

EcoCaledon to host repair cafe during Waste Reduction Week

By Zachary Roman

Repairing and reusing items is one of the best ways to reduce waste.

That's why local non-profit EcoCaledon is hosting another of its repair cafes to mark Waste Reduction Week. It's happening on October 22 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 6215 Old Church Road in Caledon East.

At a repair cafe, EcoCaledon's volunteers can fix clothing, small appliances, chinaware, wood items, toys, and sharpen and rehandle tools. This time around, people can also bring fabric scraps and learn how to make their own headband or scrunchie.

For more specifics or to ask any questions, those interested can email repaircafe@ecocalledon.org.

Lucrezia Chiappetta, co-chair of EcoCaledon, explained waste reduction week is all about promoting a circular economy ? a model of production and consumption where people try to share, reuse, repair, refurbish and recycle existing materials and products for as long as possible.

The Region of Peel is going to be at the repair cafe, and Chiappetta said they're hoping to remind people about recycling basics.

Unfortunately, during the pandemic, Chiappetta said the Region saw much more contamination in recycling, meaning more items were not going where they're supposed to go. The Town of Caledon will also be at the cafe to discuss its Resilient Caledon plan and sustainability resources for residents. The Caledon Public Library will also be in attendance with programming.

?A lot of the fixers that attended the last repair cafe will be in attendance again, so there'll be different options, whether it's small electronics or clothing and things like that,? said Chiappetta. ?At the end of the day, it's a big part of the picture when we try to make this transition over to a circular economy.?

Waste reduction week happens on the third week of October each year in Canada. It was started in 2001 by a group called the Circular Innovation Council ? formerly known as the Recycling Council of Ontario ? which has since expanded the waste reduction week initiative to make October Circular Economy Month.

According to the Circular Innovation Council, waste reduction week started with a focus on recycling and transformed into Canada's largest waste reduction public awareness campaign. ?[It] educates, promotes, and celebrates individual and collective environmental efforts and achievements while encouraging new and innovative ideas,? says the Council. ?For 20 years, waste reduction week has focused on the concepts of waste reduction and recycling as a key component of our transition to a circular economy? Circular Innovation Council is extending waste reduction week beyond the third week of October? to educate and excite Canadians about the opportunities and benefits of the circular economy.?