



# Kingston Sustainability Centre

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## Spring Has Sprung!

Time to celebrate! We have just received our 2300<sup>th</sup> visitor to The Kingston Sustainability Centre for 2010. Our goal is to bring in 12,000 visitors this calendar year! Thank you Kingston for your wonderful support and please continue to tell your family and friends.

## New Partners

The KSC would like to thank our current and renewing partners for their wonderful support, as well as introduce our new partner for March - **Independent Financial Planning Group**

## What's New?

**Snake Man:** Matt Ellerbeck, aka "Snake Man", has become our Kingston Sustainability Centre resident attracting new and returning fans into the centre to broaden their knowledge on the importance of snakes in our ecosystem (and for some, conquer their fears). Snake Man has attracted over 1200 visitors. We are grateful for his generosity, passion and ability to bring more Kingstonians into the KSC. Find out more about Snake Man at <http://snakeconserve101@weebly.com>

**Bird Identification Course:** For six Saturdays in our community classroom, Terry Sprague is teaching bird savvy locals how to identify our winged friends. Terry is a seasoned Naturalist who offers spring and summer birding programs out of Napanee.

**The Sound of Silence – Lighting Retrofit at KSC:** March has been the month when the buzz finally stopped. All fluorescent lights in the centre have been retrofitted to more energy efficient technology. We would like to thank Brent Barker, owner of Bar Electric, for doing the installation, and Rick Green of NEDCO/Rexel for donating the tubes and ballasts. We will save 30% on our annual electricity consumption.

**Saving More Energy:** Thank you to Mike Tiffe, owner of Tab Mechanical, for donating and installing a programmable thermostat in our centre. We are saving energy and dollars!

**Staff:** Late February we welcomed a new intern to the centre. Katie McKenzie comes to us from a primary school teaching background. Katie plans to create and deliver sustainability education programs to various groups within the community.

## **Education:**

Our youngest visitors to the Community Classroom yet! First Avenue Public School's Kindergartners gathered at the centre with their teachers and parent helpers. Students had an opportunity to learn valuable information from three of our community experts. Derek Ochej from the City of Kingston talked with the children about the importance of recycling the proper way. Snake Man, Matt Ellerbeck, got the children up close and personal with some important and gentle creatures. Gerrie Baker (Worm Lady) came to share her passion for vermicomposting with the children. The visit was a tremendous

success and a lot of fun for all involved! We plan to deliver more education programs at the centre utilizing our community experts as well as creating some programs of our own.

## **Community Classroom Bookings:**

- **Hearthmakers** held an evening information session for savvy homeowners looking to take advantage of Government Grants for making their homes more energy efficient.
- **Kingston Environmental Friendly Network, Living Cities Company and The Earth Hour Event Committee** are making use of our community classroom for meetings, networking and support gatherings.

**Community Outreach:** Our intern Dan Hendry, inspired a large audience of folks interested in new career options at the KEYS Green Careers Day down at Portsmouth Olympic Harbour.

## What's Coming up?

**Tours:** We are available for tours – make your booking now! This month we will have our second visit from The Community Living Group.

**Community Classroom:** We are taking bookings for the use of our classroom space. If you are an expert or know an expert under the realm of sustainability and needing a space for workshops, info sessions, courses, etc – let us know!

**BEd Students:** Teachers are coming to the Sustainability Centre! Three students of Queen's Bachelor of Education program will be fulfilling an alternative teaching practicum at the centre. During their time here, they will help develop and execute sustainability education programs that will become a legacy for the centre.

**Earth Hour:** Be sure to come down to Springer Market Square on March 27<sup>th</sup> 7-10pm for the Earth Hour Unplugged Event. The KSC has chosen two youth speakers to present a message on sustainability. The chosen speakers were two of many submissions from local youth in both English and French. Thank you to Trailhead and the City of Kingston for speech competition prizes.

**Media:** Watch Newswatch at 5:30 on CKWS from March 23-27. Dan and Katie have created important segments on sustainability leading up to Earth Hour.

**Let's Keep Growing Kingston!**

**From Dan & Katie**