

## In This Issue

[Air Quality & Energy Conservation](#)  
[Water Conservation & Protection](#)  
[Green Space and Local Food](#)  
[Waste Reduction and Diversion](#)

## Save the Date!

### [World Wetlands Day](#)

February 2, 2018

### [Great Backyard Bird Count](#)

February 16-19, 2018

### [Family Day](#)

February 19, 2018

### [International Day of Forests](#)

March 21, 2018

### [World Water Day](#)

March 22, 2018

### [Earth Hour](#)

March 24, 2018  
From 8:30-p.m.-9:30p.m.

### [Earth Day Clean Up](#)

Saturday April 21, 2018

### [Oakville Clean Sweep](#)

Friday April 20, 2018

### [Earth Day](#)

April 22, 2018

### [Halton Eco-Fest](#)

April 28, 2018  
From 10:00am to 4:00pm

### [Halton Food for Thought Annual Spring Breakfast Gala](#)

Friday May 4th, 2018

### [Emergency Preparedness Week](#)

May 6 - 12, 2018

## Secondary School Edition

Issue #14

January 2018

# WELCOME BACK!

Thank you for subscribing to the Town of Oakville's Eco-Letter! This newsletter brings you up to date curriculum resources, in-class activities and free presentations aimed at encouraging students to become better stewards of their natural environment.

This will be the final Eco-letter for the 2017/2018 school year. In this winter issue, you will find fun and exciting information on:

- Climate change
- Air quality and energy conservation
- Active transportation
- Water conservation and protection
- Protecting green space and local farms
- Waste diversion and facility management
- Field trips and grants

If you require any more information on any of the environmental initiatives found within this Eco-letter, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,  
Trisha Henderson  
Environmental Policy Coordinator, Town of Oakville  
[trisha.henderson@oakville.ca](mailto:trisha.henderson@oakville.ca)  
905-845-6601, ext. 3948

## ECOSchool Certification Sections

Ontario EcoSchools is an environmental education and certification program for grades K-12. Schools may apply to be certified as an EcoSchool through an annual certification process which recognizes environmental accomplishments. The program and resources are free of charge, and schools are encouraged to implement them at their own pace. For more information, please visit: [www.ontarioecoschools.org](http://www.ontarioecoschools.org)

## [Bike to School Day](#)

May 18, 2018

## [World Biodiversity Day](#)

May 22, 2018

## [World Environment Day](#)

June 5, 2018

## [Canada Day](#)

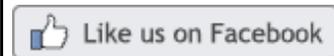
July 1, 2018

## [Oakville Children's Festival](#)

July 8, 2018

## [RBC Canadian Open](#)

July 23 - 29th, 2018



### School Performances - TD Learning with the Arts

The TD Learning with the Arts program is designed to provide Oakville teachers and students with opportunities to experience live performances at the Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts. The objective of the program is to complement the school curriculum and provide an enriched cultural experience for students as a part of their educational journey. We hope that through experience, they develop an understanding of and an appreciation for the arts.

These special TD Learning with the Arts performances are designated for schools only and require a specific booking through the Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts.

[School Performance 2017-2018 Brochure](#)



### Win a Free Pizza Party!!!



Are you up for an Emergency Preparedness Week

Below are Ontario EcoSchool's six certification sections:



Teamwork and Leadership



Energy Conservation



Waste Minimization



School Ground Greening



Curriculum



Environmental Stewardship

### **\*New -A Tool Kit for Schools: Climate Leadership**

This toolkit focuses on 3 areas impacted by climate change: consumerism, food and transportation. This toolkit will teach students the science behind climate change, how to make choices to mitigate and adapt to our changing climate as well as actions students can take to reduce their environmental footprint. [Download this toolkit.](#)

### **You're invited to SuperConference 2018**

Join EcoSchools Ontario for a day of learning and networking that will focus on building environmental leadership in our school communities. This conference is open to everyone (including teachers, school staff, outdoor education centres, administration, EcoTeam leads, and general public) and is an event not to be missed!

[Registration is now open!](#)

### Air Quality & Energy Conservation



Sign up for heat, cold and poor air quality alerts on Halton Region's [website](#).

### **Youth Freedom PRESTO Monthly Pass**



Oakville Transit's [Youth Freedom PRESTO Monthly Pass](#) is a great way for students to practice sustainable transportation, while saving money! Youth aged 6-19 can purchase the pass for \$20 and is valid for unlimited rides after 4pm on weekday evenings, all day Saturday and Sunday for the month indicated.

### **Organize a Winter or Spring Anti-Idling Campaign!**

With the cold temperatures here, why not organize an anti-idling campaign at your school! Forget the automatic car starter at home and break that dirty habit of 'warming' up the car. Did you know the best way to warm up your vehicle is to drive it? The Town of Oakville assists schools in organizing an [Anti-idling Campaign](#), where students educate parents and school visitors with the importance of not idling. To get anti-idling program resources for your school's campaign please contact the [Environmental Policy Department](#) (all resources provided by Town of Oakville at no charge).



Challenge? During the month of May, join us as we **Prepare to Be Prepared!**

There are over 40 challenges to choose from, town staff will provide on-site guidance to complete the Prepare to be Prepared challenges and win your class a free pizza lunch. Discover what can be done around your school to increase your resilience to our changing climate and extreme weather.

For more information contact [trisha.henderson@oakville.ca](mailto:trisha.henderson@oakville.ca)

Stayed tuned for more information on **Oakville's Keep Calm and Adapt** event!

Want to learn more about conserving energy? Check out the [Oakville Conserves Energy Fair](#).

### Resources

#### Canadian Geographic Climate Change Education

Canadian Geographic and Natural Resources Canada introduced two new adaptation education products for Grades 7-10. This include a suite of [six infographics](#) developed by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, as well as associated [Lesson Plans](#) developed by the Canada Science and Technology Museum.

Also, the poster **ADAPTING TO OUR CHANGING CLIMATE IN CANADA** is still available through the [online order form](#). Alternatively, you can download a [web-accessible version](#) or print a [high-resolution copy](#).

In order to fulfill the mission of Can Geo Education, we are pleased to offer a variety of educational resources and products, free to all members. Explore now! Need an account? If you are a teacher, [click here to register](#). Non-teachers should [register](#)

## Halton Region's Clean Air Videos

### Joules on Juice

Joules is a heavy electricity user. She is an energy hog. Watch this [you tube video](#) and find out how Joules learns to save energy and makes the change for clean air.

### Nick Goes Nowhere

Nick is addicted to his car. He drives everywhere. Watch this [you tube video](#) to find out how Nick breaks the habit and makes the change for clean air.

## Water Conservation & Protection



### Halton Wastewater Treatment Plant Tours

Halton Region owns and operates 7 Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP) that treat almost 213,000 cubic metres of wastewater every day. To arrange an individual or group tour to see how Wastewater Treatment Plants operate, please contact the Supervisor of the facility you are interested in. Visit Halton Region's [website](#) for more information.

### Project FLOW

Project FLOW (For the Love of Our Water) engages elementary and secondary students to address local water issues and concerns. FLOW provides resources that allow students to interact in hands-on experiential projects preparing them to be stewards of our water resources. Please check out their [website](#) for more information on how to get involved.



### Changing Currents



Want to get out of the classroom and learn about watershed science? Eco Spark's [Changing Currents](#) program introduces grade 8-12 from across the Greater Toronto Area to local watersheds. Students have the unique opportunity to put on hip waders, explore a local river or stream, and learn about its importance and quality. The studies take place during spring (mid-April to mid-June). Interested in booking a session for your class? Please [contact EcoSpark staff](#) directly.

### Project WET 2.0

Organized by the [Canadian Water Resources Association](#), Project WET 2.0 is a fun, hands-on, inquiry based learning, water education program for educators of students kindergarten to grade 12. It is designed to extend water education to youth and supplements the existing provincial and territorial curricula. If you are interested in learning how to become a Project WET educator, please contact [Lizabeth Nicholls](#).

## Green Space & Local Food



### Park Ambassador Program

[here.](#)

### Halton Enviro Guide

In addition to the numerous listings, [the guide](#) contains tips on environmentally-friendly cleaning products, energy conservation, waste disposal, invasive plants, and more.

**Living the Green Life** Want to know more about what you can do in your community?

Check out Oakville's [Guide](#) to Environmental Stewardship today!

### Eco-Action Calculator

An ecological footprint is a spatial representation of how much land and water an individual, town or business requires to produce the resources it consumes and absorb the waste it generates. Join the movement to reduce our eco-footprint by making small changes in your lifestyle that will help you save energy, water and money. For more information, the [Town of Oakville](#).

### Water Bar Lending Program



Limit the use of bottled water at your next school function. Book one of the town's portable water bars free of charge for your next event. Contact

[Trisha.henderson@oakville.ca](mailto:Trisha.henderson@oakville.ca) for more information.

### Halton's Community Environmental Leadership Program

#### Trailhead (Grade 10)

Have you ever dreamed of taking courses immersed in nature? Trailhead is a one semester, four-credit, environmental leadership program for grade 10 students

The Park Ambassador program offers opportunities for your school to maintain the beauty of the Town of Oakville. With over 140 kilometers of trails to maintain, the Town of Oakville's Parks and Open Space department appreciates the support of volunteers who help maintain our wonderful trail system. Interested groups are encouraged to adopt specific trails or parks and keep them litter-free year round or to clean up specific areas on a one-time basis. [Register today!](#)

### Greening School Grounds

Interested in greening your school grounds? [Evergreen Brickworks](#) offer a variety of resources on-line that can get you started today!



### Tree Canada - Greening Canada's School Grounds

It's time to revitalize Canada's school grounds by planting trees! Applications are accepted year-round. Fill out the application [form](#) today if you are interested!

### Earth Week Clean Up!

Join your fellow Oakvillians for the largest community clean-up in Oakville organized by the Oakville Community Centre for Peace, Ecology and Human Rights in partnership with the Town of Oakville. The 26th Annual Earth Week Clean-Up will take place on Earth Day, Saturday, April 21, 2018 from 9 am to 11 am at more than forty nature sites. Contact [Stephen Dankowich](#) at (905) 849-5501 to help organize your own neighbourhood clean-up or to simply join one of the many existing clean-ups taking place across Oakville.

### Oakville Horticultural Society

Oakville Horticultural Society assists in the removal of invasive plant species like Garlic Mustard and the Thorny Buckthorn through volunteer based initiatives. Contact [info.ohs@oakvillehort.org](mailto:info.ohs@oakvillehort.org) for more information on how students can volunteer.

### Oakvillegreen's Environmental Education & Nature Connection Programs

Oakvillegreen comes to your school and delivers free presentations, nature walks, workshops and stewardship activities tied to the Ontario Curriculum for secondary



students. Oakvillegreen also guides schools to plan and execute stewardship activities through the GreenRoots program and provides schoolyard naturalization, pollinator garden and tree planting support. Visit [www.oakvillegreen.org](http://www.oakvillegreen.org) or email [programs@oakvillegreen.org](mailto:programs@oakvillegreen.org) for more information.

### Mountsberg & Crawford Lake Conservation Area: Your Natural Classroom!

Mountsberg and Crawford Lake Conservation Areas offer hands on, curriculum linked, environmental education programs for students JK to Grade 12. From Nature Play for inspiring wonder in the smallest students to Climate Change SOS, a citizen science based program for youth, the programs at these two parks aim to create a life-long love of and care for our natural world. For more information about park programs please visit [www.conservationhalton.ca/fieldtrips](http://www.conservationhalton.ca/fieldtrips)

### Halton Food for Thought

through the Halton District School Board. If that doesn't sound awesome, what about the Adventure Trip canoeing in Algonquin Park! Check out the [website](#) for more details.

### Bronte Creek Project (Grades 11 & 12)

The BCP is a one semester, four-credit, environmental leadership program for grade 11 and 12 students through the Halton District School Board. As part of the program, you can become certified in Green-check GPS Training, Wilderness 1st Aid, leadership skills, paddling, and ice safety. To learn more about this unique opportunity, visit the [Bronte Creek Project!](#)



Halton Food for Thought is dedicated to ensuring Halton students have access to healthy food for over 20 years. HFFT, in partnership with the Boards of Education and the community provide access to nutritious breakfasts, snacks and lunches that are a reliable source of healthy food during the school day.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see Halton Food for Thought's Student Nutritional Programs in action. Not all school communities and student needs are the same so HFFT offers a variety of program options:

**Breakfast Programs** provide a minimum of three food groups, with one always being a fresh vegetable or fruit and another always being milk or a milk alternative. These program can be offered Buffet Style, Grab and Go, Breakfast or Morning Meal Carts or as a Sit-Down Meal.

**Health Bin Programs** can be offered as a Classroom Bin or Bin Station. These programs include a minimum of 2 food groups with one always being a fresh vegetable or fruit. Bin Stations may also include access to a refrigerator allowing cheese or yogurt to be offered. Both programs also include healthy non-perishable packaged items.

**New Salad Bar Lunch Program** is similar to other weekly lunch programs where a sign-up process is required and a fee is charged - usually between \$3-\$5 per service day. This HFFT program includes a minimum of three food groups with one always being a fresh fruit or vegetable and the other one always being milk or a milk alternative.

For more information about Halton Food for Thought programs and initiatives, or to learn about how you can support Student Nutrition Programs in Halton please visit our website [www.haltonfoodforthought.com](http://www.haltonfoodforthought.com) or contact [info@haltonfoodforthought.com](mailto:info@haltonfoodforthought.com).

### Funding Opportunities

#### SuperPower your School!



Staples and Earth Day Canada have partnered to offer ten elementary and secondary schools in Canada \$20 000 worth of technology. Does your school save the planet with its environmental programs? Here's your chance to superpower your school with the latest technology! Entries will be accepted online from December 1, 2017 - January 31, 2018. For additional contest details and to submit your entry, please visit [staples.ca/powereco](http://staples.ca/powereco)

#### Community Environment Fund

Interested in starting up a school environmental project? [Earth Day Canada's Community Environment Fund](#) provides financial grants to support local environmental initiatives and projects.

For all other funding opportunities for the 2017/2018 school year, please visit [Ontario EcoSchool](#) for a detailed list of year-round grants and awards!

### Waste Reduction & Diversion Programs



#### Love Your Lake The Way It Should Be... Litter-less!

Lake Ontario is a water source that is enjoyed by millions of residents for recreation, employment, and survival. Join us May 13, 2017 - July 1, 2016 to remove litter from the shorelines of Lake Ontario! Go to [www.agreenerfuture.ca/love-your-lake/](http://www.agreenerfuture.ca/love-your-lake/) for event locations and registration information.

#### Call2Recycle

Call2Recycle collects batteries and cellphones for recycling at no-cost in Canada. They convert the waste safely into a variety of re-usable products, and meet or exceed the most rigorous recycling standards in the world. To become a participating collection site, fill out the [form](#) to receive more information.

#### Binder Recycling

Don't want you old binders anymore? Staples, in partnership with TerraRecycling, collects used binders and give you \$2 for your next binder purchase at their store. For more information on the program, visit a Staples near you.

#### Halton Environmental Network programs:

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Canadian Open - Bike Valet Volunteer

Are you an avid golf fan, cycling enthusiast, enjoy helping the environment or simply just need some volunteer hours? Why not volunteer at the Canadian Open Bike Corral this summer! For more information email [environment@oakville.ca](mailto:environment@oakville.ca)

### Family Day Volunteers Needed

Volunteers, ages 14+ play an important role in the success of our annual Family Day event! If you are enthusiastic and committed to helping families enjoy an activity-filled day in our community centres, support your local community and earn volunteer hours by helping out on February 19, 2018 at various town locations. [Register here if interested.](#)

### EcoMentors Youth Programs

EcoMentors are environmental youth leaders who want to raise awareness and promote positive change in support of a healthier environment. Encourage your students to [sign-up today!](#)

### OakvilleGreen

OakvilleGreen Conservation Association Youth Stewards program (OCAYS) engages youth between 13-18 in hands-on environmental training workshops and eco-action restoration and monitoring opportunities. Visit [www.oakvillegreen.org](http://www.oakvillegreen.org) to find different ways to volunteer with us. Attend our public events or join our OCA Youth Stewards for monthly stewardship opportunities.

### Mountsberg Raptor Centre

Volunteer one day per week for four months at the owl-filled centre! Email [raptors@hrca.on.ca](mailto:raptors@hrca.on.ca) for registration details.

### Oakville Children's Festival

A one-day FREE family festival held on July 8, 2018 at

## Halton GREEN SCREENS

## Films Made By Students For Students

Have you ever been interested in filmmaking? Do you have a passion for environmental issues? Whether you are a teacher or a student, get in touch to find out how you or your class can make short environmental films to be shown in classrooms throughout Halton Region, and possibly even shown on the Big Screen at a movie theatre! For more information or to sign up, contact [Heather Govender](#).

### #HaltonWasteChallenge

Looking for an easy and fun way to supplement your classroom lessons? Would you like your school to participate in the #HaltonWasteChallenge? Halton Green Screens offers free, curriculum-based programs, always tied in with an environment-themed film. Programs consist of a movie and a lesson or activity, with topics such as waste reduction, habitat conservation, water, and more. The best part? They come right to your classroom and can fit the programming into your schedule. Contact [Heather Govender](#) to learn more.

### Halton Region offers the following programs: Green Cart Program

Halton Schools have been using in the Green Cart program since 2009. If any schools would like help increasing participation in their school's Green Cart program, please contact [Nicole Watt](#) at Halton Region. Support can be provided to increase waste diversion at your school.



### Waste Management Site Tours

Take a tour of [Halton Waste Management Site](#) (HWMS). Or, take a virtual tour of the [HWMS](#). Learn how the HWMS safely and responsibly manages the region's garbage and how waste diversion programs help to reduce the amount of garbage ending up in the landfill.

### Halton Region School Workshops

Students will learn about the importance of the 3R's - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. The presentation will take a look at Halton Region's waste programs, including recycling, composting, and garbage, including landfill operations. Presentations vary in length depending on grade level. The workshop is run by Halton Region staff, and is suitable for Environment Groups, individual classes, or whole school, [register here.](#)

## Featured Programs!

### Living with Wildlife Programs



OakvilleGreen is pleased to present 'Co-existing with Coyotes' presentations in partnership with the Town of Oakville. Educate and empower students (K-12) with practical advice about living with coyotes. Teach them how to prevent people-coyote conflicts and how to react in case of an encounter. Visit [www.oakvillegreen.org](http://www.oakvillegreen.org) for more information or email us

at [programs@oakvillegreen.org](mailto:programs@oakvillegreen.org).

### Halton Environmental Network: Learn about the Climate Crisis from a trained Climate Reality Leader

Do you have questions about the greatest challenge we face and what you can do about it? Invite a trained Climate Reality Leader to your classroom to speak for free about the climate crisis and its solutions. Lisa

Coronation Park. Interested in volunteering? Contact [ocfvolunteers@oakville.ca](mailto:ocfvolunteers@oakville.ca).

### Conservation Halton

Interested in having your class volunteer at the [Halton Children's Water Festival](#)? Be sure to check out the webpage for more information on how to do so!

### Halton EcoFestival

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Halton EcoFestival will take place at the Glen Abbey Community Centre on Saturday, April 28, 2018 from 10 am to 4 pm.

This event has been successfully run with the help of several dedicated volunteers that would appreciate the help, contact

[Stephen Dankowich](#) of the Oakville Community Centre for Peace, Ecology and Human Rights for more details on volunteering.

### Additional Volunteer Opportunities

[Conservation Halton](#)  
[Halton Environmental Network](#)

Kohler is a trained Climate Reality Leader, the Executive Director of the Halton Environmental Network, and has worked for US Environmental NPG's.

Lisa has received intensive training to talk about our changing climate in simple terms that make it easy for anyone to understand what's happening and what can be done. She is qualified to answer your questions, and will work with you to customize a speech or seminar for your unique audience. Contact [Lisa Kohler](#) for more information.

### HEN Ambassador Program

By joining the Halton Environmental Network (HEN) Ambassador program, not only have you committed to creating awareness of environmental issues but you are on your way to becoming a leader for sustainable development within your community. This guide will provide you with templates to successfully complete each aspect. Your HEN coordinator will be available to help you along the way. There are four components of the program:

1. Assess: Complete and submit an Eco-Audit for your school
2. Create Awareness: Host a screening of an Environmental Documentary
3. Activate: Launch a school-wide campaign or initiative for a topic of your choice
4. Move Forward: Create a proposal for a project to improve your school's Eco-Score

Throughout the duration of the program, students will receive:

- Opportunity to participate in workshops, tours, and community events
- Free tickets to local Halton Green Screen events
- About 25-40 community service hours (depending on your projects)
- Support and references from Halton Environmental Network directors, including the directors of Halton Green Screens and Greening Sacred Spaces, as well as introductions to local environmental groups that can assist with projects
- A Certificate of Environmental Excellence (upon completion of all components)

For more information and to apply for the HEN Ambassador Program, email [Heather Govender](#).

