

COUNTRY ROADS – Nov. 2/04

“Are your energy bills too high?” the Cool Caledon folks ask. Are you kidding? When the oilman arrived last month to fill our 1000 gallon tank, he left a bill that my husband is currently recovering from. It has, however, spurred him to literally seal up the house for the coming months. I believe that I am allowed one window to open for fresh air this winter. His long-term plan to get us off the grid and on to solar/wind power has gone to the front burner, and we have an automatic thermostat control on order so that mornings at seven will be warm enough to emerge from under the covers.

It has to hit the pocketbook. As sad but true as this statement is, at least something spurs us and stirs us to wake up to the energy crisis that this planet is spinning into.

How lucky we are to be living in a region with neighbours who are concerned about this trend and dedicated to taking action to remedy it. This would be the Cool Caledon Task Force who, their director David Jobe admits, “never rest”. It was the fact of this organization that helped influence the judges who voted Caledon the ‘Greenest Town in Ontario’ two years running.

This month Cool Caledon will bring us the first ever Caledon Energy Show slated for Nov. 13th at the Brampton Fairgrounds (12942 Heart Lake Rd). This show is for everyone – home, business and farm owners. Who among us doesn’t want to reduce our energy bill? At this show we learn how. We get the win-win duo of saving money and cleaning our air.

Look for a wide range of energy products and services: hybrid /electric vehicles, wind and solar power solutions, geo-thermal ground source heating systems, Energy Star, and home building products and improvement seminars. Show highlights will be two seminars by Bill Kemp, sustainable living and renewable energy expert, offered at 10:30 am and 1:30 pm. Kemp’s latest book, *Smart Power: An Urban Guide to Renewable Energy and Efficiency*, has just been released and will be available at the show.

Jobe urges that this show is a tremendous opportunity to learn more about the best and latest in environmentally sustainable technology available in Southern Ontario. He notes that the timing could not be better.

“Six months ago when we started organizing this event, no one had any idea energy prices such as oil would increase so significantly. Our governments are beginning to hear public opinion about our energy situation, including the need for alternative sources to complement current supplies. We are pleased to offer our citizens and those of our neighbouring communities, a one-stop for renewable energy and conservation ideas. Now more than ever, it is important for all of us to save energy and keep more money in our own pockets. And we will all benefit from cleaner air.”

Just by attending the show you will be entered in a draw for an ‘EnerGuide for Houses’ home energy audit, donated by Metalon Technology.

Hydro One, The Town of Caledon, The Schad Foundation and Husky Injection Molding have generously sponsored this important event which runs from 10 am to 4 pm. on Saturday, November 13th.

We have to get serious about this energy thing, folks. Our planet is literally melting. We are the first generation to influence the climate and the last generation to escape the consequences. There are those who are doing something about it. The least we can do is support them on Nov. 13th; the best we can do is to join them.