

**MID-WINTER
FINAL CLEARANCE**

**SAVE UP TO
70%**

**STOREWIDE
ON ALL WINTER FASHION**

**ALAN
BROWNS**
BROCKVILLE

NEWS LOCAL

Local parents, babies needed for world record diaper change

THOMAS LEE, FOR THE RECORDER AND TIMES

Thursday, April 19, 2012 12:10:06 EDT PM



THOMAS LEE for The Recorder And Times Kristie McComb holds her 17-day-old baby Oscar Haywood-Farmer in front of a colourful array of cloth diapers on her clothesline. McComb, an advocate for the environmental and comfort benefits of cloth diapers over disposables, is organizing an event in Brockville this weekend as part of the second annual 'Great Diaper Change' - a worldwide attempt to break the Guinness record for the number of cloth diapers simultaneously changed at one time.

A local woman wants to help break a world record -while advocating for parents to give the environment a break -by hosting a Great Cloth Diaper Change event in Brockville.

Event organizer Kristie McComb is a big believer in the value of cloth diapers both for children's comfort and the health of the environment. She wants to make Brockville part of the Great Cloth Diaper Change, an attempt to break the world record for the most cloth diapers -5,026, set last year -changed at one time.

This year, 304 sites in 16 countries are participating. So far, 18 local parent-baby pairs have signed up to simultaneously change cloth diapers at noon on Saturday at St. Lawrence Anglican Church in Brockville, but McComb says at least 28 pairs are required in order for the local event to count toward the record. She's hoping the buzz around Earth Day this weekend convinces more environmentally- conscious parents to join in the attempt.

"I organized it last year, but this will be my first changing somebody," said McComb, who runs a home business selling cloth diapers.

"We used them on our first daughter and when we moved down here, there was no one to buy them from, so I started selling them," said McComb.

The Great Diaper Change is held during 'Cloth Diaper Awareness Week.' The event is used by advocates to spread awareness about cloth diapers, which proponents note are washable and reusable compared to standard disposable diapers, billions of which enter landfills each year where they are slow to decompose.

"There's less waste with cloth diapers; you use 20 to 30 instead of thousands," said McComb.

There are differences of opinion about whether cloth diapers really do help the environment to the extent proponents claim. A 2005 study done by Britain's Environment Agency concluded there was "no significant difference" between the impact of cloth and disposable diapers. However, critics have said that study did not take into account the new, more energy-and water-efficient washing machines.

"If disposable diapers are better for the environment, then why aren't we wearing disposable clothes?" asks McComb.

Anyone interested in participating in the weekend event can contact McComb at 613-213-8685.