



Ecological Stewardship

NEWS

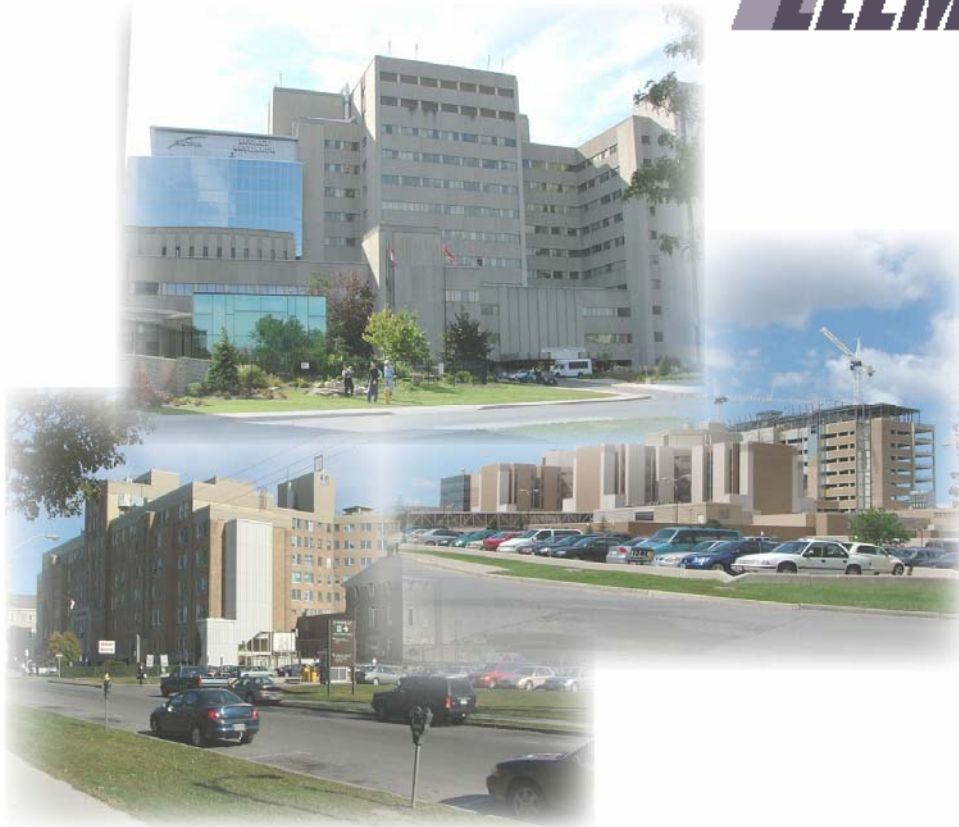
"understanding our impact... creating positive change"



London Health Sciences Centre

Issue 06
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ELEMENTS



"We hope that you find something useful to take from Elements and something to give back"

This issue

Engineering Services

Energy



Waste



Grounds



Procurement



Automobile **Idling** Campaign Underway

Avoiding unnecessary idling is one of the small steps that YOU can take to reduce your ecological impact. It may seem like one person idling for a minute or two wouldn't make any difference, but with combined efforts from millions of Canadians, we could reach significant greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions and keep our air clean.



Why is this important? As stated in the *Community of London Environmental Awareness and Reporting (CLEAR) Network*:

“Vehicles are the largest source (almost half) of smog-forming emissions within London, and over 85% of these are single-occupancy vehicles.”

Unnecessary idling creates GHGs which contribute to global warming, pollutes the air we breathe and costs drivers money in wasted fuel. Statistics Canada reports that after housing, more household dollars are spent on transportation than on food (14% on transportation versus 11% on food). Every second you are idling, you are wasting money. Within our own community, we can make a significant difference. Did you know that if every Londoner reduced idling by just 1 minute per day:

- **Over 1.5 million litres of gasoline would be saved per year**
- **\$1.9 million would be saved every year**
- **Greenhouse gas emissions would be reduced by almost 3,800 tonnes every year**

Starting this month LHSC is participating in an idling reduction project with the City of London, the Thames Region Ecological Association (TREA) and the Middlesex London Health Unit under Natural Resource Canada's *ecoEnergy for Personal Vehicles* program. Over the coming weeks and months keep your eyes open for marketing materials in the form of outdoor signage, posters and newsletter articles that will remind us of the importance of turning off our engines. Do your part to make a difference.



Plastics **Recycling** in Victoria Hospital Operating Rooms

The operating room at Victoria Hospital and the Ecological Stewardship program launched a plastics recycling program in September 2008.

New green recycling containers with custom labels for the collection of plastics have been installed in each of the 15 operating rooms. The O.R. at V.H. disposes over 20,000 plastic bottles and containers each year that until now were going out as general waste. This plastic is now being collected and recycled.



Gathered around the new recycling bin from left are Peggy Frew, Environmental Stewardship Specialist and members of the O.R. Unit Council, Barry Wistow, Sandi Walsh, Linda Chrissley, Chris Goss, Diana Chandler, Annette Noon and Bridget Rennison.

Fall Fertilization Recharges Roots

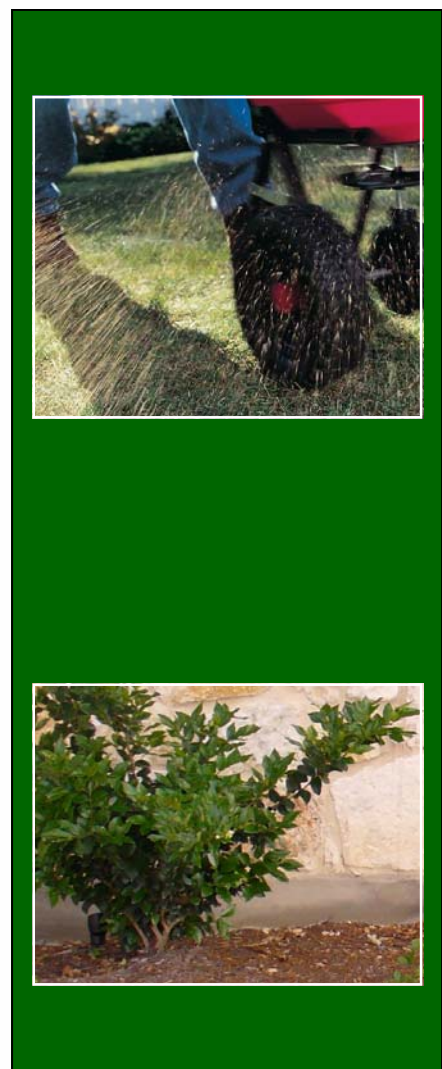


Turf, tree and shrub root systems power up plants for renewed growth every spring. But to be sure they have enough power in the spring, it's important to have them recharged every fall.



What makes Fall so important?

In the spring and summer, your entire landscape's energy goes into processing nutrients for top growth. But in the fall, top growth slows down and your plants start producing more roots and building up nutrient reserves. These reserves will make it possible for your plants to get a stronger, healthier start next spring. They'll also help your landscape handle the stresses of insects, disease and hot, dry weather throughout the next growing season.



Heavy Fall fertilization is key

In the fall, your lawn, trees and shrubs will make better use of large amounts of fertilizer than at any other time of year. Their root systems will expand to store sugars they convert from fertilizers applied at this time. For your turf, this will lead to earlier and richer green-up in the spring, with less of the unhealthy "surge" growth that requires heavy mowing and encourages disease problems. For your trees and shrubs, it will lead to improved health, increased blooming and better growth overall. Remember, fall fertilization is the best way to "jump start all of your landscape plants next spring. Make sure they get the big dose of fertilizer they need!



LHSC Hosts **EcoCare 2008** Conference



Just last week LHSC played a key role in the EcoCare 2008 Conference and Tradeshow - this was the first ever conference in Canada to speak directly to the link between healthcare and the environment. EcoCare presented both practical and innovative ways to encourage and inspire ecological stewardship within the Canadian Healthcare Sector.

Twenty three vendors showcasing environmentally preferable products for the healthcare sector were featured at the conference, where 100 delegates representing 40 hospitals across the country gathered to discuss and explore opportunities for ecological stewardship within their own facilities.

Speaking on behalf of LHSC's Ecological Stewardship Team was Phil Renaud, Director of Engineering and Team Leader for the Ecological Stewardship Program, who discussed LHSC's experience with the Ecological Footprint and how it has inspired positive change.

Also speaking at the conference was Toby O'Hara, Manager of Logistics and Strategic Sourcing for HMMS, who encouraged other healthcare facilities to start including environmental criteria into purchasing processes and decisions.

This conference proved to be a great success as many delegates left determined to start green teams in their own hospitals, and explore some of the many green initiatives discussed throughout the duration of the conference.