize community champions.

Membership included:

- Halton Hills Councillors and Staff
- Halton Hills Hydro (Senior Management)
- TEAC (Town Environmental Advisory Committee)
- H.O.P.E. (Healthy Options for People and the Environment)
- P.O.W.E.R. (Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources)
- Christ the King Secondary School (youth representation)
- Neilson Dairy (industrial representation)
- Halton Federation of Agriculture (farming representation)
- Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce (business representation)

The Task Force came together for the first of their 15 meetings in June 2007.

An ambitious project framework was developed and desired outputs were agreed upon, setting the stage for six months of intense work.

The Task Force Sets to Work

In order to meet the varied requirements of the project's deliverables, the work of the Task Force evolved into two parallel efforts.

First, four sub-committees, comprised of Task of Force members were established as follows:

Sub-Committee #1

Halton Hills Residents

(Chair, Councillor Joan Robson)

This sub-committee's mandate was to assemble information with the intent to educate, inspire and motivate Halton Hills residents to be more environmentally conscious.

Sub-Committee #2

Halton Hills Schools, Businesses and Local Interest Groups

(Chair, Councillor Jane Fogal)

The work of this sub-committee focused on finding common ground to both educate and engage Halton Hills schools, businesses and local interest groups to heighten interest in activities and practices that protect the natural environment.

Sub-Committee #3

Other Levels of Government and Agencies

(Chair, Councillor Clark Somerville)

Other levels of government and agencies formed the target audience for the work of this sub-committee. Its mandate included exploring ways in which synergy could be created by developing partnerships and recognizing the key role of local government in taking advocacy positions.

Sub-Committee #4

Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills and Halton Hills Hydro

(Chair, Councillor Jon Hurst)

The mandate of this sub-committee encompassed the operations of both the Town of Halton Hills and Halton Hills Hydro for the purposes of establishing a leadership role in environmentally sound practices. The objective was to set an example within the community.

The work of these four sub-committees resulted in the development of a list of environmental actions. This work required researching programs/plans and best practices of other municipalities and organizations. All sub-committees agreed that there is no need to "reinvent the wheel" and that many initiatives that have been successful elsewhere could work in Halton Hills, subject to some local tailoring.

Second, the Task Force as a whole assumed responsibility for exploring the higher level concepts of Environmental Strategic Plans and Sustainability Frameworks in order to formulate recommendations for future work in this regard.



CHAPTER 2

Building on a Great Foundation

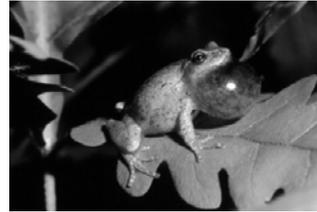
In the initial stages of the Mayor's Green Plan Project, examples of community environmental initiatives were exchanged. It soon became evident to the Task Force that Halton Hills has already undertaken many activities of which it can be proud of.

Hence a summary of the "3E's" (Exemplary, Environmental Efforts) was assembled to use as a basis for future environmental initiatives as well to spread the message:

Existing Town Initiatives

Town Owned Facilities

- Installation of innovative features such as waste heat recovery systems, lighting dimmer systems, demand side load reduction systems and timer/motion sensor switches.
- Lighting retrofits to energy efficient lights in all municipal facilities.
- Installation of natural gas dehumidification equipment in place of traditional electric units.
- Conversion of hot water tanks from electric to natural gas and reduction of temperature to 55 degrees Celsius, 130 Fahrenheit.
- Use of environmentally-friendly cleaning products at Town facilities.
- Installation of energy efficient features such as programmable thermostats, sunscreens and reflective film on windows in strategic locations exposed to direct sunlight to reduce heat gain as well as the installation of high-efficiency energy refrigeration equipment.
- Installation of waterless urinals to help save 100,000 litres (26,425 gallons) of water annually.
- Use of HeatSaver, a liquid solar blanket for indoor swimming pools.
- Staff car pooling when traveling off site to the same destination.
- Installation of recycling containers at recreation facilities.



**The
Spring
Peeper**

- Use of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) principles in the design of new buildings.

Recreation and Parks Programs

- Environmental-theme days at summer day camps.
- Garbage free lunch days.
- Purchasing craft supplies to incorporate recycled materials.
- Eco-Adventure, a weeklong day camp.
- Solar Light Trial and on-going measures to reduce hydro consumption for park lighting.
- Use of recycled rubber curb stops in park parking lots.
- Pesticide Reduction Program, whereby pesticide use occurs only when certain thresholds have been exceeded.
- Reduced mowing areas along the shoreline of Fairy Lake to encourage natural areas.

Infrastructure Services

- Programs to reduce sediment and debris entering rivers and creeks via the Storm-water System.
- Coordination of traffic signals to reduce unnecessary starts and stops, thereby reducing carbon dioxide emissions.
- Introduction of traffic roundabouts to decrease emissions and noise pollution.
- L.E.D. Traffic Signal Changeout Program.
- Promotion and education regarding the new Ontario Building Code standards which will achieve significant energy savings in new building construction.
- Purchase and installation of additional waste containers each year in high profile areas such as downtown areas, arterial and collector streets, schools, walkways and parks.
- Responsible for the sale of trees for Earth Day.
- Salt Management Plan to reduce the use of road salt in winter.
- Reuse of construction materials such as concrete, catch basins and asphalt.
- Use of bio-diesel fuel in off-road vehicles and equipment.
- Ask for and consider proposals for alternative fuel vehicles in tender documents.
- Increased aerating, fertilizing and top dressing programs to reduce the amount of pesticides used for grass maintenance.

Visit the Town's sustainability web-pages for more information on the Town's sustainability initiatives:
www.haltonhills.ca/sustainability

Libraries

- Reduced lighting in the summer months.
- Purchase of books and other material related to environmental issues.
- Recycling of used paper in printers and for scratch pads.
- A second life for discarded books, old furniture and equipment is found whenever possible.
- The design of the new Georgetown Branch Library incorporates environmentally friendly and sustainable technologies.

Halton Hills Hydro

- Implementation of ZEBRA battery, a load shifting project.
- Compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulb 'giveaway' in the summer of 2006.
- Implementation of an Imaging System with the long-term goal of reducing the amount of paper used.
- Implementation of E-Billing, a service that allows customers to receive and pay bills electronically.
- Participation in a Provincial coupon program encouraging consumers to purchase energy efficient products.
- Elimination program for PCB contaminated transformers.



Planning, Development & Sustainability

- Adopted by Council in September 2006, the new Official Plan is the Town's planning policy document, intended to provide a framework for land use decisions. The Official Plan establishes an 'environment-first' philosophy to protect the Town's many significant environmental features.
- Completed numerous studies (e.g. Silvercreek Subwatershed Study) to enshrine environmental policies and watershed planning in the Town's Official Plan to ensure that the environment is an integral part of the land use planning process.
- Incorporated comprehensive Environmental Management Policies into the Town's Official Plan, with the objective of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, protecting watercourses and water resources, facilitating tree planting, reducing auto use, and promoting energy efficiency in building design.
- Incorporated natural heritage and water resource Official Plan policies that call for the protection, enhancement and restoration of significant natural features for present and future generations.
- Developed Official Plan urban design policies that encourage the use of energy efficient street lights, energy efficient building design, and development design that is compatible with existing natural heritage features.
- Provided financial and in-kind support, and participated in the Region of Halton's Natural Areas Inventory with the objective of protecting local biodiversity.
- Currently preparing Community Improvement Plan and Intensification Opportunities studies to make efficient use of infrastructure, and to establish healthy and vibrant communities.



Community Initiatives

Wastewise

Operating from its 10,000 square-foot warehouse at 36 Armstrong Avenue, this community-based waste reduction initiative offers education programs, recycling opportunities and generates revenue through the sale of used goods. Since opening in 1991, Wastewise has diverted 1,413 tonnes of material from disposal for re-use and over 2,593 tonnes for recycling. Wastewise is operated by three staff and volunteers who have contributed over 54,000 hours of support.

After the first three years of seed funding from the federal and provincial governments, the centre is now completely self-supporting. Wastewise is a place where people socialize, browse, seek out potential treasures, tinker with appliances, or go the extra distance to do their part by bringing their used goods and recycle materials to Wastewise in order to improve the local environment and support the continuation of Wastewise's good work.

Willow Park Ecology Centre

In March 1996, the Town of Halton Hills' Environmental Advisory Committee (TEAC) hosted a workshop with respect to "Green Communities". Inspired by the discussions, TEAC approached Town staff and Council, as well as the Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) staff with the idea of using the expropriated Willow Park in Norval as the location for developing an environmental demonstration and education facility in Halton Hills.

Willow Park Ecology Centre (WPEC) was restored to its natural state beginning in

1997, when TEAC proceeded with the Town's Park and Recreation Department, as well as the CVC, to plan the restoration of the site to its natural state and the creation of an Ecology Centre. WPEC volunteers embarked on an ambitious plan to encourage regeneration and to become a leader in providing environmental education and experiences. Since the opening of the park, numerous features have been added so that the public can better enjoy the area, including "butterfly and organic gardens", a viewing platform for the wetland, a bridge over Silver Creek, an interpretive pavilion, a kiosk, a weather station, a tree trail, benches, wildlife homes and houses, and interpretive signage.

WPEC has developed and delivered lesson plans and teaching materials, and has found financial subsidies that have permitted more than 5,000 students to participate in formal environmental educational training within the Park. In addition, every year, WPEC provides environmental seminars, special events in the park, and outreach activities throughout the community. WPEC has developed many partnerships that deliver award-winning projects.

The Town of Halton Hills continues to provide financial support for WPEC.

Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources—P.O.W.E.R.

P.O.W.E.R. is a 20 year old not-for-profit community based organization committed to protecting the environment and the quality of life in North Halton and beyond. It was formed by citizens concerned about a plan to turn the Acton quarry, on the Niagara Escarpment, into a garbage dump. The dump was stopped, but the importance

of protecting water, environmental resources and the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve continues.

P.O.W.E.R. seeks to engage people, in both their professional and personal spheres of influence, to learn about, take responsibility for and take action to live in a fashion that moves towards sustainability.

P.O.W.E.R. and its broad-based membership and partners educate, foster actions and develop measured solutions that recognize that a healthy environment is the foundation for a bright future. P.O.W.E.R. works to develop proactive projects, programs, directions and policies that recognize the necessity, importance, value and role of natural spaces, native species and ecosystem function.

Local Youth Initiatives

The involvement of Halton Hills students in environmental initiatives is impressive. Here is just a sample of what local schools have achieved through the power of their youth:



Halton's Children Water Festival

Christ the King Secondary School & “Club Green”

Club Green is *the* environmental club at Christ the King Catholic Secondary School (“CtK”). Founded in November 2006, it represents CtK in Halton’s environmental community and champions environmental causes within the school. Club Green works with staff, administrators, students and community members to find innovative ways to reduce the community’s ecological footprint. In its first year, Club Green worked to certify Christ the King as the only silver EcoSchool certified secondary school within the Halton Catholic District School Board. This is an accomplishment that the Club hopes to top this year by going for gold certification.

Future projects in the planning stages at Club Green include:

- **“EcoMentors”**: An environmental education program that trains and provides support to high school volunteers to deliver engaging and fun environmental education lesson plans in elementary schools across the GTA.
- **“Footprints Through the Neighbourhood”**: A project that will calculate ecological footprints for various Halton Hills neighbourhoods.

What are EcoSchools?

Ontario EcoSchools is an environmental education program that addresses both how schools are run and what students learn. It has been designed collaboratively by school boards in order that they can incorporate environmental education as well as environmentally responsible action into the school setting.

Halton Environmental Youth (HEY)

HEY is a knowledge network for students, parents and teachers in Halton. Founded in November 2007, it aims to certify each middle and secondary school in Halton Hills and Milton as a Bronze EcoSchool by April 2008 and every school in Halton by April 2009.

HEY consists of teams from each middle and secondary school, including two parents, two teachers, and eight students from grades six to ten. These teams meet monthly to set goals for certification, monitor progress and provide support as schools make the journey towards environmental responsibility.



Halton Hills Scouts planting trees



DID YOU KNOW?.....

- The Sargent Rd. Boulevard Garden is a project coordinated by H.O.P.E. It demonstrates low maintenance landscaping using native plants and promotes biodiversity.
- The Town of Halton Hills received the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association Energy Champion award in 1999 for energy conservation efforts incorporated into the Acton Arena and Community Centre.
- Halton Hills' Wastewise is unique in Ontario and perhaps North America in that it receives no direct support from any level of government.
- E-POWER is an annual conference organized by P.O.W.E.R. and student representatives with a mandate to educate local students about current environmental issues.
- SHH... Can You Hear It?...P.O.W.E.R. WPEC and H.O.P.E. have formed Sustainable Halton Hills (SHH). This initiative has received funding for two years with a goal to engage interested community members including businesses and government to create an operational sustainability framework. Sustainable Halton Hills will work towards creating a common platform, vision and workplan where its residents are taking actions in their area of interest and influence to make Halton Hills more sustainable.
- Dufferin Concrete's Georgetown Plant is a member of the Holcim Group, a noted industry leader on the Dow Jones Sustainability Index. In addition to conserving water and energy resources in the production of ready mix concrete, Dufferin Concrete is introducing new environmentally friendly products to the construction industry such as Pervious Concrete, a product which naturally reduces runoff, cleans stormwater, replenishes aquifers, and protects creeks and streams.

Robert Little Public School

Acton's Robert Little Public School is the first school in Halton to be a Gold Certified EcoSchool.

To become an EcoSchool, Robert Little had to score 80% on a check-list following criteria set in place by York University. This required embracing energy conservation, teaching environmental classes and involvement in environmental projects.

Currently, Robert Little Public School is constructing a Woodland Trail for use during environmental classes.

Georgetown District High School & "GREEN"

Having been active for several years, a new undertaking by Georgetown District High School created "GREEN" in late 2007, as a student led environmental initiative. Although recently formed, GREEN has much enthusiasm and will no doubt be participating in future community environmental initiatives.

Local Industry Initiatives

As a proud supporter of Conservation International, Neilson Dairy has a keen interest in reducing its resource consumption during production. Neilson recently replaced its office and factory lighting with low energy fixtures at a cost of \$300,000, thereby generating a 10% annual energy saving .

Explore the following websites for further information regarding the above and other initiatives :

haltonhills.ca/sustainability
yorku.ca/ecoschl/index.asp
ecomentors.ca/pub/index.cfm
power.halton.ca
willowparkeecology.com
oldseedhousegarden.com
sargentrboulevardgarden.blogspot.com

CHAPTER 3

The Mayor's Green Plan Task Force Delivers

During the six month Project, the Task Force initiated a number of research activities and generated recommendations for Halton Hills Council. This was done in an effort to build momentum for the Green Plan.

Resident Survey on the Environment

Based on the Task Force's recommendation and the financial support of Neilson Dairy and Halton Hills Hydro, the Town participated in an Ipsos Reid Survey entitled "Municipal Solutions for a Greener Earth". The Survey, which took place in a number of participating municipalities across Canada, was conducted by telephone and 300 Halton Hills residents aged 18 years of age and older were contacted. Each resident was asked a total of 19 questions.

The survey's key findings included:

- The environment is more likely to be a top-of-mind community issue among the residents of Halton Hills as compared to the norm.
- Although "limiting growth/urban sprawl" was identified as a top environmental issue facing the Town, water pollution, drinking water, green space and waste are of almost equal concern.

- Just over half the population is already aware of the Town's environmental initiatives, and the majority (78%) think that the Town is doing a good job in protecting the environment.
- An overwhelming majority (91%) of residents feel that the Town should provide incentives to the private sector in order to encourage more environmentally friendly development and practices. For example, incorporating renewable energy into new developments.

The results of the survey establish a baseline which will allow for future benchmarking, thereby providing a means to measure the Town's progress towards sustainability.

*Visit the Town's sustainability webpages
for full survey details:*

www.haltonhills.ca/sustainability

The Municipal Experts Forum

In early fall 2007, a half-day educational session was arranged for the Mayor's Green Plan Task Force comprised of representatives from four GTA municipalities. These municipal experts spoke to the Task Force, and an expanded audience regarding best practices in environmental strategies and sustainability programs.

Much was learned from the experience of other municipalities including these lessons:

- Use existing programs as your base for creating future programs.
- Work together to build relationships.
- Less is more. Start small and build momentum.

Town of Halton Hills Green Plan

- Assume that your plan is fluid and will need to be reassessed.

Progress takes time, have patience. This session was taped by Cogeco Cable and aired a number of times on local cable.

Project Porchlight is an award-winning energy efficiency campaign created for the

Project Porchlight

purposes of getting households to replace inefficient incandescent light bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent light-bulbs (CFL). To do this, CFLs are delivered door to door by volunteers free of charge along with a message of conservation.

Project Porchlight's initial contribution of 2,900 bulbs was augmented to a total of 6,800 bulbs thanks to the financial contributions of Neilson Dairy and Halton Hills Hydro.

Look What 6,800 Energy Efficient Bulbs Can Do!

Replacing 6,800 bulbs in Halton Hills with energy efficient CFLs represents:

- *\$340,000 in energy savings over the life of the bulbs.*
- *Approximately a 3,400T reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from coal fired plants.*
- *850,000 lbs of coal (or 15 dump trucks) that will not have to be burned to produce electricity.*



Enthusiastic Project Porchlight Volunteers

During the week of October 20th, 2007, the energy efficient CFLs were delivered to Halton Hills residents. Over 150 volunteers from Christ the King's "Club Green", the Scouts, the Pathfinders, the Girl Guides, the Town of Halton Hills Council and Staff, P.O.W.E.R., H.O.P.E., the Chamber of Commerce, and many other groups and individuals pitched in to deliver the bulbs.

Halton Hills was the first municipality in the GTA to participate in this energy efficiency initiative. At the time, Halton Hills represented the 15th municipality in Canada to participate in Project Porchlight.



A “Green Link” on the Town’s Website

Prior to the establishment of the Mayor’s Green Plan Task Force, the Halton Hills website did not include a reference to the Town’s environmental efforts. Through the work of the Task Force, a special webpage was established on the Town’s website to allow easy access to information regarding the project, as well as to facilitate submissions and comments from the public.

Membership in the Greater Toronto Area-Clean Air Council

Established at the 2001 Smog Summit, the Greater Toronto Area-Clean Air Council (GTA-CAC) is an inter-governmental working group with representatives from federal departments, provincial ministries, and municipalities in the GTA and beyond. The GTA-CAC provides a common forum to share ideas, innovations and an on-going framework under which clean air strategies can be developed, tried and improved upon. The GTA-CAC identifies and promotes the most effective ways to reduce smog precursor and greenhouse gas emissions, and their associated climate and health risks.

Because of the Task Force’s recommendation, the Town of Halton Hills has become an active member of the GTA-CAC.

Council Decisions and Environmental Impacts

Halton Hills Council has embraced the recommendation of the Task Force to reformat future staff reports prepared for Council by including a specific section devoted to “Environmental Impacts”.

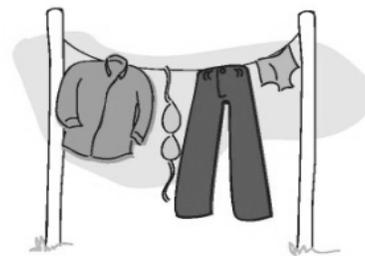
This means that each time a decision is required of Council, staff reports will include a description of the potential impacts on the environment associated with the matter at hand. In turn, Council will have a better understanding of any environmental impacts in the course of decision making.

Go Ahead—Hang Out Your Laundry!

In the early stages of the Green Plan Task Force project, it became apparent that there was no widespread awareness among Halton Hills residents of the fact that the Town does not have a by-law prohibiting the use of backyard clotheslines.

Therefore, the Task Force has recommended to Halton Hills Council that new communication be undertaken to make sure that this message is conveyed.

In Halton Hills...



...we let it all hang out!

did you know

A standard clothes dryer consumes 900 kWh of energy per year, creating up to 840 kg of air pollution and greenhouse gases.

If you were to hang-dry 1 quarter of your laundry loads, you would reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases by up to 210 kg.

Ontario's Conservation Culture
Facts and Figures
Ministry of The Environment

CHAPTER 4

A Change Challenge

This section presents the work of the Mayor's Green Plan Task Force's four sub-committees.

The sub-committees met over the course of the summer and early fall of 2007 in order to meet the terms of their mandates as described in Chapter 1.

Thanks to their efforts, information has been assembled for today's educational needs and tomorrow's strategic requirements.

The actions that follow represent:

- Ways in which Halton Hills schools and businesses can continue to embrace new practices and concepts that will improve the community in which we live, work, play, learn and grow.
- Actions that the Town of Halton Hills can take to show leadership and commitment to a healthy community.
- The need to work with our neighbours, local environmental champions and other levels of government to create a synergy for change.
- The desire to partner, inspire, share and motivate those individuals who live within, and/or influence the quality of the Halton Hills environment.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS:

With respect to schools, businesses & local groups...

1. Work with students to implement the "Eco Mentor Program" in all Halton Hills schools in order to raise environmental awareness among school children.
2. Work with the school boards to expand the "EcoSchool" designation thereby reducing energy use in schools. Target for all schools in Halton Hills to reach this goal.
3. Establish communication between the Town and the school boards to exchange information regarding working together on walking and cycling programs, including future school sites.
4. Establish a partnership between school boards and Halton Hills Hydro in order to create a pilot project for a battery hybrid school bus.
5. As an incentive, create an Environmental Group/Business/Individual Champion Award to be given out on a regular basis and profiled by local media in order to recognize environmental efforts and to inspire others.
6. Send a letter and issue a press release to local businesses, groups and organizations asking that they submit their environmental initiatives in order to create an inventory of good practices that can be profiled to motivate others.
7. Continue to work with Cogeco Cable to launch a series on the Green Plan, profiling the environmental efforts of local groups, businesses, schools, agencies and the Town in order to raise awareness and recognize best practices.



8. Rename the Chamber of Commerce “Civic Pride Award” to capture environmental actions. For example, this award could be named the “Environmental Achievement Award”.
9. Develop a series of “Lunch and Learn” sessions with an environmental focus for the benefit of local businesses.
10. Explore opportunities for the exchange of surplus and waste products between local businesses in order to minimize overall waste.
11. Establish meetings with local retailers and contractors to discuss ways in which home renovations could incorporate energy management features using minimal waste construction techniques.
12. Expand the Farmers Market to a year round event in order to promote local food production and purchase.
13. Find ways to encourage local shopping, particularly for local products, in order to reduce the community’s “carbon footprint”.
14. Partner with local groups and businesses to host special environmentally-focused events for education and community involvement purposes.
15. Work with companies that utilize “drive-thrus” to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or adopt alternative approaches such as the use of an “enviro-fee” surcharge for drive-thrus, with monies collected going to offset the carbon footprint.
17. Advocate and partner with Halton Region and Conservation Authorities to develop sustainable practices and standards for new developments such as bio-filters and swales .
18. Continue to advocate for all-day GO Transit service for Georgetown, the restoration of GO Transit service to Acton, and increased GO Transit capacity to and from Guelph.
19. Continue to work with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Halton Federation of Agriculture to support sustainable farming practices through efforts such as the Agricultural Forums.
20. Explore developing a relationship with local farming operations to implement innovative projects such as “6 Corn Row Snow Fencing” which has the potential to reduce salt application and snow plowing on adjacent roadways.
21. Advocate and partner with other area governments on sustainability initiatives and environmental protection .
22. Work with Halton Region to increase its ability to handle an expanded list of recyclable materials .
23. In an effort to conserve energy by not having to drive to the landfill site, Partner with Halton Region to establish “depots” whereby Halton Hills’ residents can drop off hazardous materials locally. For example, batteries, thermostats, CFL’s. as well as gardening waste
24. Work with the Province, Halton Region and other agencies and businesses to spearhead an even broader water conservation program at the local level.

With respect to other levels of government and agencies...

16. Work actively with the Region of Halton on water conservation initiatives, including programs for low-flow toilets and showerheads.

With respect to the municipality of Halton Hills & Halton Hills Hydro ...

25. Create policies to encourage the use of energy efficient appliances, light fixtures, bulbs and water saving devices in the construction of new homes .

Visit the Town’s sustainability webpages
for more information:

www.haltonhills.ca/sustainability

26. Host a meeting of developers and builders to discuss better standards for new subdivision development and new home construction to minimize environmental impacts, reduce energy and water consumption.
27. Continue to widely publicize the Town of Halton Hills' and Halton Hills Hydro's environmental initiatives, in order to keep residents aware of these initiatives, and of the fact that the Town and Halton Hills Hydro have been proactive on environmental issues.
28. In conjunction with the above, ensure that information is provided to the public on a regular basis regarding the Town's past, present and future environmental initiatives. For example, a quarterly "green" column or report in local newspapers similar to the Mayor's column.
29. Adopt an anti-idling policy for Town vehicles. Ask staff to review the policies that have been adopted in other municipalities such as Peel and Caledon.
30. Promote an anti-idling policy with businesses and residents. Circulate the policy for inclusion in business newsletters. Talk to school boards about anti-idling signage.
31. Consider purchasing an Energy and Environmental Management System (EEMS) to track energy performance and costs on an annual basis. Explore partnerships with other Halton municipalities that already use this software.
32. Request that Halton Region's mobile Air Quality Monitoring Station be set up in Halton Hills in order to create a baseline for air quality at various locations throughout the Town.
33. Take a proactive stance and encourage the Province to move forward with its commitment to ban the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes.



34. Investigate making technological changes to the Activan/mini van so that the vehicles do not need to be idling in order for the communications system to work.
35. Investigate making technological changes so that municipal winter equipment can warm-up faster (e.g. using cab heaters).
36. Request Halton Region to provide details of its toilet water conservation program for perusal and discussion, and also to provide an estimate of the anticipated water saving results of that program. Any water saved could be available for immediate servicing requirements.
37. In conjunction with the above, establish a "Rain Barrel Incentive Program" so that a specified rebate is provided to Town residents upon purchase, to encourage the use of rainwater collection.
38. Suggest to Halton Hills Council that the Town provide the necessary budget and monitor the results of the recently endorsed Community Garden project at Dominion Gardens (that is to be administered by the Georgetown Horticultural Society) with the intention of expanding the program to other areas when requests are received.
39. Implement LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards for all future capital projects.
40. Encourage all Halton Hills Council and Committee meetings to move to electronic-based meetings and agendas. This could result in substantial savings with paper and distribution costs.
41. The Town should proceed to make bio-diesel available for all Town owned-vehicles, and possibly for other users in the community.

42. Develop a policy whereby Town staff will automatically source green products whenever possible. In addition, a policy should be set whereby staff can insist that suppliers provide green alternatives at competitive prices.
43. Source renewable energy from Bullfrog Power incrementally over the next few years, adding a major facility each year.
44. Work to include, in all future vehicle acquisition request for proposals, a requirement that energy efficient vehicle quotations be included in addition to standard vehicles. All long term benefits of the energy efficient vehicles should be factored into the cost and if there is an increased cost, a report outlining all details should be prepared for Council's consideration.
45. Ensure that future development proposals for "drive-thrus" are investigated as to what other municipalities are doing, along with an assessment of any negative or positive impacts potentially created by these new developments.
49. Establish cash incentives for Town and Halton Hills Hydro staff who purchase hybrid vehicles or who request and implement the recommendations of energy audits.
50. Investigate the use of environmentally friendly products which, when used in either diesel or gasoline engines, reduce carbon emissions and improve fuel economy .
51. Investigate areas where the greener use of equipment could be fostered. For example, as battery technology improves, explore the option of supplying power for Town equipment from batteries (e.g. battery-powered ice re-surfacer).
52. Promote push lawn mowers, discourage gas or electric leaf blowers, and encourage the use of rakes and mulching.



46. Promote the creation of an Environmental Team, in order to have continued Council and staff commitment regarding green initiatives and the associated understanding of benefits to the Town.
47. Create a full-time Environmental Co-ordinator position. Among other things, the mandate of the Environmental Co-ordinator would be to develop an integrated strategy to empower all Town Staff to work together towards sustainability in a natural green environment. In other words, having all staff address green concerns as a matter of course in their every day decisions.
48. Create an incentive program for employees who think green or drive energy efficient vehicles. This approach could foster and acknowledge the "green thinking" of employees.
53. Explore the use of Town equipment in a more efficient manner. Suggestions include reducing idling of vehicles, making sure large vehicles are not used when small ones can do the job, and dispatching the small Activan to pick up single riders rather than the large Activan bus.
54. Expand the success of Halton Hills' Earth Day. The trees distributed on that day and subsequently planted improve the environment. Suggestions for improvement include inserting notices in tax bill envelopes to allow residents to pre-order the type of tree they would like to purchase on Earth Day. In addition, Earth Day may be expanded by encouraging recycling efforts, increasing environmental displays, expanding Halton Hills Hydro's involvement and providing hazardous waste collection.



55. Ensure that Halton Hills contributes to the cycling initiative by retro-fitting roads to better accommodate cycling, and by providing better signage. Perhaps bicycle racks and shower facilities should be required for future industrial/commercial buildings, and for retro-fits to existing buildings.
56. Request that municipal staff continue to explore green strategies suggested by other agencies or levels of government. For example, the Government of Canada Greening Document appears to be a comprehensive report outlining all areas where the Government of Canada is utilizing environmental practices. Although it appears to be the case that Town staff have implemented many green strategies, Town Staff should be requested to review and use such documents as a benchmarking tool for municipal initiatives.
57. Establish community/residential/commercial development initiatives to promote developments that incorporate commercial and office uses within residential areas. This would provide local employment opportunities for residents thereby reducing commutes.
58. Circulate the Halton Hills Green Plan to other agencies such as the Conservation Authorities, Halton Region and local school boards so that they are aware of Halton Hills' efforts. This will help with support coordination and the exchange of best practices.



The Speyside Royal Oak

With respect to the residents of Halton Hills ...

59. The following pages switch to a focus on the Halton Hills resident. Information, tips and advice are provided for living a "green" lifestyle. This information has been assembled from more than 100 documents prepared and published by governmental and non-governmental agencies, companies and individuals.

This information is presented in a convenient annual checklist format. These hints and suggestions are arranged and presented here to educate, inspire and motivate Halton Hills residents to be more environmentally conscious and to take "green" activities daily.

Most residents are already aware of many of these green actions and many residents have already adopted a "green lifestyle".



For extra copies of the annual checklist, visit www.haltonhills.ca/sustainability

ANNUAL CHECKLIST FOR THE HALTON HILLS "GREEN" RESIDENT

January: *Minimizing Energy Use*

- Change incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescents.
- Turn the lights off if no one is in the room.
- Make stickers to remind your family to turn off the lights.
- Keep your curtains closed on cold days to block out the cold.
- Install an insulating jacket on your hot water heater.
- Reduce hot water consumption in the bathroom.
- Turn down the thermostat by three degrees.
- Invest in "green" power, enter a renewable energy program.

February: *Attacking the "Phantom Load"*

- Look for ways to minimize the "Phantom Load". Turn off computer peripherals such as printers, scanners, modems and speakers. Television, cable boxes and other new devices remain on in a powered mode so that they can be turned on remotely or "spring into life" when needed. Chargers for battery powered devices such as cordless phones, cell phones and personal music players consume energy even when they are not charging the unit. In most instances this is an unnecessary use of energy. A convenient way to save energy includes transferring transformers to power bars which allow you to turn off these devices when not in use or when their work is done (i.e. when the equipment is charged).
- Save energy and have a candlelit Valentine's Day Dinner!

March *Cleaning*

- Use natural cleaning products such as vinegar and baking soda.
- Reduce the use of aerosols and polishes for dusting.
- Pay attention to the laundry detergent you use. Look for biodegradable products.
- Wash your clothes in cold water.
- Use an indoor drying rack for your clothes to reduce clothes dryer energy consumption.
- Look for environmentally responsible dry cleaners.
- Plant your seeds for an "early" start to a spring garden.

April *Minimizing Waste Generation*

- Make sure you mulch your yard waste.
- Reuse plastic bags until they are no longer useable.
- Talk to your government representatives about compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) recycling options.
- Use a lunch bag or box instead of paper bags.
- Minimize your use of disposable items.
- Convert batteries to rechargeable ones to reduce waste in landfills.
- Reuse paper printed on one side as your scratch paper.

May *Preparing for Summer*

- Remember to inspect and replace HVAC filters.
- Check and clean your clothes dryer vents.
- Trim branches and shrubs that are touching your house to eliminate pathways for bugs and moisture.
- Create low-maintenance landscaping.
- Switch incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) in porchlights and motion detectors.
- Vacuum refrigerator coils so that the refrigerator runs efficiently.
- When doing your spring yard work, don't use leaf blowers.
- Consider using a push-mower for smaller lawns.
- Use mulch around plants to retain moisture and reduce water use.

June *Minimizing Energy Use—Appliances*

- Place refrigerators away from direct sunlight and heat producing appliances.
- Decide what you want out of the refrigerator before opening the door.
- Think twice before buying that next electric "kitchen gadget". Ask yourself if the additional energy consumption is really worth it.
- Turn up the air conditioner thermostat by three degrees.
- Energy efficient appliances include gas ranges versus electric ranges, commercial dishwashers versus residential dishwashers and convection ovens versus regular ovens.
- Hang your clothes on an outdoor clothesline to dry.
- Wash you clothes in cold water.
- Do not boil more water than you need.
- Once in a while do your dishes by hand.
- Turn off the TV when no one is watching.

ANNUAL CHECKLIST FOR THE HALTON HILLS "GREEN" RESIDENT

July: *Minimizing Summer Water Use*

- Sweep rather than hose your driveway.
- Hook a rain barrel up to your downspout for garden water use.
- Create a rain garden to receive runoff and allow it to be absorbed into the ground.
- Be efficient in lawn watering—1" per week early in the morning.
- Fix leaky faucets.

August: *Shopping*

- Think about buying second hand items.
- Take your own bags when you go shopping.
- Plan your shopping trip. Group activities to reduce gas consumption.
- Avoid excessive packaging.
- Email manufacturers. Express an opinion about excess packaging.
- Shop in your neighbourhood and buy local products.
- Return empty bottles for refunds.

September: *Driving*

- Avoid aggressive driving. Save gas and your nerves.
- Drive steady for optimum fuel economy.
- Avoid idling.
- Limit the use of air conditioning in your car.
- Make one long trip instead of several short trips.
- Inflate your tires so that your car runs efficiently.
- Get your car tuned up on a regular basis.
- Use regular fuel. It is unnecessary to use high octane.
- Unload. Get rid of excess weight to improve gas mileage.
- Meet electronically. Conference call or use email to avoid the drive.
- Drive less. Walk, bike or carpool instead.

October: *Odds and Ends*

- Buy music online to save a trip to the store.
- Send electronic invites/cards for parties and occasions.
- Save a tree. Borrow books from Halton Hills' libraries.
- Buy products that use all natural ingredients to reduce chemical and energy production.
- Open windows from time to time to "cleanse" indoor air.
- Stop junk mail and buy recycled paper.
- When renovating, use formaldehyde-free particleboard, carpeting, and VOC-free paints and adhesives.
- Look for building products made from recycled products.
- Use towels and microfibers instead of paper towels.

November: *Preparing for Winter*

- Consider planting trees before the frost.
- Seal window air conditioners.
- Check the attic insulation. Make sure it is more than 1 inch
- Seal the attic fan with an airtight cover.
- Get a furnace tune up to ensure optimum efficiency.
- Install and set programmable thermostats.
- Check and replace batteries on CO2 detectors.
- Clean fireplaces and chimneys.
- Drain outside hoses and close shutoff valves.
- Rake leaves and start a compost pile.
- Check weather stripping for cracks and deterioration.
- Bring in some fresh plants for oxygen production

December: *A "Green" Christmas*

- Make your presents.
- Avoid using wrapping paper.
- Say "no thanks" to plastic shopping bags.
- Shop locally.
- Substitute all your Christmas lights for low energy LED lights.
- Look for gifts that use recycled products.
- Have fun with the family considering energy, water and heat use.
- Make donations to help the community.
- Volunteer to make a difference in Halton Hills.
- Participate in the Halton Christmas tree shredding program.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and "vacation" at home.

CHAPTER 5

The Ending Marks The Beginning

Where We Are and Where We Want To Be...

After six months of hard work, the members of the Mayor’s Green Plan Task Force all agree: The Green Plan is just the beginning in a long journey ahead.

The Green Plan project has brought the following points to light:

- The Town of Halton Hills is committed to assuming its leadership role in the preservation of the local environment and to be a participant in bringing back the natural harmony of our planet.
- The power of “WE”. Many examples were found illustrating that when individuals and groups within our community come together with a common goal to restore and protect the environment, a synergy happens.
- Like explorers, we may not know the exact path to take, but we know that with boldness and dedication we will get there.

This Green Plan is based on the “PAREE” principle for future planning of Halton Hills’ environmental initiatives. Therefore, in the Green Plan:

- **Practical** suggestions for future work have been assembled;
- **Affordable** options for a future implementation strategy have been identified;
- **Realistic** perspectives were adopted to increase opportunities to act quickly on the Green Plan’s recommendations and, when need be, allow for appropriate;
- **Enforcement** of any required behaviour changes; and includes an
- **Educational** component which will continue to spread the message that we must take action.

Mayor’s Note :

My thanks to the Task Force for a dedicated six months of hard work to prepare this Green Plan.

As a result of your efforts, our immediate task at hand is now clearer and indeed charged with enthusiasm to keep moving forward.

Next Steps

Vision and Action are the next steps.

The Green Plan Task Force was determined to be a productive team. Hence the Green Plan goes to great lengths to identify activities for future consideration.

However, the Task Force is quick to add that it is important (at this point) to use the experience of the six-month project and take time to identify goals that Halton Hills should strive towards in order to move towards a healthier and more sustainable community.

For example, these goals may include;

60. Calculating Halton Hills' carbon footprint and associated actions for moving towards a defined goal for carbon use/greenhouse gas emission reductions.
61. Setting a goal to live within the carrying capacity of the area in terms of water use.
62. Setting a goal for water use reduction with a clear idea of what the saved water would not be used for.
63. Completing an inventory of the Town's tree canopy and set a goal for increasing its size.

The six-month project did not provide time for the Task Force to explore all areas of interest.

The following list of potential directions represents additional suggestions that have been identified by the Task Force for full investigation at some future point:

64. Determine ways in which baseline data can be collected to document the existing situation in Halton Hills. This information could be utilized to set targets for improvement and to measure future progress on local environmental initiatives.
65. Create an annual report on the Town's progress with respect to environmental initiatives.
66. Build on the knowledge gained by working with other proactive organizations such as the GTA—Clean Air Council. Develop relationships with local Halton Region groups and broader agencies/programs such as the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).
66. At the municipal level, develop full-scale Energy Management and Green Procurement Programs, as well as operational policies to govern the Corporation's activities, as well as set an example for local residents and businesses.
67. Find ways to inspire and energize the residents of Halton Hills to embrace new environmentally sound practices.



Hungry
Hollow

In addition to the previous points, two key future directions need to be singled out for consideration:

- 69. Preparation of an Environmental Strategic Plan. Such a Plan would map out a course of action for the protection, preservation and enhancement of Halton Hills’ environmentally sensitive areas.
- 70. Investigation of Sustainability Framework options and adoption of a sustainability approach to decision making throughout Halton Hills that would better integrate the economic, environmental and social aspects of our community.

Potential Partners

The Town of Halton Hills recognizes that the work ahead will require partnerships and collaboration with many stakeholders. We look forward to joining forces with many organizations including:

- The Region of Halton
- Neighbouring municipalities
- Conservation Halton
- Credit Valley Conservation
- Conservation Halton
- Grand River Conservation
- Wastewise
- P.O.W.E.R.
- H.O.P.E., and
- Many other like-minded

An Implementation Plan

agencies

Although the work of the Mayor’s Green Plan Task Force is now complete, their hard work will live on. Future champions are on hand to continue the cause.

It is anticipated that within the second quarter of 2008, Halton Hills staff will bring before Council an Implementation Plan that will identify the “who, how and when” that will advance the recommendations identified in the Green Plan.

Please Tell Us What You Think

Send your comments on the Green Plan to:

Mr. Damian Szybalski
Sustainability Coordinator
Phone: 905.873.2601 ext. 2289
Email: greenplan@haltonhills.ca
Mail: 1 Halton Hills Drive,
Halton Hills ON L7G 5G2
Website: haltonhills.ca/sustainability



Miller Trail

Get Involved!

Below are some suggestions for preserving, protecting and enhancing Halton Hills' environmental health:

- Send your comments on the Green Plan to greenplan@haltonhills.ca.
- Visit the Town's sustainability webpages frequently for ongoing progress updates (haltonhills.ca/sustainability).
- Post and implement the "Annual Checklist for the Halton Hills "Green" Resident" on your fridge and add your own points!
- Follow Halton Hills' Council Agendas to monitor advances in Halton Hills' environmental efforts.
- Volunteer. The community needs you!
- Be vocal. Send your opinions to the Town, Region, Province and Federal governments.
- Be proactive. Look for ways to change habits that will have a positive impact on the environment and the community.



Help Us Identify This Mystery Bush.....

Do you know the name of this bush? This plant has been observed beside the Credit River Side Trail of the Bruce Trail and so far experts have not been able to identify the plant. Access the colour photo of the "mystery bush" at www.haltonhills.ca/sustainability. If you know the answer please contact us.

Special Thanks To...

the members of the Mayor's Green Plan Task Force for a dedicated six months of work to produce the Halton Hills Green Plan



BACK ROW: Councillor Dave Kentner, Councillor Clark Somerville, Dan Guatto (Halton Hills Hydro), Bruce MacLean, (Director of Planning), Wayne Scott (TEAC), Damian Szybalski (Policy Planner and Project Assistant), Councillor Jon Hurst
FRONT ROW: Councillor Joan Robson, Councillor Jane Fogal, Leslie Adams (P.O.W.E.R.), Mayor Rick Bonnette, Sue Walker (Chamber of Commerce), Christine Upton (H.O.P.E.), Emily Dimytosh (Christ the King High School), Dennis Perlin (CAO)
ABSENT: Mike Cote (Neilson Dairy), Lorna Wilson, (Halton Federation of Agriculture)





"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
Nothing is going to get better.
It's not."

Dr Seuss, from The Lorax



"Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending." - Maria Robinson