



Take Action Burlington

Environment Update

APPENDIX A of Report CSI-18-11



Environment and Kite Festival

The new fun-filled festival brought together the World Environment Day event and the annual Kite Festival. The combined event was held on Sunday, June 5 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and was moved from its original downtown location to Brant Hills Public School. Residents had an opportunity to learn more about local environmental initiatives by visiting several community displays including the City of Burlington's Office of Sustainability, Burlington Transit, Burlington Hydro, Burlington Sustainable Development Committee, BurlingtonGreen, Burlington Public Library, Halton Region Waste Management Services, Halton Region Museum, Conservation Halton, Mountsberg Birds of Prey, Iroquois Bruce Trail Club, Halton Environment Network and Union Gas. Entertainment included the Funky Mamas, Reptile Rob and the "What do you know about

water?" puppet show. Children of all ages built, decorated and flew their kites in the local park. The city's 'water bar' was connected so that visitors could fill up their refillable water bottles for free and BurlingtonGreen was present to properly sort the waste. www.burlington.ca/enviokitefest

Contact: Corporate Strategic Initiatives (CSI) Department, Fleur Storage-Hogan x7580

Air Quality & Climate Change

Halton Region - A Farewell to Featherwagons

On Clean Air Day (June 8) Halton Region released an illustrated children's picture book for ages 4 to 8 that introduces issues associated with air quality and climate change.

www.halton.ca/featherwagons

Contact: Halton Region Health Department

Motivating Local Government Clean Air and Climate Change Actions

A special meeting of the Clean Air Council (CAC) was held on May 27 to bring together municipal political leaders from across the greater Toronto

and Hamilton area (GTHA) and keynote speakers John Tory and Craig Applegath to:

- Highlight progress on clean air and climate change initiatives by CAC member jurisdictions (including the City of Burlington) in the implementation of targets and actions
- Present emerging clean air, climate change and economic opportunities in the GTHA
- Gather feedback on key directions for the GTHA.

www.cleanairpartnership.org

Contact: CSI Department, Fleur Storage-Hogan x7580



Biodiversity

Arbor Day

On May 6, the city celebrated Arbor Day with 1200 students from Florence Mears Public School and Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Elementary School by planting 30 native trees on school property.

Contact: RPM Department, Rick Lipsitt x6145

Emerald Ash Borer

Burlington City Council approved the 2011 action plan to combat the emerald ash borer (EAB), a Southeast Asian beetle that kills ash trees. The city's strategy includes treating more ash trees (20 centimetres and larger trunk diameter) and continuing to actively search for the insect.

The city has identified the early presence of EAB in some city trees in the area bounded by Guelph Line, the QEW, Walker's Line, and Upper Middle Road. The beetle is expected to spread.

The city's strategy and action plans will be reviewed and adjusted annually based on the latest information available.

Contact: Roads and Parks Maintenance (RPM) Department, Rick Lipsitt x6145

International Biodiversity Day

On May 28 and June 4 BurlingtonGreen hosted a garlic mustard pull event at LaSalle Park Marina to celebrate International Biodiversity Day. This event was supported by Ontario's Biodiversity Education and Awareness Network, the City of Burlington and Conservation Halton. On June 5 and 12, native

herbaceous plants and 28 white pines were planted at the site. www.burlingtongreen.org

Jefferson Salamander

The Jefferson Salamander is a threatened species provincially and nationally and is protected under Ontario's *Endangered Species Act*. The city placed a volunteer road closure on King Road from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. between April 1 and April 22 encouraging residents to use Waterdown Road instead. During this time, the salamander was expected to cross the road on its annual migration to lay eggs in vernal pools which are temporary wetlands that fill with melting snow, storm water or groundwater and dry up by midsummer. The salamander, which can live up to 30 years, then migrates back to the forest for the rest of the year.

Contact: Transportation Services Dept., Vito Tolone x7800

Mount Nemo Plateau

In May, Burlington City Council voted to support the application submitted by Protecting Escarpment Rural Land (PERL) to amend the Niagara Escarpment Plan, to re-designate approximately 82.3 hectares from Escarpment Rural Area to Escarpment Natural Area and Escarpment Protection Area.

Contact: Planning and Building Department, Roz Minaji x7809

New City Park

In April 2011, Natural Resources Minister Linda Jeffrey directed the Niagara Escarpment Commission to issue the development permit to allow construction of the new park to resume. Once completed, the 67-hectare (166-acre) park will include trails, a pond/wetland, open space



areas, natural areas, playgrounds, sports fields, a pavilion and supporting amenities. Approximately \$500,000 worth of native reforestation has been planted along the brow of the escarpment.

Contact: Parks & Recreation Dept., Ingrid Vanderbrug x7832

Energy

2011 Conservation Halton Award of Excellence

On June 2, the City of Burlington was the recipient of the 2011 Conservation Halton Award of Excellence in the corporate category for the energy initiatives carried out by the corporation. These included the solar thermal heating system at Tansley Woods Community Centre, energy management systems at all city-owned pools, energy efficient lighting retrofits at city facilities, the implementation of a corporate building automation system and an energy tracking system to efficiently manage energy usage, a green corporate building policy with LEED silver as the mandate for new city buildings, etc.

Contact: CSI Department, Shahid Naeem x7354

Energy Reports

On June 13, City Council received two staff reports – one providing an update of the corporate energy management program and the other providing information on community energy planning for consideration when developing the next strategic plan. www.burlington.ca/environment

Contact: CSI Department, Shahid Naeem x7354

Local Food

Community Gardens Site Options

On June 13, City Council approved a staff report

regarding community gardens site options. The report highlighted the benefits of community gardens, provided site selection criteria used to evaluate sites, identified potential sites for community gardens and a preferred pilot site(s) for 2011 and operation in 2012, and different operating/administrative models. Public consultation for the preferred pilot site(s) identified as Central Park and Francis Road Bikeway will be conducted.

Contact: Parks and Recreation Dept., Rob Peachey x7722

The Beautiful Edible Garden: Landscape Design for Aspiring Locavores

The Sustainable Development Committee and Burlington Public Library hosted two free workshops to hear Sean James, from HGTV's *Green Force*, speak about sustainable horticulture and growing your own food. With the April 20 workshop at Burlington Central Public Library quickly selling out, a second workshop was added on May 5 at Tansley Woods library and also sold out. www.bpl.on.ca

Contact: Clerks Department, Andrea Holland x7413

Sustainable Transportation

Clean Air Commute

During the week of June 13 -19, city staff once again participated in Pollution Probe's Clean Air Commute by commuting to and from work in a cleaner way. While a final participation rate was not available by the report deadline, it is known that city staff surpassed last year's rate of 13%.



Cycling Master Plan

On June 16, a joint public meeting was held with the City of Burlington and the Town of Oakville at Appleby Ice Centre to consider on-road bike lanes on Burloak Drive from New Street to Lakeshore Road. Public comments were requested by July 4.

On May 31, the City of Burlington held a public meeting at St. Raphael's School to consider on-road bike lanes on Walker's Line and Appleby Line from New Street to Lakeshore Road. Public comments were requested by June 17.

On May 2, City Council received an update of cycling projects implemented since the adoption of the Cycling Master Plan.

An article was submitted for the Burlington Post's Earth Day insert to highlight 2010 initiatives and plans for 2011 related to the Cycling Master Plan.
Contact: Transportation Services Dept., Dan Ozimkovic X7485

Cycling Safety in Halton

On May 30th, Halton Regional Police Services, the Share the Road Coalition, members of local cycling clubs and the public, and area politicians met for an information session on cycling safety. Police patrolled popular cycling routes in rural Halton over two weekends in June to educate about and enforce safer driving. An information pamphlet on cycling safety is available at www.haltonpolice.ca.

On May 28, the 12th annual Lids 4 Kids event was held at Burlington Mall with Halton Regional Police Services. Those students who completed a course

with their bike were provided free bicycle helmets, bells and reflectors courtesy of Burlington Mall, the Burlington Cycling Committee and the Burlington Road Safety Task Force, while quantities lasted.

Green Fleet Strategy

Traditionally, the city's sidewalks were inspected once every three years (1/3 of the city each year) using a vehicle to reach each destination. With minimum maintenance standards now requiring inspection of all sidewalks annually, the Roads and Parks Maintenance (RPM) department purchased a bicycle for sidewalk inspections. To reach farther locations, the department is considering purchasing a transit pass so that the inspector will use transit to get to the location and then use the bike and walk for the inspection, as appropriate.

Contact: RPM Department, Chris Bedini X6159



Healthy Weights: Halton Takes Action Webinar

The inaugural webinar titled *Cycling Plans in Halton: Strategies to Promote Bikeable Communities* was held on June 23. Presenters included Dan Ozimkovic (City of Burlington), John Kwast (Town of Halton Hills) and Maureen Van



Ravens (Halton Region). www.halton.ca

Contact: Halton Region Health Department

Idling

Between March and May 2011, four tickets and two bookmarks (education piece) were issued.

Contact: Transportation Services Dept., Rita Hardy x7692

Promotion about the city's idling control bylaw continued with informational displays at Burlington Central Library between April 15 - 29 and May 27 – June 10. The Burlington Post published information about the idling bylaw in the Earth Day insert on April 20. An ad was posted in the City Update section of the Burlington Post on April 28. In June, idling bookmarks were distributed to all employees at the Canadian Centre for Inland Waters as part of Environment Canada's 40th anniversary celebrations.

Central Public, Sir E. MacMillan and Tom Thomson schools borrowed the city's Idle Free Zone banners to run idling campaigns at their schools.

Contact: CSI Department, Fleur Storage-Hogan x7580

Niagara to GTA Corridor Highway

On June 13, City Council endorsed the City of Burlington's response to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation's Draft Transportation Development Strategy for the Niagara to Greater Toronto Area Corridor Planning and Environmental Assessment and reaffirmed the city's opposition to any new transportation corridor crossing the Niagara Escarpment and the Greenbelt area in Burlington. www.niagara-gta.com

Contact: Transportation Services Dept., Bruce Zvaniga x7976

On May 9, members of Burlington City Council went to Queen's Park to support a petition from more than 3,000 people opposed to building the Niagara to GTA Corridor Highway. Burlington and Halton MPPs presented the petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

Valley Inn Trail Improvements

Construction resumed the week of June 20 on the Valley Inn Trail, Spring Gardens Road including shoreline restoration, a parking lot, pathways, sitting areas, tree removals and tree/shrub planting. This project will be completed in late July, weather permitting.

Contact: Parks & Recreation Dept., Ingrid Vanderbrug x7832

Waste Management

Battery Recycling at Burlington Facilities

An additional 811 kg of single use batteries were collected between March and May 2011 from Aldershot Pool, Appleby Arena, Brant Hills and Tansley Woods community centres and City Hall.

www.burlington.ca/environment

Contact: CSI Department, Fleur Storage-Hogan x7580

Halton Draft Solid Waste Management Strategy

Halton Region held four open houses for residents to offer feedback on the proposed waste diversion initiatives to further increase residential waste diversion. The Burlington open house was on June 25 at the Burlington Seniors' Centre. An online survey was also made available until June 30. The final updated strategy will be completed in the fall of 2011. www.halton.ca/wastestrategy



Plastic Plant Pots and Trays

Halton Region is piloting a drop off recycling program for plastic plant pots and trays at the Halton Waste Management Site between May 24 and October 31. Returned items must be separated by the identification number at the bottom of the pot or tray (look for the numbers 2, 5 or 6 inside the recycling triangle). The items will be recycled in Ontario and made into new plastic products such as plant pots. www.halton.ca/waste

Waste and Recycling Outdoor Units

The city launched the BigBelly Solar compacting dual trash and recycling units in four outdoor locations. These units have a solar-powered trash compactor to crush and store five times the waste of a regular can. The units are powered by the sun, made from post-consumer recycled materials, and reduce the frequency of garbage pick-up. The BigBelly program enhances another innovative outdoor public space recycling program, which consists of 63 Molok in-ground waste/recycling stations that are located in 15 parks throughout the city. www.burlington.ca/environment

Contact: CSI Department, Sean Kenney x7359

Water

Erosion Control Projects

Erosion control and stream restoration projects provide an opportunity for water quality improvements and habitat benefits for fish and wildlife by reconnecting the stream corridor and re-establishing a more natural stream and riparian area. The city is making good progress in protecting and improving the health of creeks and Lake

Ontario. Currently the following projects are underway:

1. Indian Creek erosion control works, Cedar Avenue to Greenwood Drive: Construction completed this spring.
2. Tuck Creek erosion control works between Hydro ROW and Spruce Avenue. Class Environmental Assessment is underway.
3. Shoreacres Creek erosion control works from New Street to Lakeshore Road. Currently the design is under review by Conservation Halton.
4. Roseland Creek erosion control works from North of Glencrest to Spruce Avenue. Class EA was completed in summer 2010, detailed design is underway. First phase of construction is scheduled for winter 2012.

The following minor erosion control works are tendered and construction will commence in July 2011:

1. Appleby Creek at 593 Sheraton Road
2. Rambo Creek at Homer Court

The following minor erosion control works are in various stages of design and approvals:

1. Falcon Creek at 360 North Shore Boulevard
2. Tuck Creek at Driftwood Park
3. Tuck Creek north of Lakeshore Road

Contact: Engineering Department, Arif Shahzad x7486

Flood Control Projects

The city is continually improving stormwater management and taking steps to minimize risk of flooding to properties and public infrastructure. Currently the following projects are underway:



1. Old Waterdown Road culvert upgrade. Design completed and submitted to Conservation Halton for permitting. Construction is scheduled for fall 2011.
2. Bell School Line drainage improvement Class Environmental Assessment. Second public open house was held on May 17, 2011.
3. Falcon Creek watershed flood plain mapping is underway.
4. Residential Drainage Assistance program is ongoing.

Contact: Engineering Department, Arif Shahzad x7486

Halton Children's Water Festival

Registration for the Halton Children's Water Festival is now open for Halton teachers and students. The Halton Children's Water Festival, which this year takes place from September 27 – 30, provides elementary students in grades 2 to 5 with the opportunity to learn about the importance of ground and surface water for a nominal fee. Held annually at Kelso Conservation Area in Milton, this festival attracts over 4,000 students in four days. Staff from the city's Office of Sustainability are involved in planning this event along with staff from neighbouring municipalities. www.hcwf.ca

Contact: Conservation Halton, Festival and Volunteer Coordinator 905-336-1158 x284

Randle Reef

As highlighted in the last quarterly report, Randle Reef, located in Hamilton Harbour, has been identified as an 'Area of Concern' since 1987 as it is the second most contaminated sediment site of polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) after the Sydney tar ponds in Nova Scotia. The plan is to cap

the contaminants onsite. A request for the City of Burlington to contribute \$2.3 million towards the \$120 million Randle Reef project was made by the Randle Reef project partners.

On April 11, Burlington City Council directed staff to consider up to \$230,000 in the 2012 capital budget and in each of the subsequent nine years as Burlington's contribution subject to several stipulations including that Halton Region make a similar commitment. Halton Regional Council also approved a \$2 million contribution over 10 years under certain stipulations.

Contact: General Managers' Office, Mike Greenlee x7686

Stream of Dreams

At the 2011 Conservation Halton Awards of Excellence, schools were recognized for their participation in the Stream of Dreams Program to educate communities about their watersheds, rivers and streams while also contributing to community art. Burlington schools included Dr. Charles Best, Orchard Park, Pauline Johnson, Sir Ernest MacMillan, St. Elizabeth Seton and St. Gabriel. www.conservationhalton.on.ca

Contact: Conservation Halton, Festival and Volunteer Coordinator 905-336-1158 x284

Thirsty? Try the tap

Four new outdoor drinking fountains are currently being installed at Ireland Park, Orchard Park, the pavillion at Beachway Park, and near the front entrance of City Hall.

www.burlington.ca/environment

Contact: CSI Department, Sean Kenney x7359



In Our Community

2011 Eco-Film Festival

BurlingtonGreen's 2011 Eco-Film Festival held at Burlington Central Library included *Waterlife* (April 4), *Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai* (May 10) and *No Impact Man* (June 9).

www.burlingtongreen.org

Earth Day Display | April 15 – 29

City staff set up a display at Burlington Central Library to promote environmental initiatives including the city's community clean-up on April 30. www.burlington.ca/environment

Contact: CSI Department, Fleur Storace-Hogan x7580

Regional Chair's Environmental Awards Event | April 21

The annual awards and scholarship event celebrated local youth achievements in environmental initiatives. This year's keynote speaker was Geoff Green, Canadian Environmentalist and Founder of Students on Ice. Six Burlington schools received seven awards at the event including two Halton Environmental Scholarship Awards to students at Assumption and Notre Dame secondary schools and five Halton Youth Awards for Environmental Excellence to Halton Waldorf, Pauline Johnson, Robert Bateman and St. Gabriel schools.

www.halton.ca/environmentalawards

Burlington Clean Up Green Up Day | April 30

For the first time BurlingtonGreen hosted and organized the city's annual community clean-up

that has taken place since 1998. The City of Burlington was one of the sponsors at this year's event. BurlingtonGreen plans to grow the event and to host an annual eco-fair. The city's Office of Sustainability and Burlington Transit set up booths at the eco-fair. Statistics as reported on BurlingtonGreen's website are: 2800 kg of waste, 25 tires, 85 kg of metal, 200 kg of recyclables, two green totes of compostable paper coffee cups and dirty newspapers, 12 bags of yard waste, and more through small group and school clean-ups who put material out with their regular blue box/GreenCart collection. www.burlingtongreen.org

Special Waste Drop-Off Days | April 30

Halton residents were invited to drop off their household hazardous and electronic waste free of charge between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Robert C. Austin Operations Centre in Georgetown.

www.halton.ca/waste

Rain Barrel Sales | May 7

Halton Region hosted another four rain barrel sales events to promote wise outdoor water use. The Burlington event was held on May 7 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Mapleview Mall. Other events were held in Oakville, Milton and Georgetown on May 14, 28 and June 4 respectively. The statistics for each event will be provided to Halton Regional Council by the fall of 2011.

www.halton.ca/waterconservation

Annual Friends of Kerncliff Litter Clean-up | May 7

The annual morning event took place at Kerncliff Park. The founder of the "Friends of Kerncliff," Guy



Granka, received the City of Burlington's 2011 Civic Recognition Award in the environment category.

Compost Give Away | May 9 - 14

Halton residents were invited to take the equivalent of seven garbage bags of compost free of charge between the hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Halton Waste Management Site. Donations of non-perishable food or cash were requested to support local food banks. Last year, 5,000 residents picked up 2,000 tonnes of compost and donated 7,000 kilograms of food and \$12,172.

www.halton.ca/waste

Tree Planting Event | May 17

Approximately 25 volunteers from IKEA Burlington and Head Office planted 175 native shrubs at Hidden Valley Park on behalf of Tree Canada. An additional six oak trees were also planted by a contractor on behalf of Tree Canada on June 11.

Contact: Parks and Recreation Dept., Becky Ellis x7363

Environment Week Display | May 27 – June 10

City staff set up a display at Burlington Central Library to promote the city's environmental initiatives including the Environment and Kite Festival. www.burlington.ca/environment

Contact: CSI Department, Fleur Stora-Hogan x7580

Bike to Work Day | May 30

Mapleview Mall hosted cycling events on May 28 and May 30 to promote "Bike to Mapleview" and Bike to Work Day. Burlington Transit demonstrated the bicycle racks available on all buses.

Environmental Fair | June 4

Holy Cross Lutheran Church hosted an environmental fair. City staff provided environmental information for distribution.

Family Fun Day | June 11

Trout Unlimited Canada held its 3rd Annual Bronte Creek Family Fun Day in Lowville Park.

Creating 8-80 Cities: Moving from talking to doing | June 15

Gil Penalosa, who is known for his passion and promotion of walking and cycling and the creation and use of great city parks and trails, spoke at the mayor's Inspire Burlington event.

Sound of Music Festival | June 16 – 19

The festival's eco team manually sorts close to 15 tonnes of litter in four days with the goal to recycle and compost 85 per cent of the waste in 2011 (up from 80 per cent in 2010). Other green initiatives include a shuttle bus, a bike corral, water refilling stations and the sale of reusable containers. The festival was awarded the 2011 Festivals and Events Ontario award for "Best Greening of a Festival Event, \$500,001+" and the 2011 Recycling Council of Ontario Waste Minimization Gold Award in the Festivals Category "in recognition of excellence and commitment to a sustainable environment."

Burlington Public Library Engaging Ideas Presents Ken Greenberg, Walking Home | June 20

Ken Greenberg, an architect and urban design planner, presented ideas from his book *Walking Home: the life and lessons of a city builder*.



Admission fee \$10. Burlington Central Library.
www.bpl.on.ca

Special Waste Drop-Off Days | June 25

Halton residents were invited to drop off their household hazardous and electronic waste free of charge between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Halton Regional Centre in Oakville. www.halton.ca/waste

MEC Bikefest | June 25

This event, held at Spencer Smith Park from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., is a free daylong community celebration of all things bicycle related.

Contact: Susan Andrew, sandrew@mec.ca, 905-333-8559

Upcoming Events

Great Waterfront Trail Adventure Tour | July 2-9

The tour covers 720 kilometres of the Ontario waterfront and greenways passing through 41 Ontario communities including Burlington on July 3. www.waterfronttrail.org

Energy Conservation Display | August 5 - 19

City staff will set up a display at Burlington Central Library, 2331 New St., promoting general awareness about energy conservation and highlighting some city initiatives.

www.burlington.ca/environment

Contact: CSI Department, Fleur Storace-Hogan x7580

Canada's Largest Ribfest | September 2 – 5

Festivals and Events Ontario awarded Ribfest with the 2011 Achievement Award for Best Greening of a Festival in the \$100,001 - \$500,000 budget category. Held annually at Spencer Smith Park, last

year almost 300 volunteers sorted 28.6 tonnes of organic waste, 9.5 tonnes of recyclables and 8.47 tonnes of garbage diverting 82 per cent of the waste during the four day event.

Idle Free Zone Display | September 9 - 16

City staff will set up a display at Burlington Central Library, 2331 New St., to promote the city's idling awareness campaign and bylaw while promoting other environmental initiatives.

www.burlington.ca/environment

Contact: CSI Department, Fleur Storace-Hogan x7580

Compost Give Away | September 17

Halton residents can take the equivalent of seven garbage bags of compost free of charge between the hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Halton Waste Management Site, 5400 Regional Rd. 25, Milton. Donations of non-perishable food or cash are greatly appreciated to support local food banks. www.halton.ca/waste

2011 Eco-Film Festival | September 22

11th Hour will be featured in BurlingtonGreen's 2011 Eco-Film Festival held at Burlington Central Library. www.burlingtongreen.org

Special Waste Drop-off Day | September 24

Halton residents can drop off their household hazardous and electronic waste free of charge between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Burlington closed landfill, 291 North Service Rd., Burlington. Please view www.halton.ca/waste for acceptable and unacceptable materials.



Halton Children's Water Festival | Sept. 27 - 30

The Halton Children's Water Festival provides elementary students in grades 2 to 5 with the opportunity to learn about the importance of ground and surface water. www.hcwf.ca

Take Action Burlington is prepared by the Corporate Strategic Initiatives Department. Contact: environment@burlington.ca