

I thought you might like to know

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Brampton-Springdale



April / May 2009

Emergency Preparedness Week May 3rd – 9th, 2009

The goal of Emergency Preparedness week is to increase awareness and encourage every Ontarian to build a 72-hour emergency survival kit and prepare a family emergency plan.

While emergency preparedness measures are more focused on natural disasters, many of the same principles can be applied to other types of emergencies such as a power outage or being in isolation due to a health-related emergency. For more information visit:

www.ontario.ca/emo or www.brampton.ca/emergency_measures.

My constituency office will have free information kits available during this week.

The kit includes:

- Emergency survival kit fridge magnet
- Emergency survival kit bookmark
- Emergency Management Ontario Children's Activity Sheet
- Emergency Preparedness Guide for People with Disabilities / Special Needs
- Emergency preparedness poster



SECONDARY SCHOOL BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION

The Brampton Business Plan Competition (Biz Plan) is an opportunity for Ontario High School students to create a business plan and compete with their peers throughout the Province for cash awards. For further information call [Brampton Small Business & Enterprise Centre](tel:905-874-2650) at 905-874-2650.

Deadline for submissions: Friday, May 22, 2009 @ 4:30 p.m.

Plans must be submitted electronically to: susan.vasey@brampton.ca

Summer Company – Program Extended

This student entrepreneurship program is **being expanded**, with additional spaces and an **extended deadline**. All the information you need to get started can be found online at www.ontario.ca/summercompany. Or call Jennifer Vivian at the *Brampton Small Business Enterprise Centre*: 905-874-2632.

Extended deadline for applications to the program: May 25th, 2009

Ontario Child Benefit

Introduced in March 2007, this program is providing help to those on social assistance and those working in low-income jobs - with the costs of raising their children; and is a key part of Ontario's *Poverty Reduction Strategy*.

Our recent Budget proposed an increase **from \$600 per year to a maximum of \$1,100 per child, annually**. That would be an increase to \$92 a month, **starting this July**. All Ontario families earning less than \$20,000 will receive the full benefits.

Parents don't need to apply for the Ontario Child Benefit (OCB), but eligibility is based on family income, so they must:

- Live in Ontario;
- Have a child under age 18;
- File income taxes in a timely fashion;
- Register for the Canada Child Tax Benefit.

The OCB is delivered for the province by the Canada Revenue Agency and appears on the same cheque as the Canada Child Tax Benefit and the National Child Benefit Supplement.

For more information contact the Ministry of Children and Youth Services toll-free at 1-866-821-7770; TTY: 1-800-387-5559;

or visit their website at: www.gov.on.ca/children/english/programs/ocb.

DID YOU KNOW?

- **Ontario Home Energy Savings Program.**
A Home Energy Audit shows how your home uses energy and where it is being leaked. The *Home Energy Retrofit Program* awards owners with rebates for home energy improvements. For more information visit: www.homeenergyontario.ca
- **Cosmetic Pesticide ban now in effect.**
Approximately 250 pesticide products are now banned for sale and for cosmetic uses. For tips on caring for lawns and gardens using greener alternatives, visit the Ministry of the Environment's website at: www.gov.on.ca/additup.
- **Road Safety and Distracted Driver Legislation Passed**
The Ontario Legislature has passed the *Road Safety Act, 2009* to make our roads safer. The new legislation will better protect young drivers and increase penalties for drinking drivers. Also passed recently, was the *Countering Distracted Driving & Promoting Green Transportation Act, 2009*. This legislation will ban the use of cellphone and communication devices for persons behind the wheel. Visit the Ministry of Transportation website for full details: www.mto.gov.on.ca.

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