

# home *and* COMMUNITY

community news, home tips and more, brought to you by Cathy Erskine, Sales Representative

## don't miss...

Burlington's **MOVIES UNDER THE STARS EVENT**, presented by Tim Hortons, offers free outdoor movies taking place all summer long at various local parks. For more information visit [www.burlington.ca](http://www.burlington.ca).

## 10 steps to garage sale success!

If you're planning a move this summer, a garage sale is an awesome way to cut down on the clutter in your home while making some extra cash. But a successful sale isn't an affair you can throw together overnight. To make sure your garage sale is stress-free AND lucrative, plan well in advance, spread the word around your neighbourhood and be prepared for a very busy day!

Here are some tips for a successful sale:

1. Begin setting aside items to be included in the sale weeks in advance. Stop in every room in your home and consider which items you don't want to pack, your kids have outgrown or are no longer used.

2. Talk to your neighbours to see if they are interested in a street or neighbourhood sale. These types of events tend to attract greater crowds.

3. Advertise well. You can have the best stuff in town for sale, but if people don't hear about

it, they won't show up! Create a Facebook page, advertise on Kijiji, take out an ad in your local paper and put up a few signs around town.

4. Speaking of signs...it's great to get the kids involved in your sale, but when it comes to making signs, it's a job better suited to an adult or older teen. Your address should be written in big, legible letters and arrows can really help draw in the crowds. Choose strategic spots to place your signs that will attract shoppers from main streets. (Good garage sale etiquette also requires you to remove and dispose of your signs after your sale.)

5. Time it right. It's no secret that seasoned garage sale shoppers are early birds. Have everything set up and be ready to sell no later than 8 a.m. Plan to wrap things up around noon or 1 p.m. before it gets too hot.

6. When it comes to pricing, it's your choice

whether or not to price items individually or leave everything up for negotiation. Pricing each item is a lot of work but some shoppers won't bother asking if they don't see a price. As a very general guideline, price items at a third of what you paid for them.

7. Make an effort to make everything look appealing. Clean up kid's toys, dust off household items, wash any clothing or cloth items and arrange items neatly.

8. Be sure to have plenty of change! Fives, toonies and loonies will be needed.

9. Have an adult helper. When it gets busy, people won't want to wait around while you're dealing with another customer.

10. Let younger children get involved by setting up a lemonade stand. It's a great way for them to earn their own money and will help shoppers cool off on a hot day!

## Summer fun in Burlington

No matter what the season, there's always plenty of opportunity for great family fun in Burlington, which was once again voted one of the top three mid-sized cities in Canada! With its spectacular waterfront, beautiful natural areas and thriving downtown, there's lots of ways to get out there and enjoy all the summer season has to offer.

For those blistering hot days, pack a picnic lunch and head to Bronte Creek Provincial Park, home to one of Canada's largest outdoor pools. Ideal for families and kids of all ages, this massive pool is designed for wading with a starting depth of just a few centimeters, gradually deepening to two metres in the centre. Lifeguards are always on duty and the pool is surrounded by grassy, shaded and sunny areas, perfect for lunch and snack breaks in between swims. You can also spend a weekend camping close to home at Bronte Creek Provincial Park or spend the day fishing, bird watching, hiking or cycling.

Spencer Smith Park is a great place to spend the day, with the Dofasco Waterjet Plaza for the little ones to cool off, a great playground and The Bite Café for a quick and tasty lunch or dinner.

If you're looking for sandy fun, head to Beach-

way Park. One of the city's hidden gems, Beachway Park features a pavilion and multi-use trails for walking, jogging, skating and biking, starting at Spencer Smith Park. The pavilion provides change rooms, outdoor showers and seasonal concession facilities, including the Snack Shack and year-round washrooms. Head out onto the water with a paddleboat or stand-up paddle board rental from Burlington Beach Rentals, located in the historic Beachway Park Pump House at 1094 Lakeshore Rd.

For those rainy days or when it's just too hot to stay outdoors, visit one of Burlington's museums.

The Ireland House and Joseph Brant Museum are open all summer long with some exciting events planned, great camps for kids and some fascinating exhibits. Visit <https://museumsfburlington.com> for more information.

If you're a garden lover, discover the many events this summer at Royal Botanical Gardens. From Magic and Mischief: The Enchanted Garden Weekend to Edible Weekends, there's something happening every Saturday and Sunday at the Gardens. Enjoy Country Music Nights every Tuesday and Red-Hot Jazz and Cool Blues every Wednesday evening. Visit [www.rbg.ca](http://www.rbg.ca).



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## don't miss...

**SUMMER CONCERTS IN THE PARK** will continue all summer long at the Central Park Bandshell on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. Be sure to bring along a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy the warm weather and great music! For a listing of performers visit [www.burlington.ca/concerts](http://www.burlington.ca/concerts).

## Banish bugs from your backyard and home

Pesky insects are a minor summer annoyance that most of us are willing to put up with after a long winter season. But the fewer insects the better! If you'd rather skip the harsh chemicals and use an all-natural deterrent to banish bugs from your home and on your patio, try some of these simple solutions.

No one wants to be swatting away mosquitoes while enjoying a meal or fire in the backyard. A good first step is to surround your seating area with plants that repel bugs. Feverfew, with its pretty, daisy-like blossoms, is great for keeping mosquitoes and other biting insects away. Mosquitoes also steer clear of lavender, so pairing feverfew and lavender plants together in clusters around your deck and seating area will not only look gorgeous but also repel these pesky bugs. Citronella grass can also be added in for a punch of green and even more mosquito-fighting power. Other insect repelling plants include marigold, pennyroyal, rosemary and lemon balm.

When it comes to keeping mosquitoes off your body, some people can't stand the smell of traditional bug repellent. There are countless natural remedies out there that claim to work – try a couple and see which one works for you!

- Fabric softener sheets rubbed on exposed skin (use caution, this may irritate sensitive skin)
- Dab some Vick's VapoRub on your ankles, elbows, inner wrists and neck (steer clear of any mi-



nor cuts)

- Make a homemade mosquito repellent with distilled water, witch hazel and a few drops of essential oil - citronella, eucalyptus, tea tree oil and lemongrass are all said to work well

The wasp is another backyard bug that can get out of hand. Since they are attracted to sweet drinks and sugary food, try to keep garbage well secured and drinks and food covered. If you have a wasp problem but haven't located the nest, make a homemade wasp trap. Check out [www.thegardenglove.com/diy-wasp-solutions/](http://www.thegardenglove.com/diy-wasp-solutions/) for some simple solutions.

Flies are dirty, bothersome insects – and fast too.

There's nothing worse than misplacing your flyswatter when one of these pests is circling your head at the dinner table! Prevent entry into your home by keeping screens closed and kitchen work areas clean. Wipe down counters and don't leave exposed food out. Keep the garbage covered at all times.

Finally, if ants have found a way into your home, the first step is to locate their point of entry and block it off. You can use petroleum jelly or duct tape to clog small cracks or holes. For a natural, chemical free solution, black pepper and baby powder are both known to deter ants. Pet owners will want to opt for baby powder.

## Go eco-friendly with your home renovation

Being kind to the environment is on the minds of many these days. If you're planning a renovation at your home this summer, there are many ways that you can reduce your carbon footprint and maybe even save some money.

Here are some tips for "greening" up your reno:

**Buy local** – Choose suppliers that are close to your home and who sell local products to help reduce the carbon emissions that are produced during transportation.

**Follow the three 'R's** – Reduce, reuse and recycle! Before shelling out the big bucks to buy brand new, check out online classified ads, antique stores, flea markets or locate a Habitat for Humanity ReStore in your community. You can find everything

from sinks to lighting fixtures, paint, windows, lumber and more at a ReStore – the stock is constantly changing. As an added bonus, you can feel good knowing that your money will go toward building a home for a well deserving family!

**Choose Energy Star rated appliances** - Upgrading appliances to Energy Star rated models can save you up to 40 percent annually on your electric bill. Keep an eye on the labels when shopping for refrigerators, ovens, dishwashers, washers and dryers to determine if they are Energy Star rated.

**Eco-friendly insulation** – During a major reno when studs are exposed, it's probably in your best interest to replace the insulation, particularly in an older home. First you'll need to find out the R-value

of your current insulation – this is a measure of thermal resistance, or how much heat passes through the insulation. Visit the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation website at <http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca> for a handy chart explaining the many types of insulation on the market and their R-value.

**Go low with paint** – Low VOC, that is. Did you know that the typical household paint contains more than 10,000 chemicals? Some are quite hazardous, particularly volatile organic compounds or VOCs. Many popular paint manufacturers now offer low and zero VOC products, so choose wisely. Low VOC paints are typically around the same price point as standard paints so it just makes sense to make the switch!