



Meet The Candidates – In One Place At One Time Wednesday, November 1

The community is invited to a Meet The Candidates event on Wednesday, November 1, 2006 at The Galaxy 707 Club, 475 North Service Road East, Oakville, from 6:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. The meeting will be hosted by Fair Vote Canada and Oakvillegreen Conservation Association.

At this event, all candidates for Regional and Local Councillor, Mayor, Regional Chair and School Board Trustees will be invited to set up tables where they can meet the public and provide them with their campaign literature.

From 8 to 9 p.m. the Mayoral candidates will be welcomed to the stage to give a 5-minute speech. Then there will be a question and answer session with questions from the public moderated by Fair Vote Canada.

From 9 to 10 p.m. the Regional Chair candidates will be welcomed to the stage to give a 5-minute speech followed by a question and answer session. We hope to see you there.

Sarah Harmer Concert

Enjoy the music of renowned Canadian singer/songwriter, Sarah Harmer AND help save the Great White Oak on Bronte Road, at the same time!

Sarah Harmer has agreed to perform a benefit concert at the Halton Region Auditorium on November 5 at 2 p.m., with proceeds going to save the Great White Oak campaign.



Sarah Harmer

The tickets are \$30 each. Order them today by phone (905-815-2021) or order online www.oakvillecentre.ca/ambassador.htm as seating is limited and tickets are sure to go quickly! For more information please visit http://www.elgar.ca/The_Great_White_Oak.htm



Regional Councillor Ward 4 Allan Elgar (left), Oakville MPP Kevin Flynn and Local Councillor Ward 4 Renee Sandelowsky are all smiles at the announcement on Friday, October 20 that 650 acres of land in north Oakville just east of Bronte Road would be preserved and given to Conservation Halton to manage.

Who said it couldn't be done?

650 acres of north Oakville land becomes new conservation area

When a group of Oakville residents representing Oakvillegreen went to visit bureaucrats with the Ontario Realty Corporation in Toronto several years ago asking them to preserve 1,100 acres of publicly-owned land north of Dundas, they were laughed at.

They were told it was IMPOSSIBLE; the sale of the land was happening and it couldn't and wouldn't be stopped.

On Friday, October 20, the province donated 650 acres of that land to Conservation Halton to be preserved as conservation lands for the enjoyment

of the Oakville community.

"It was the tenacity of residents who did not accept this and who kept persevering despite the odds" who made this happen says Iris McGee, a founder of Oakvillegreen. "That's an important message."

Local residents who picketed and petitioned, who wrote letters and met with politicians "altered the course of history for those lands," she says.

A change in government from the Harris Tories to the McGinty Liberals

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*Opinion***Electing To Change**

Can you imagine a country that has as a national mission “to pass on to future generations a society where all the major environmental problems have been solved”? That’s Sweden.

They took the OPEC-induced oil crisis of the early 1970’s as a wake up call. They realized they were far too dependent on an energy source that would eventually run out and was controlled by others. They started planning for long-term sustainability. They strategized about how to reduce their impact on the planet while making a better life for their citizens. They engaged the public in brainstorming and planning. They concentrated on “community building” vs “development”. They considered the legacy they would leave to future generations and they felt a deep obligation. They did what we must do.

It’s time we grew up and got serious about our environmental problems. It’s time we elect politicians who have vision. It’s time we choose to change.

– *Liz Benneian*

On November 13

VOTE!

It is shameful that less than 30% of us voted in the last municipal election. The decisions local politicians make affect every aspect of our lives. Choose wisely. If you don’t know who to vote for read the stories about the candidates in the Oakville Beaver (<http://www.halton-search.com/hr/ob/>); go to the town of Oakville website: www.oakville.ca, get the candidates info and call them up or come to the all candidates meeting Oakvillegreen and Fair vote Canada are hosting on Nov. 1. (See story front page). Local politics matter. Vote.

Trees: the good news & bad news

Tree-cutter receives stiff sentence

Justice finally caught up with tree-cutter George Vastis on September 19.

The Burlington resident who cut more than 20 acres of trees in an environmentally sensitive area in 2003 was ordered to pay a \$33,000 fine and ordered to replant the area - which is expected to cost about \$122,000 plus 10 per cent monitoring (for a total value of approximately \$134,000). As well the fine was ordered to be paid by either his corporation or by George Vastis personally. The significance of this order is that Vastis cannot bankrupt his numbered company to avoid the replanting order and fine. Vastis was also placed on two years probation.

Regional staff will consult with Planning and Public Works staff, particularly the Regional Forester, and then determine the optimum time for replanting.

This is the largest replanting order and fine ever awarded in Ontario.

Allan Elgar, Oakville Regional Ward 4 Councillor, who vigorously pursued the matter, including hiring a plane and taking aerial shots of the property to point out the land that was clear cut looked suspiciously more like a golf course than the “farm” that Vastis’ claimed, must be congratulated.

As Councillor Elgar says, “It is a clear victory for the environment and for the resolve of Regional Council over the course of the past 41 months to pursue this to its rightful conclusion. . . . there has been some suggestion that . . . staff were unnecessarily persecuting Mr. Vastis but I think this shows that Council was absolutely right to prosecute in these circumstances, given the extent of the cutting which occurred and Mr. Vastis’ complete disregard for the

environmentally sensitive area which is located on his property. It demonstrates the commitment Council has made to preserving and protecting Halton’s natural environment.”

It also represents the commitment of our local green-caped crusading Councillor.

Thank you to the Region and Councillor Elgar and let others be warned that they cannot flout the law with impunity.

No Clear Sailing For Clear-Cutting Tree Bylaw

At one of the strangest and most confusing council meetings ever, a bylaw to protect Oakville’s urban forest, that had seemed doomed after a Community Services Committee meeting, was resurrected.

Councillor Chris Stoa made a motion to direct staff to draft a Clear Cutting bylaw that would stop developers from removing trees from properties before they submit site plans. Janice Wright made a friendly amendment that also asked staff to include protection for heritage and species-specific trees. The motion passed. A new proposed bylaw is to come back to Council in March.

However, pardon the pun, we are not out of the woods yet. The folks who fought against the original bylaw have made it plain through their spokesperson that they intend to fight on and oppose whatever new bylaw is introduced. Oakvillegreen and our residents’ association allies intend to fight on, too.

Soon we will be introducing a petition that we would like all of you who are concerned about maintaining and enhancing our urban forest to sign.

More about that in the next Oakvillegreen newsletter.

Consider volunteering with Oakvillegreen. Call Liz Benneian at 905-257-0250.

Choose To Reuse

Ever wonder where you could take that box of mismatched china you used to use in your student apartment? What about that old set of golf clubs or the piece of art Aunt Mary gave you that doesn't quite fit your décor?

Take it to the Reuse Centre next door in Burlington, a volunteer-run, environmental alternative to landfilling those items you don't want or can't use.

As the Reuse Centre's brochure says, "By using goods over and over again we all save. Taxpayers save on landfill and recycling costs and the environment benefits from fewer waste and pollution. Reuse just makes sense!"

Perfect For Pre-Christmas Cleaning

The Reuse Centre accepts just about any item in clean, safe and good working order including: large and small appliances, furniture, toys, housewares, tools, craft supplies, building supplies, sporting goods, luggage and purses, office equipment, computers, software, videos, books, skates, magazines and more.

The things the reuse centre doesn't accept is small: hazardous material; paint, tires, large hair dryers, console TVs and stereos, mattresses and box springs. Damaged, soiled and incomplete items may also be turned away. If in doubt, just call the Centre and they'll advise you.

The Reuse Centre is also a great place to find a toaster for the cottage, a vase for your home or furniture for a student heading off to university. Teachers can find good books and interesting magazines at cheap prices. Antique lovers may just find that perfect piece in the Treasure Trove display area where items are sold by silent auction.

Friendly Volunteer Staff

If you want to bring reuseables to the centre check in at the receiving area during business hours and staff will help you unload. Deliveries are accepted Wednesday to Friday from noon to 8 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Illegal dumping could result in a fine up to \$7,000.

The Reuse Centre is located at 3335 North Service Road, Unit #2A, Burlington. Get in touch with the Reuse Centre by phone: 905-319-0477; email, reusecentre@cogeco.ca; website: www.reusecentre.on.ca

Pick Your Poison: Oakvillegreen's position on power plants

Four companies are currently vying for permission from the provincial government to build a natural-gas fired generating plant in the Oakville/Milton area.

Oakvillegreen had an opportunity to review each of these proposals along with Clear The Air Coalition (CTAC), headed by Oakville resident Rob Burton. Through this review we realized that:

1. The Provincial government is determined a plant will be built within the next few years.
2. Some proposals offered cleaner production than others.
3. Some proposals were in better locations than others (one was proposed right in the middle of the Greenbelt).
4. Some technologies would be more efficient than others.

In the end, Oakvillegreen decided to support Clear The Air's submission to the Ontario PowerAuthority. Of the four bidders, one of the bidders Pristine Power Inc. seems to have the better technology in terms of mitigating health and other environmental concerns.

The site Pristine has chosen is in Milton on 5th Line and Main St E.

Like CTAC, Oakvillegreen was unhappy with the Ontario government's request for proposal (RFP) as we thought it didn't allow for state-of-the-art technology to be used.

The RFP was strictly confined to gas-fired generating stations. Along with CTAC, Oakvillegreen intends to lobby the Provincial government for changes to RFPs that call for the cleanest, most efficient technologies.

The following is an excerpt of CTAC's submission to the OPA which Oakvillegreen supported.

"CTAC is opposed in principle to the development of gas-fired generating stations near and upwind of populated areas because of their adverse

health impacts on people and the environment.

CTAC is opposed, in principle, to the proposed location of a 600 MW gas-fired generating station near the Trafalgar West transformer stations because its pollution will adversely affect people in Halton Hills, Milton, Oakville and Mississauga who are closest to it as well as the population of the GTA in general. No one in the GTA should be exposed to the added damage it will inflict on the people forced to inhale its discharges over the next 20 years."

Having expressed these concerns and with our hands tied, and having to choose from the four bidders, CTAC and Oakvillegreen determined that Pristine is the better of four not-so-good options.

To make our position on energy clear, Oakvillegreen Conservation Association believes that the first step in addressing our energy needs should be conservation. We believe significant energy savings could result from conservation and every level of government should be using every means at their disposal to promote and facilitate conservation. We also believe that no level of government is, as of yet, doing everything they could or should do on the energy conservation front.

Second, we believe every level of government should be doing everything possible to promote and facilitate the use of sustainable energy sources from solar to wind to biodiesel and everything in between. We also believe that no level of government is as of yet, doing everything they could or should do to support sustainable energy.

Third, we believe the current RFP process is flawed and doesn't allow for the cleanest, most efficient energy generating stations to be built. We want the process reformed.

Putting an end to pesticides

What's more important, children's health or an unnaturally green weed-free lawn? Does a neighbour's desire to use dangerous chemicals trump a neighbouring homeowner's right to be protected from them?

These are the questions the local group Gardens Off Drugs have been asking local politicians for years as they've lobbied for a ban on pesticides. To ensure their request is being heard they have recently joined with anti-pesticide groups from Milton and Burlington and with Oakvillegreen Conservation Association to demand that the Region introduce a ban on the cosmetic use of chemical pesticides in urban areas.

"There is increasing scientific evidence of the harmful effects of exposure to pesticides," says Oakville family physician and Gardens Off Drugs member Dr. Susan Rhodes. "We want to see our elected officials act accordingly and create a pesticide bylaw to protect our health."

The Healthy Halton Coalition (HHC) has sent a letter to all current Regional politicians informing them of the group's intention to press for a ban once the new council is in place. Member groups are also sending a question asking if those running for election support a ban on the cosmetic use of chemical pesticides in urban areas. The answers from Oakville candidates will be publicized on Gardens Off Drugs website www.gardensoffdrugs.com

After years of lobbying at the local level, Gardens Off Drugs and other Coalition members are focusing their efforts at the Regional level because pesticides are a public health issue and the Region is responsible for public health. The Region's legal staff recently told councillors that Halton could create a region-wide pesticide bylaw if it wanted to.

Currently, Halton Medical Officer of Health Dr. Bob Nosal said the health department supports a "prudent avoidance" approach to pesticides. Members of the Healthy Halton Coalition say the idea



This poster was created by Garden Off Drugs to encourage people to think about the harmful effects of lawn and garden chemicals. It was posted all around the community this summer by the group's members. If you would like a poster to display in the window of your home or in your office please contact gardensoffdrugs@hotmail.com

that people can "prudently avoid" exposure to pesticides is a joke when people have no way to limit their exposure to them as their neighbours spray them into the air, spread them over public sidewalks and contaminate neighbouring lawns.

Renee Lehnen, a local nurse who is a long-time member of Gardens Off Drugs, says this is a fight that will be won. "It's just like the battle against public smoking. The argument was made that the harm smokers do could not be limited to themselves alone. The same argument is true for pesticides."

She encourages anyone who is concerned about the harmful effects of pesticides to join Gardens Off Drugs and help them in their push for a Region-wide ban

For more information email Renee at gardensoffdrugs@hotmail.com

Pesticide Facts

- 61% of the chemicals found in Canadian pesticides have already been deemed unsafe and banned by other countries.
- A study by Zahm and Ward published in 1998, in Environmental Health Perspectives, vol. 106, found the following childhood cancers were linked to pesticide exposure: leukemia, neuroblastoma, Wilms tumor, soft-tissue sarcoma, Ewing's sarcoma, non-Hodgkins's lymphoma, and cancers of the brain, colorectum and testes.
- A study recently published in the Annals of Neurology, concluded that exposure to pesticides - even at low levels - can increase a person's risk of developing Parkinson's disease by 70%.
- Dr. Alex Bielak of Environment Canada's National Water Research Institute stated that 50% of all chemicals used on lawns end up in our water table. Three or four times during his speech he reiterated: "Stop using chemicals on your lawns and gardens."
- A recent study reported in The Globe and Mail, the Toronto Star and on national television networks linked increased breast cancer risks to women exposed to farm pesticides.
- The following organizations have spoken out about the danger of pesticides and urged restrictions on their use:
 - * The Canadian Cancer Society
 - * The Ontario Public Health Association
 - * The Ontario College of Family Physicians
 - * The Registered Nurses Association of Ontario
 - * The Toronto Board of Health
 - * The Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
 - * The Canadian Institute of Child Health.
- Most pesticides we use have never been independently tested for safety.

Oakvillegreen member runs for Regional Chair

A long-time Oakvillegreen member is running for Regional Chair.

Brian Burton is a retired CEO who has been very active in the community serving on several committees.



During the last municipal election Brian also ran for Regional Chair coming in second.

For more about Brian Burton visit www.brianburton.ca

World's consumption out-strips world's resources

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) warns that if we don't make immediate changes, humans are on the road to running out of global resources.

In the 2006 Living Planet Report released this week the WWF reaches the alarming conclusion that humans are already using 25% more of Earth's resources than the planet can renew.

The WWF report says the human race more than tripled its exploitation of the Earth's resources between 1961 and 2003. And it warns of dire consequences if humanity's appetite continues to grow. Those resources include fresh water, timber products, fish, and soil-based agriculture.

Canadians ranked 4th, behind the United States, the United Arab Emirates and Finland in gobbling up the world's resources. This year's index found that the number of land-based species of plants and animals declined by 31 percent between 1961 and 2003. During the same period, it says, freshwater species declined by 28 percent, and saltwater species dropped by 27 percent.

The report's conclusion, we must start consuming much less.

IMPORTANT!

Change of Oakvillegreen email address and new website

Oakvillegreen is developing a new website that will have many useful features including a public discussion forum and a calendar of events. With it will come a new email address. That will be launched soon and we will let you know when you can access it. **In the meantime, please address all Oakvillegreen email**

to Liz Benneian at lizcdn@yahoo.com

For many years Oakvillegreen's website and email has been managed by Hana Kalas. We would like to thank her for all her hard work and dedication to the cause of protecting our environment. We look forward to her continued contributions to Oakvillegreen Conservation Association.

Become a member of Oakvillegreen

What you get for your membership:

1. A quarterly newsletter with a president's report that will tell you how we have been working on your issues.
2. Regular email updates about events and concerns in your community.
3. Quarterly meetings that will feature a guest speaker and time to discuss, as active citizens, what's important to you.
4. The opportunity to serve your community through involvement with Oakvillegreen or one of our associated groups and committees.
5. The satisfaction of knowing that you are doing what you can, in your own community, to make the future better.

Annual Membership is:

Individual: \$20

Family (all members of the same household): \$25

Student (including university): \$5

If you are already a member of Gardens Off Drugs, South Peel Naturalists or another local green group that requires a membership fee, your Oakvillegreen membership will be:

Individual: \$10

Family: \$15

We would like to receive your membership application as soon as possible. Memberships are good until September 30 2007.

To become a member or to renew your membership in Oakvillegreen, please print this page and mail it, along with your cheque, to our Membership Chair:

Diane Burton
2106 Brays Lane,
Oakville, ON
L6M 2T1

The cheque should be made out to Oakvillegreen Conservation Association.

Name:

Address:

Postal code:

Phone:

E-mail:

Type of Membership (Circle):

Individual Family Student

Individual (Current Green Group

Member) Family (Current Green

Group Members)

Please list the group

I would like to discuss how I could become involved with Oakvillegreen. Contact me by phone or by email. Y N

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Oakvillegreen president Liz Benneian at 905-257-0250 or email her at lizcdn@yahoo.com

Preserving land for future generations

Continued from Page 1

who brought new ideas about preserving green-space and controlling growth, also helped.

McGee says this proves that great things can be accomplished when people don't take no for an answer because they believe something better can happen.

The new conservation area is bounded by Dundas St. W., Highway 407, Regional Rd. 25 and the Sixteen Mile Creek ravine. The new park will link up with the 1.8 million acres of land that makes up Ontario's greenbelt.

In making the announcement, Oakville MPP Kevin Flynn said, "My generation and my father's generation haven't been as kind to the environment as we should have been." He noted that without a healthy environment you can't have a strong economy. "Our legacy must be sound environmental stewardship and sustainability," he said.

The contribution of Oakvillegreen to the preservation of the land as a conservation area was specifically mentioned during the ceremony by Conservation Halton (CH) Board Chair Brian Penman.

He also noted Conservation Halton will consult with biologists and ecologists to develop a master plan for the park.



Oakville citizens protesting the Harris government plan to sell off most of the 1,100 acres of publicly-owned land North of Hwy. 5.

With CH celebrating its 50th anniversary, Penman called the new park a wonderful birthday gift.

Conservation Halton is asking the public to suggest names for the new park. For details get in touch with Conservation Halton at www.conservationhalton.on.ca

The current members of Oakvillegreen's board would like to thank Oakvillegreen's founders and members past and present who contributed to preserving the 650 acres for future generations. Those

people include, but are not limited to: Allan Elgar, Renee Sandelowsky, Mike Lansdown, Linda Elgar, Iris McGee, Hank Rodenburg, Don Chambers, Diana Levey, Hana Kalas, Diane Burton, Mike Colle and Kevin Flynn.

The new Conservation Area proves that foresight, the dreams, the perseverance and the determination of a few people, despite seemingly overwhelming odds, can have a lasting positive impact on the community forever. We applaud your efforts and promise to continue your work.

Get your hands dirty with Oakville's green groups

People are often afraid to volunteer because they don't know what they're in for. With our local green groups, you can tailor your volunteering to fit your time and interests.

Here are suggestions for you:

🌱 If you are interested in learning more about local government and community decision making consider volunteering to monitor Town Council of Committee meetings one or two nights per month. Training will be provided so you get to know who's who and what the heck they are doing. Time needed: five to 10 hrs a month.

🌸 Are you good with people, organized and friendly? How would you like to take on the role of volunteer coordinator for

Oakvillegreen? Time needed: four to eight hours a month.

🌸 Are you interested in helping to run a campaign that will give people the information and the motivation they need to live in a more environmentally conscious and friendly way? This would be an approximately year-long campaign starting in the early spring and would require a few hours a week in the beginning.

🌱 Do you have expertise in a particular area of environmental science, law, marketing or communications? Perhaps you would be interested in joining our Think Tank, an advisory group to Oakvillegreen's board or one of the committees we're about to form. Depending on the committee two to eight hours a

month would be needed.

🌱 If you are concerned about pesticides Gardens Off Drugs would be interested in having you join their monthly meetings. Help distribute posters and information on organic lawn and garden care. Help organize the Second Organic Gardening tour or the Great Community Garage Sale. Time needed: two to 8 hours a month.

🌸 Interested in enhancing our urban forest? Oakvillegreen would like to form a tree committee that recruits volunteers to grow and plant native trees and provides advice to homeowners about site and species appropriate trees and tree care.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities call Liz at 905-257-0250.

Consider volunteering with Oakvillegreen. Call Liz Benneian at 905-257-0250.

Events, Important Stuff, Fun Things

Meet The Candidates – All in One Place At One Time

Wednesday November 1

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At this event, all candidates for Regional and Local Councilor, Mayor, Regional Chair and School Board Trustees have been invited to set up tables where they can meet the public and provide them with their campaign literature. Mayoral and Regional Chair question and answer at 8 and 9 p.m. respectively.

Escarpment Blues

Saturday, November 4

If you care about the Niagara Escarpment and the natural rural beauty of Halton-Peel, then don't miss Escarpment Blues playing in Georgetown, Ontario at The John Elliott Theatre Saturday, November 4th at 2 p.m.

Escarpment Blues, directed by Andy Keen, chronicles Sarah Harmer's fight to stop the destruction of the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve and preserve Ontario's Greenbelt Part concert, part documentary, Escarpment Blues is a loving tribute to one of Ontario's most beautiful rural areas and the people who live there.

Sarah Harmer and Andy Keen will be screening their film in Georgetown, one of the towns they visited on the tour. Join them for a lively public discussion about how communities, through active public participation, can move towards responsible resource development and protect the natural wealth we all share.

Tickets are \$10. Seating is limited – advance tickets on sale at the John Elliot Box Office 905-877-3700

Peace Concert

Sunday, November 5

The Oakville Peace Concert is celebrating its 20th annual concert taking place on Sunday, November 5 from 2 to 4 p.m.

(doors open at 1 p.m.) at the Church of the Incarnation located at 1240 Old Abbey Lane, just across from the Glen Abbey Golf Club on Dorval Drive. Tickets are \$10, \$1 for kids 12 and under.

With Canadian troops facing fierce fighting in Afghanistan, numerous wars being waged in Africa, and the ever unpopular war in Iraq, the call for peace is as pronounced as ever – making the Oakville Peace Concert as necessary as ever.

This year's concert features a speech by local MP Bonnie Brown, a long time advocate of peace who is recognized as the first legislator in North America to speak out against the war in Iraq. Another speaker is William Payne, a reservist with the Christian Peacemakers Teams (CPT), a group that sends unarmed teams into crisis situations in hopes of encouraging warring parties to adopt nonviolent alternatives to war. You may recall hearing about the CPT earlier this year when Canadian members of the group were kidnapped in Iraq. Payne says that he is looking forward to the "opportunity to meet with other people committed to the peace agenda."

Featured musicians include the reggae-soca-ska-funk-rock-blues duet SINVA, who for decades have been writing and performing socially conscious music aimed at educating listeners about issues involving human rights, environmentalism and, of course, peace. Other performers include local musician and songwriter Thomas Patrick.

The concluding hour of the concert will include a discussion of the Canadian military's new robust recruitment campaign, Operation Connection, and the peace movement's response to it, Operation Objection, spearheaded by the activist group Act for the Earth.

Sarah Harmer Concert

Sunday, November 5

Enjoy the music of renowned Canadian singer/songwriter, Sarah Harmer AND help save the Great White Oak on Bronte Road, at the same time!

Sarah Harmer has agreed to perform a benefit concert at the Halton Region

Auditorium on November 5 at 2 p.m., with proceeds going to save the Great White Oak. The tickets are \$30 each. Order them today by phone (905-815-2021) or order online www.oakvillecentre.ca/ambassador.htm as seating is limited and tickets are sure to go quickly!

You Are Invited To Gardens Off Drugs Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 22, 1:30 p.m.

Gardens off Drugs, a local group fighting for a ban on the cosmetic use of chemical pesticides in Halton's urban areas, invites you to their next meeting. Discussion will include: candidates' answers to our pesticide question, an update on the Healthy Halton Coalition and the new advocacy role of the Cancer Society, begin planning for winter activities and spring campaigns, forum and Organic Gardening Tour. For more information on location email Renee Lehnen at renee.lehnen@sympatico.ca

Speaker on Ontario's Energy Outlook

Thursday, January 18

A senior representative from Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator will speak about Ontario's Electricity System and Reliability Outlook. Hosted by The Canadian Club of Halton Peel at the Oakville Conference Centre, QEW & Bronte Road. Registration and cash bar at 6 p.m.; dinner at 7 p.m. Non-Members \$40. For information and reservations call 905-845-2862 or email: rjtpreston@cogeco.ca

Next Generation Organics

Thursday, January 25 to Sunday, January 28, 2007

A mid-winter Organic Conference, Expo and Sampling Fair for consumers, retailers, seed savers & all who seek to make a difference. The Expo is free, workshop by paid admission. Consumers who attend on Saturday and Sunday will get to sample products from more than 16 companies. The Organic Expo is being held at the Guelph University Centre. For more information go to: oragnix@georgian.net

Help Gardens Off Drugs circulate their pesticide petition. Call Renee Lehnen at 905-339-2290

Keeping the Earth Alive

Looking for a special gift that will also help support Oakvillegreen Conservation Association? Keeping the Earth Alive, a collection of poetry by local poet Stella Body with illustrations by Robert Bateman is available for \$20. Discounts available on larger orders.



“This book is dedicated to Oakvillegreen, and to conservation groups everywhere,” notes Bateman, Canada’s world famous artist, teacher, conservationist, environmental advocate and Order of Canada recipient. Both Bateman and Body donated their work for this book.

If the purchaser desires, the cost of the book will also buy a membership to Oakvillegreen Conservation Association which entitles you to receive our newsletter and to attend quarterly meetings with a guest speaker as well as receive regular updates about issues and events in our community. Proceeds from sale of the book will be used by Oakvillegreen in conservation efforts and in raising awareness of the extraordinary environmental issues facing us today.

To order contact us at lizcdn@yahoo.com or call Diane at 905-827-7554. Please indicate whether you would also like to become a member of Oakvillegreen.

Go green with Ground Breakers

Support Oakville’s local volunteer tree planting group with the purchase of a T-shirt or sweatshirt from Ground Breakers Oakville. The T-shirts and sweatshirts are both forest green with our gold butterfly logo. Sweatshirts sell for \$20 and T-shirts for \$13. \$5 from the sweatshirts and \$3 from the T-shirts will go to support Ground Breakers. Other donations welcomed. To order or to donate call Liz Benneian at: 905-257-0250.

Ground Breakers Oakville has planted more than 2,500 native trees and bushes during the past two and a half years including Memorial Park, Tanglewood, Donovan Bailey Park, Lighthouse Emergency Shelter, Sheldon Creek Park, Bronte Bluffs, Wildwoods, Arbour Lane, 6th Line and Glenashton and the Dundas Berm. See www.groundbreakersoakville.com



Ground Breakers thanks Dan Fulcher of Fulmark Marketing Inc. Promotional Advertising Products for designing the shirts and donating them to Ground Breakers at cost. Contact: info@fulmark.ca Tel: 905-849-0099