

The Standard

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Province recognizes energy conservation at Sheridan Park

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Peter Love wishes we could all be as miserly as students at Sheridan Park Public School.

The province's chief energy conservation officer recognized the St. Catharines school Thursday for its stingy electricity use with a special certificate Thursday.

"I just want to give a big thank you to everyone," said Love, who praised students and staff for promoting energy conservation so energetically.

Love reminded students that next week is Energy Conservation Week, and urged them to talk to their parents about energy-efficient lightbulbs, smart meters and a program through Horizon Utilities that will cart away old, energy-sucking refrigerators for free.

"Your parents will probably be confused by all these things," Love said, to laughter from the crowd of students. "I hope that you will help them."

Love arrived at the north-end school in a "Tribrid," a fuel-efficient vehicle that features solar panels on the roof.

Students gave Love the "green carpet" treatment and showed him a YouTube video they made about their power-saving efforts, including an energy audit that cut school electricity use by 24 per cent in April.

The video entry received an honourable mention in the World Wildlife Fund's Power Down For The Planet Video Challenge, principal JoAnna Roberto said.

The school's "Ecohawk" team later took Love to the public school board head office, where they audited energy use in the building.

"Turning off lights when we go out for recess, powering down computers when they're not in use, all these things make a difference," Grade 7 Ecohawk Rachel Wiebe said.

"When we do that, we know we really are saving money and the environment."

To join the energy conservation week "Count Me In" challenge, visit www.energyconservationweek.ca.

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