

Say "Count Me In" Cambridge To Put Us On A Greener Path For Our Province

Enter Online To WIN Prizes And A Better Future

Cambridge Now!

By Thomas Hagey & Linda Fegan

It's Something The Whole City Can Do

Recently, my wife and I went around the house and started switching the old inefficient light bulbs out for the new energy efficient spiral kind. It was amazing how the new bulbs provided nearly as much light, yet they used a fraction of what the old ones did.

Now, by changing a few energy-sucking bulbs and listening to our kids when they say "Turn off those unnecessary lights" together we will save a bundle on electricity and it will set us on a course for a better future.

Our Community, which includes you and your family (or just you), can join 'Count Me In' and Get Cambridge on the Radar.

Communities all over the province are competing to have the most citizens per capita registered for the 'Count Me In' energy conservation challenge. The City of Cambridge and Cambridge and North Dumfries Hydro are partnering to get the word out and invite citizens and business leaders to participate in the competition that will wind up on August 14, 2009.

"The City's philosophy is all about environmental consciousness and energy conservation," says Cambridge Mayor Doug Craig. "Sign up online to take the pledge to begin using energy conserving practices at home, school or work. It's about making an impact and every person can do that." People who register have a shot at daily prizes and the grand prize when the contest concludes on August 14th.

The challenge also provides easily applicable solutions that citizens can implement into their daily routines. 'Count Me In' offers 100 ideas for energy conservation that are ecologically and economically friendly.

"Energy is a valuable resource", says Cambridge and North Dumfries Hydro President John Grotheer. "We encourage and promote every opportunity that strengthens that message in our community. The 'Count Me In' challenge allows residents to join together, to be counted on to make a pledge to embrace energy saving habits. Enter the 'Count Me In' contest today at www.countmeinontario.ca Let's show Ontario the strength of our community."

There are many events around the province that are planned to raise awareness and generate enthusiasm and ideas towards energy conservation. For Cambridge, there's a special Movie Night slated for August 14th that not only includes image projection with HistoricCity Hall as a backdrop, but also offers a series of local prizes and information displays. Turn off those televisions and join in on this conservation-inspired event in Civic Square in downtown Galt at dusk featuring the movie Ferris Bueller's Day Off (PG-13). The event is free and be sure to bring your lawn chair.

"Wings of Paradise, the local butterfly conservatory, have graciously offered some family passes to be among the special prizes for Cambridge participants on movie night," says Wanda Schaefer-Stilling, Recreation Coordinator for the City. Wings of Paradise is an excellent example of an organization committed to energy conservation, both in terms of education programs and in their efforts to conserve. The building itself, for example, was built with energy conservation in mind and included installation of a highly efficient energy recovery unit that reduces greenhouse gas emissions by about 25 percent. The organization is also heavily involved in a program called 'Monarch Watch' working closely with the University of Kansas on Monarch research and conservation. Their Curator and Executive Director Adrienne Brewster was recently awarded an Imperiled Butterfly Conservation and Management scholarship from the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences.

Cambridge's participation in 'Count Me In' is another example of the City's focus on the environment and conservation. In March of 2008 and 2009, the City participated in Earth Hour in which all non-essential lights were shut off for one hour. In August, the City again plans to participate in the annual Blackout Day. This event also encourages energy conservation and awareness.

Related Links:

[Count ME In Ontario Website](#)

Enter The Program...And We all WIN

<http://www.cambridgenow.ca/npps/story.cfm?nppage=1557>