



GREENWORKS



Fall 2010 Volume 4, Issue 3

Page 1

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ELECTION RUMINATIONS - QUESTIONS TO ALL CANDIDATES

Around election time, we tend to think about all the problems we face and ruminate on issues that bother us. I, for one, have become truly fed up with the antiquated, inefficient methods being employed to deal with such things as our waste and to provide us with energy. Some people got in a snit about Ontario buying wind turbines by Samsung of Korea. But have we developed a green technology policy and invested billions of dollars in it? <http://www.tem.fi/files/25527/Green-Technology-in-Korea.pdf>. Just like the big three auto makers, when we lag behind, we hamper our economic resilience. The status quo of urban sprawl at the expense of the environment is another problem. Debbie Schaefer's article in our last newsletter on a clean air bylaw is also worth a question, as is Jeff Laidlaw's article in this issue on page 3 making a case for collective age replacement of trees. Now wouldn't it be a near perfect world if every candidate answered YES to the questions below, and then walked the talk?

CLEANER AIR

With the prospect of a 34% efficiency gas-fired peaker plant to be built in York Region while the air quality remains consistently poorer than industrial centres such as Hamilton and Oshawa, if elected to council would you endorse a clean air bylaw which would protect the health and safety of your constituents from air pollution by monitoring and putting in place measures to reduce toxic air emissions?

TREES – COLLECTIVE AGE REPLACEMENT

In order to meet our tree cover targets in York Region, and realizing the vital role that trees play in mitigating the effects of climate change, if elected to council would you endorse a collective age replacement tree planting strategy whereby the age of trees removed for any purpose would be replaced by the same cumulative age? As an example, 10, 5year old saplings would replace a 50year old tree.

INVESTING IN GREEN TECHNOLOGY

In light of the inefficiency of many of the technologies that are currently in place, such a large scale composting and gas-fired peaker plants, if elected to council would you endorse municipal and regional investment in up to date green technology, green research and local green jobs?

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Urban sprawl in the form of single-family dwellings and automobile focused suburban design continues to be the predominant mode of development. If elected to council, would you endorse and support a more compact built form for all new communities where development is planned which would include integrating smaller, affordable units into the housing mix that would appeal to a broader demographic and which would encompass application of a checklist of sustainability features, among them:

- Close proximity to public transit
- LEED certification
- Geothermal heating and cooling
- Tankless or solar water heater
- Triple pane argon filled windows
- Energy Star appliances
- 3L high efficiency flush toilets
- LED lighting
- Rain water harvest or grey water capture and recycling
- Mixed uses, including shopping, amenities and employment
- One foot of top soil replaced on property
- Permeable paving

Our grandchildren are depending on us,

Gloria Marsh

In this issue

Message From the Executive Director	1
Life the Lid Campaign	2
Subsidized Backyard Tree Planting Program in York Region	2
Trees and a Collective Age Replacement Strategy.....	3
Phantom Load, Learn to Conserve and Refridgerator Roundup	4
Transition Town Movement.....	5
New Solution for Carbon Reporting	6
Community Power Coming to York Region	6
Seeds of Change Break New Ground	7
Donating to YREA and Donor Thanks.....	8



Lift the Lid Campaign

Raising awareness about water pollution and what you should know and can do to help.

If where you live or work has been built in the last 15 years, chances are there is a device on your property underground to help clean the storm water. This includes commercial, industrial and multi-family dwellings such as condominiums and apartment buildings.

What is this device?

It is called an **oil and grit separator** and was a requirement of the Ministry of the Environment when the site was developed.

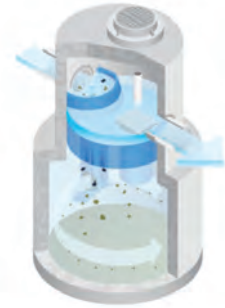
It is also a requirement of the ministry to maintain this device. The sole purpose of an oil and grit separator is to capture solids and liquids that don't belong in our streams and rivers. To function properly they need to be inspected on a regular basis and as per manufacturer recommendations. It is through these inspections that you will find out when your unit needs cleaning.

What if you don't maintain it?

It is just like a car. If you don't maintain it, it will cease to function properly. You will be in non-compliance with your site service agreement and the device will overflow allowing all the toxins to spill into our waterways.

What toxins are we talking about?

Hydrocarbons from oil, fuel and tire wear; heavy metals from tire wear, brake wear, and the breakdown of asphalt and roofing products.



For more information contact
Hal Stratford
Technical Resource Manager
Stormceptor
Hanson Pipe & Precast
Cambridge Plant
T: 888-888-3222 X 238
E: hal.stratford@hanson.com



SUBSIDIZED BACKYARD TREE PLANTING PROGRAM AVAILABLE IN YORK REGION

LEAF <http://yourleaf.org/> (Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests) has officially launched its "Do-It-Yourself Backyard Tree Planting Program" in central and northern York Region. The program is supported by York Region, Ontario Power Generation and the Ontario Power Authority.

The Do-It-Yourself Backyard Tree Planting Program <http://www.yourleaf.org/lesson/overview-program> is an alternative model that affordably gets native trees and shrubs planted on residential properties. LEAF offers education and personalized advice through online videos and interactive tools to residents of central and northern York Region (Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, King Township, Newmarket, and Whitchurch-Stouffville).

This program compliments LEAF's Full Service Backyard Tree Planting Program <http://www.yourleaf.org/home-owners> where LEAF staff visit each household to do an in-person consultation. This program is currently offered to residents of southern York Region and Toronto.

YORK REGION TREE TENDERS VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM BEGINS SEPTEMBER 2

If you've always wanted to learn more about how trees work, tree planting and tree care, LEAF's Tree Tenders Volunteer Training Program <http://www.yourleaf.org/tree-tenders-volunteer-training-program> provides 15 hours of basic arboriculture training which includes a combination of indoor and outdoor instruction. Courses in York Region begin Thursday, September 2 at the Rouge River Community Centre in Markham.



TREES AND A COLLECTIVE AGE REPLACEMENT STRATEGY

By Jeff Laidlaw, Councillor King Township



I was in a council meeting the other day reviewing a plan of subdivision where a tract of land, which included some wonderful old deciduous trees and an apple orchard was to be stripped, leveled and subsequently developed for residential purposes.

Included was a landscape/tree planting plan. The first thing that struck me was the cutting down of the apple orchard and mature deciduous trees and the replacement of these with saplings and a great deal of coniferous tree stock. The point was made that this development plan called for a two to one replacement, which I was led to believe was an exceptional ratio within York Region. Staff and a number of politicians bought in to this as a lot of good news.

My perception was entirely different. Assuming the plantings are actually done and the trees survive - in about 60 or 70 years the land may have something of a similar appearance to what existed prior to stripping. In the interim, over 150 mature trees will be cut down which collectively have taken about 15,000 years to grow. These will be replaced with 300 saplings with a collective age of about 1,500 years or 1/10th of what's to be removed. What will be planted may or may not survive in the mostly subsoil and 3" or 4" of topsoil the developer deems to put back. In my lifetime, the landscape will never look as good as it did prior to its development.

With York Region's continued failure, despite concerted efforts, to reach a target within York Region, of 25% tree coverage, I believe there is a solid and legitimate basis to look to the development industry, in places like King Township, where land is still available and open, to do considerably better than a 2 for 1 ratio. My concept is relatively simple. If developers cut down trees

with a collective age of 15,000 years (as in the example above), they must replace that cutting with enough trees to make up the same collective age. Thus, if we are looking at 5year old saplings, then they must plant 3,000 of these 5year old trees. Further, if the trees cannot all be accommodated within the land area being developed, then the developer must supply appropriate land within close proximity to the land being stripped for the sole purpose of planting the remaining tree stock.

Will a developer cooperate? They will no doubt argue about the costs, and the consumption of land that can/should (in their view) be used for other purposes, but the reality becomes more apparent every day that we need to do things differently. We must look to more stringent guidelines where the environment is concerned. Perhaps, with these in place we may achieve the conservative tree coverage targets York Region states they are looking for.

Advertisement

- TREE & SHRUB PRUNING
- INSECT & DISEASE CONTROL
- PLANTING & TRANSPLANTING
- TREE & STUMP REMOVAL
- DEEP ROOT FERTILIZING

Derek W. Welsh
I.S.A. Certified Arborist
#ON-0129A

AUTHENTIC TREE CARE INC.

1-888-366-CARE 416-990-CARE



GREENWORKS



Fall 2010 Volume 4, Issue 3

Page 4

ARE YOU BEING HAUNTED BY PHANTOM LOAD?

There are devices in your home that are drawing energy even when they are not being used. A phantom load is defined as power used by electrical devices when they are on standby or supposed to be turned off.

How can you spot those phantoms? Look for a red or green light - this means the power is flowing to that device. Other phantoms are those with "instant on" functions, remote control receivers or devices with a stand by light or clock. Examples include televisions, home theatre system, DVD player, computer, monitor, printer, scanner and rechargeable devices such as MP3 players, cell phones, battery chargers, iPod chargers and game consoles.

You don't run your car 24/7, so why would you do so with in home devices? For every item that is left on standby in your home, the cost amounts to approximately \$2 per year per item - this can add up!

How can you reduce your phantom power? Use power bars with a timer or auto shut off and make sure these devices are off during periods of inactivity. By reducing this unnecessary power use, you can help save up to 10% on your electricity consumption. For more info on phantom power and other conservation tips, visit www.powerstream.ca/conservation

"Learn to CONSERVE"
Working with Smart Meters and Time-of-Use Rates!

ATTEND A FREE WORKSHOP

- Would you like to save money and help our environment?
- Are you interested in learning more about smart meters?

LEARN TO CONSERVE WORKSHOPS

Attend a FREE Learn to Conserve workshop where you will learn about time-of-use rates, energy saving programs, and home conservation strategies. Also, you can learn how to save energy by cooking with a microwave instead of an oven through a live cooking demonstration. Learn to Conserve Workshops take place from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the dates and locations listed below.

To register please call 1-866-337-8089 or email learntoconserve@powerstream.ca.

October 6 • East Bayfield Community Centre, Multipurpose Room, 80 Livingstone Street East, Barrie

October 27 • Southshore Community Centre, 205 Lakeshore Drive, Barrie

November 10 • Markham District Veterans Assn, 7 Washington Street, Markham

GREAT REFRIGERATOR ROUNDUP

Do you still have an old fridge sitting in the basement? If that fridge is over 15 years old, getting rid of it could save over \$150 a year on your electricity bill. Make an appointment today with The Great Refrigerator Roundup. We'll come to your home and take it away for free and recycle it - ensuring that it will never guzzle electricity again. Full sized fridges and freezers qualify if they are 15 years old or more, in working condition and between 10 and 27 cubic feet. Book online at www.everykilowattcounts.ca/roundup or Call 1-877-797-9473.



Save up to **\$150 per year** on your electricity bill when you get rid of your old fridge





THE TRANSITION TOWN MOVEMENT IS COMING OUR WAY

By Brenda Hogg, Regional and Local Councillor, Town of Richmond Hill

Imagine your life without oil or gas. How would we heat our homes or fuel our cars? Many plastics, paints, pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, electronic components, and other essential items are derived from oil. But oil is a finite, non-renewable resource which means that eventually, we will quite simply run out. Not in your lifetime? Perhaps, but there are many scientists worldwide who are deeply concerned with our dependence on oil and our need to make the transition to renewable energy sources at the same time as we develop local economic resilience to the changes ahead of us.

This is where Sue McKee, a promoter of 'Transition Towns' comes in to my life. Both she and Gloria Marsh, Executive Director of the York Region Environmental Alliance requested a Town resolution to recognize the value of the Transition Towns Movement. This is a community based, cultural phenomenon which is growing by leaps and bounds. The ethos of it states: We can change and improve the course of our ecological and economic path. With shared experiences and education, we can help our local economy as it moves through a transition from an oil-based economy to the new, green economy. We are stronger together.

Residents do not want to wait for governments and private companies to join ranks and provide safe, reliable public transit at billions of dollars or wait for car companies to re-tool so they might build cheaper hybrid vehicles. They do not want to wait for government and private industry to create enough alternate sources of energy producing infrastructure such as wind turbines and solar panels so that we might heat and light our houses. People are taking action now. In aid of the Transition Towns Movement, I will be hosting an informal event in September. Sue, Gloria and a host of other genuinely caring people will be there to share experiences and challenge each other to build our conservation-based community together. The Town of Richmond Hill has just joined the Transition Towns Movement. You are welcome to join us. Call me at 905-770-3386 for the details.

This article previously appeared in the Richmond Hill Post. It has been reprinted here with permission from the author.

For information on Transition York Region initiative, visit <http://www.transitionyorkregion.org>.

TRANSITION EVENTS

TRANSITION MIXER

September 14, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Falcon and Firkin
10300 Yonge St. Richmond Hill, ON

TRANSITION BARRIE GRAND UNLEASHING

September 25, 1 pm - 7:30 pm, dinner at 5:30 pm
Chappell Farms Hwy 11 and Hwy 93 in Oro just north of Barrie
Cost: \$10, children under 2 free
<http://www.transitionbarrie.org/>

PLANNING FOR ACTION – TRANSITION WORKING GROUPS

September 26m 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Richmond Hill Central Library, rooms A & B
Yonge St & Major Mackenzie Drive, Richmond Hill
To register contact Fiona@yrea.org

GREEN CONNECTIONS - SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS CONFERENCE

October 18, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm presentations, networking, trade show
Transition Town Talk, 11:00 am
Earth Rangers, Kortright Centre
9520 Pine Valley Drive, Woodbridge, ON
<http://www.green-connections.com>

Advertisement



Reduce your costs and help the environment.



- The highest quality ink and toner cartridge refills
- 100% satisfaction guarantee • Substantially lower prices
- Free pick-up and delivery for qualified businesses

**Winner of The Newmarket Chamber of Commerce
New Business of the Year Award**

16715 Yonge Street, Unit #21, Newmarket
(SE corner Mulock at Yonge)

905-954-3828 • newmarket@cartridgeworld.ca

\$2 OFF

YOUR REFILL ORDER
Minimum \$10 purchase.
1 coupon per purchase.
Cannot be combined with any other offers.
Expires February 28, 2010.

\$5 OFF

YOUR REFILL ORDER
Minimum \$50 purchase.
1 coupon per purchase.
Cannot be combined with any other offers.
Expires February 28, 2010.

\$10 OFF

YOUR REFILL ORDER
Minimum \$100 purchase.
1 coupon per purchase.
Cannot be combined with any other offers.
Expires February 28, 2010.



NEW SOLUTION FOR CARBON REPORTING

By Cassandra Dass-Pearce, Founder, Green for Life

Companies are starting to care about their greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). Government mandates and calls for increased transparency, together with concern for the environment mean that carbon reporting is a hot topic.

Which is why a new partnership between environmental solutions company, Village Green Global and Toronto based Green For Life is making waves. They are offering Canadian organizations a new way of measuring and reporting their greenhouse gas emissions, using a unique web-based tool, SMARTweb® (Software Management Audit Reporting Technology). This technology has already been used on thousands of environmental audits worldwide. It enables multiple levels of automated reporting, making it suitable for large corporations as well as smaller businesses.

What makes it different is it offers truly scalable reports and recommendations for companies wanting to determine and report their greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts.

Using a combination of on-site assessment and data analysis, Village Green measures and reports on the environmental impact of all energy, water, waste and transport use within an organization, breaking it down to device, location, participants, department and facility. Village Green says this level of detail, right down to the number of trees that need to be planted to offset emissions, gives companies the insight they need to act on environmental initiatives.

Clients come away from the process with a greenscale action plan spanning all areas of the enterprise, from management and financial to training and the supply chain. The detailed breakdown means a return on investment can readily be computed for each retrofit and sustainability recommendation, making this a cost-saving option for companies too. In bringing this SMARTweb® technology to Canada, I believe it offers a unique opportunity for companies to not only reduce their environmental impact and improve the bottom line, but to also improve their transparency in all things sustainable.

To find out more visit: www.GreenForLife.ca/smartweb and www.villagegreenglobal.com

COMMUNITY POWER COMING TO YORK REGION

By Jeff Harti, Coordinator, Community Power Projects, Windfall Ecology Centre

The lack of local electricity generation capacity and aging grid infrastructure has led to the tenuous electricity supply situation in which York Region finds itself. It has also led to the contentious decision to site a natural gas 'peaker' power plant in northern York Region.

The passage of Ontario's Green Energy Act however, provides an opportunity for York Region residents to remake our energy system. On the larger scale, community groups have come together to develop solar and wind projects, which can generate enough electricity to power entire communities. These are referred to as Community Power projects as they are owned locally by the people of the area in which they are built.

A local example of a Community Power project is the Pukwis Community Wind Park, a 20 Mega Watt (MW) wind project located on Georgina Island, off the south shore of Lake Simcoe). This scheme was among the first large-scale wind development to be awarded a FIT contract and is scheduled to be operational by late 2011. Pukwis consists of 10, 2 MW wind turbines, which produce enough electricity to power 7,500 homes and displace 15,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annually. This project is a joint venture of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation and Windfall Ecology Centre, will be the first of its kind in Canada and the largest community-owned wind project in Ontario when completed.

This undertaking is unique because it is owned in part by the Pukwis Energy Co-operative. Residents can support clean, green, renewable energy in York Region by purchasing shares in this Co-operative. Individuals, businesses, charitable organizations, and even municipalities can invest in the Pukwis Energy Co-operative for a minimum initial investment of \$1000. The estimated average annual rate of return over the 20-yr life of the project is projected to be approximately 10%.

A \$25 membership fee is payable with an initial investment and entitles you to actively participate in the development of Community Power projects in York Region.

For more information on Pukwis, visit: www.pukwis.ca or email Pukwis@windfallcentre.ca



SEEDS OF CHANGE BREAKS NEW GROUND

By Lynne Koss, Executive Director



Seeds of Change is a new grass roots community group whose vision is to contribute to the sustainability of communities in York Region by giving students and other community members opportunities to cultivate a sense of connection, care and appreciation for the natural environment. Seeds of Change will provide opportunities and educational experiences through growing, harvesting, preparing and sharing locally grown food in our parks, open spaces and school grounds; thereby improving our neighbourhoods' environment, health and well-being.

We will increase public understanding of where food comes from and promote environmental stewardship in the schools by involving students in the ongoing maintenance of garden space, and integrating this knowledge within the school curriculum in subjects such as: science, art, home economics and life skills; planning, decision-making, basic business and marketing skills, collaboration, taking responsibility and entrepreneurship. Read about how school gardeners perform better in the classroom:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/house-and-home/gardening/school-gardeners-perform-better-in-the-classroom-2011528.html>

These activities will encourage a strong sense of community through citizen engagement, the spirit of caring, social responsibility and inclusiveness and will provide opportunities to volunteer. A portion of the harvest from school gardens will be donated to local charities to emphasize the importance of giving back. The need is immense. In 2009, the eight food banks in York Region provided food for over 54,000 clients.

We are delighted to partner with York Region Environmental Alliance (YREA), whose like-minded mission is to identify and raise awareness of environmental issues within York Region, and initiate projects designed to protect and improve the quality of the environment in York Region and beyond. Together, we will help community members connect to nature's life cycle by hands-on learning, cooperation and collaboration in the development of garden spaces by beautifying and greening our schoolyards and communities.

Interested in starting a school or community garden in your area? contact: Lynne Koss, T:905 597-3316 or lynnekoss@rogers.com

PEAKER PLANT EXEMPTION PROMPTS JUDICIAL REVIEW AGAINST THE PROVINCE

By Fred Jessop, Board Member, Concerned Citizens of King Township

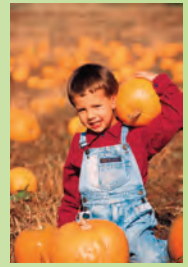
On July 22, 2010 we, the citizens of King Township, Holland Marsh farmers and others launched a legal action against the Province. We are seeking a Judicial Review with the claim that the Government has ignored its own legislation, its own promises and its own procurement rules which has served to deny citizens and the municipality the right to have concerns properly aired and addressed.

The claim was triggered by a Regulation to exempt the York Energy Centre (YEC) from the Planning Act. The implications of this are significant. The decision from the Ontario Municipal Board as to whether the YEC conforms or not to the Greenbelt Plan will never be rendered. Inevitably the YEC will be cited as precedence for introducing infrastructure into the Protected Countryside. There is no site plan agreement by which the Township can ensure that the development occurs per proposal. For example, there is no mechanism to ensure that impacts on drainage are properly addressed which is very disturbing given that a large portion of the site is in the flood plain. The Municipality has lost their responsibility for implementing land use policies and legislation. To learn more visit www.kingtoday.com



GREENWORKS

Fall 2010 Volume 4, Issue 3



Page 8

Do you care about the health of your children, family and community?

Do you appreciate being kept abreast of environmental issues through Greenworks, the newsletter of YREA?

Would you like to see a one-stop e-library resource for environmental news and initiatives in York Region?

If you prefer, enclose this form with your donation and mail to:
YREA, 225 Lakeland Crescent, Richmond Hill, ON L4E 3A5

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ email _____

Please note the amount of your donation enclosed: -

Guardian \$2000 & up Protector \$1000-\$1999

Custodian \$500-\$999 Steward \$200-\$499

Keeper \$100-\$199 Friend \$ _____

Please note: YREA does not exchange the personal information of our members/supporters with other organizations or groups.

We do acknowledge the names of our donors on our website and in our newsletter, but please let us know if you would like to remain anonymous.

Registered charity - #84559 0553 RR0001

Then please support YREA with a generous donation.

Donating to YREA is easy.

Make an online contribution through CanadaHelps by visiting <http://www.yrea.org>



Become a Member

All contributions over \$20 will make you a YREA member and you will receive a charitable tax receipt.

We need your support to to make a difference!

YREA extends a HEARTFELT THANKS to our latest donors

PROTECTOR

Marilyn Isaac Stewart

FRIENDS

Ron Alfrey, Martin Chen, Nadezhada Bayrami-Hassanit, Sue Sherban, Thornhill Secondary School

VOLUNTEER thanks this time goes to these dedicated people:

Emily Barton, Graham Batchelor, Stephen Cockle, Angie Dawson, Susan Sheard, Susan Sigrist, Lynda Sutherland, Constance Tsang