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Network News

Newsletter of the Ontario Environment Network

March 2006 Volume 17, Number 4

News and Views from OEN Member Organizations

Viewpoint: A Rush to Burn Garbage

By John Jackson, Citizen's Network on Waste Management

A rush to burn garbage in Ontario is accelerating. It is currently coming from numerous sides:

- Municipalities and the Ontario Waste Management Association are ringing alarm bells predicting a “waste disposal crisis” in Ontario, especially if the Michigan border closes, and promoting “an integrated waste management system.” “Integrated waste management” is a well-known code phrase for including burning in waste management options.
- In December the Association of Municipalities of Ontario called on the province to support the burning of municipal garbage to generate energy.
- At the same time both the waste industry and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario are pushing for a simplified environmental assessment process to make it easier to get approvals for incinerators. They proposed that full individual EAs be replaced by a much easier class environmental assessment process, which avoids formal public hearings.
- Last fall, the Netherlands government and the City of Toronto co-sponsored a one-day workshop in Toronto touting the glories of waste incineration in Europe, where approximately 50 million tonnes of municipal garbage are burnt each year in around 400 waste-to-energy plants.
- Last summer Niagara Region and Hamilton released a flyer supposedly showing that burning garbage is relatively clean in comparison with using coal as the way to generate electricity.
- Several Ontario municipalities are talking seriously about the incineration option. Niagara Region and Hamilton are furthest down this path, jointly proposing to build a shared energy-from-waste incinerator to burn 35% of their municipal garbage over the next 25 years. Durham Region is also pushing down this path. Other municipalities are keeping an eager eye on these proposals, meaning that the floodgates would burst open if these proposals succeed in getting approval.
- Private companies with incineration technologies are lurking around Ontario promoting their wares. One private company recently announced plans to build garbage incinerators on two first nations reserves in southern Ontario to take garbage from throughout southern Ontario.
- Proposals are also popping up to burn used oil and tires as fuel in cement kilns, boilers, aggregate dryers, and space heaters in garages. The Ontario government has already approved some of these.

We must rally together now to stop this rush to burn, to stop this rush to contaminate the environment and to waste valuable resources. If you wish to become part of a network to investigate and thwart these initiatives, please contact John Jackson at jjackson@web.ca or 519-744-7503.

***To find out more on this issue, and to read other viewpoints, please go to the
On-line Version of OEN Network News at <http://www.oen.ca>***



CITIZENS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY
It's our 10th ANNIVERSARY !!

CFRE was founded and incorporated on January 29, 1996. The Mission Statement calls for 'Accelerating the Introduction and Use of Clean Renewable Energy, thereby Speeding up the Phase-out of Polluting Fossil and Nuclear Energy Production.'

Come and help us celebrate our **10th Anniversary on Sunday, May 28th 06**, at the YMCA Outdoors Centre, St. Clements (near Waterloo)!

To recognize this happy event we are bringing in a high-profile keynote speaker. Janet L. Sawin is the Senior Researcher at the Worldwatch Institute, Washington, DC, and Director for the Energy and Climate Change Program. She will speak to the theme of 'Mainstreaming Renewable Energy in the 21st Century'.

Tickets are \$ 50, \$ 40 for Students and Seniors, and are sold on a first-come, first-served basis. **Space is limited, so contact Ziggy Kleinau, Coordinator, as soon as possible at 519-795-7725,**

email cfre@web.ca, for more information visit: www.cfre.ca

Windfall's Trash Fashion Show and Environmental Achiever Awards on April 27, 2006

The *Windfall Ecology Centre*, a not-for-profit environmental organization, helping to build sustainable communities, will be holding its annual *Trash Fashion Show and Environmental Achiever Awards* on Thursday, April 27 2006.

The *Trash Fashion Show* is a full blown runway presentation of fashion and design - featuring outfits designed from reclaimed and recycled material. Included in the show is the Trash Fashion Design Competition showcasing the latest in Trash Fashion from design students attending Seneca College, George Brown College and Ryerson University. This fun filled evening takes a satirical look at 21st Century consumerism while celebrating creative expression in the use of recycled materials

Woven throughout the Trash Fashion Show this year will be the Windfall *Environmental Achiever Awards*. These awards will honour individuals from across York Region for environmental achievement and activism. The evening will be punctuated with rousing performances by the *Green Men* and *Mother Gaia's Daughters*.

The Show runs concurrently with the annual conference and AGM of Green Communities Canada. Come mingle and network with environmental leaders from across Canada!

To find out more about this event, nominate an individual for an *Achiever Award* or to purchase event tickets please visit www.windfallcentre.ca or call toll free 866.280.4431.

What: Trash Fashion and Environmental Achiever Awards

When: Thursday April 27, 2006 - Cocktail Reception 7 pm – Showtime 8pm

Where: Seneca College, King Campus, Main Building, 13990 Dufferin St. King City, Ontario

Tickets: \$25 – order on-line www.windfallcentre.ca or by calling 866.280.4431

Check out the chemicals in you: new Toxic nation website
www.environmentaldefence.ca/toxicnation/home.php

A Low-Salt Diet for Ontario's Roads and Rivers

RiverSides Stewardship Alliance and Sierra Legal Defense Fund have released a new report documenting the dramatic toll road salts are taking on Ontario's environment and built infrastructure. **A Low-Salt Diet for Ontario's Roads and Rivers** provides a review of the extensive scientific evidence concerning the impacts of road salts and calls for major changes in the way these environmentally toxic substances are dealt with. The report forms the basis for an Application for Review under Ontario's *Environmental Bill of Rights, 1993* of Ontario Regulation 339 – which specifically exempts road authorities' use of a contaminant for winter snow and ice control from the provincial *Environmental Protection Act*.

To view the full report visit www.lowsaltdiet.org. **For further information** contact Jennifer Hounsell, Program Director: RiverSides Stewardship Alliance at (416) 868-1983.

SAVE THE ESCARPMENT!

Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources and Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment went through a lengthy joint board hearing to prevent Dufferin Aggregates at Milton from obtaining a new license to mine across the natural wildlife corridor.

Hearing officers ruled this, a go. We appealed to cabinet. **Please** show that protection of the Escarpment is important. **Call and/or email the Premier and David Ramsay, the Minister of Natural Resources.** Short is best. Contacts are tallied. Friends can help.

Phone: Premier McGuinty 416-325-1941 & Minister David Ramsay 416-314-2301
EMAIL: dmcguinty.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org & dramsay.mpp@liberal.ola.org

What to say? Request that Cabinet rescind the decision by the Joint Board dated June 8, 2005 approving the applications of Dufferin Aggregates and issue a Cabinet Order substituting a decision rejecting the applications of Dufferin. Plus your own sentence.

To say more, see CONE website: www.niagaraescarpment.org/PDF/DufferinAA.pdf



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Announcements

CORNWALL: 13th Annual International Conference on the St. Lawrence River / Great Lakes Ecosystem

The St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences with various other partners, is organizing the 13th Annual International Conference on the St. Lawrence River/Great Lakes Ecosystem, Source Water Protection Part II: Progress and Challenges, on **May 16-18, 2006 in Cornwall, Ontario**. The conference will highlight progress on source water protection, from recent legislation and planning to the challenges for implementation to be faced now and into the future.

For more information: contact Christina Collard, Conference Co-ordinator, tel: 613-936-6620 ext. 222 or visit the St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences website.

Vancouver: World Urban Forum

19-23 June '06: The World Urban Forum was established by the United Nations to respond to rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies and policies. The World Urban Forum gives non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, urban professionals, academics, governments, local authorities and national and international associations of local governments a common platform to discuss urban issues in formal and informal ways and come up with action-oriented proposals to create sustainable cities. The theme in 2006 is "Our Future: Sustainable Cities - Turning Ideas into Action".

More information: <http://www.unhabitat.org/wuf/2006>

Registration: <http://hq.unhabitat.org/wuf/2006/registration.asp>

The 9th Annual Social Justice Summer Retreat will be held Thursday, August 24th to Sunday, August 27th at Camp Arowhon in Algonquin Park

Mark it in your calendar and stay tuned for details!
For details about last year's Social Justice Retreat visit
<http://www.socialjustice.org/subsites/summerretreat/index.php>

Green Communities Annual Conference in King City, Ontario, 26-29 April.
Contact Judy: jgibbens@greencommunitiescanada.org for conference questions and
Julia (news@greencommunitiescanada.org) for registration questions.
For more details visit: www.greencommunitiescanada.org

Nearly 200 people recently attended at the Prince Edward Community Centre, Picton to hear the presentation ***Secrets of the Earth: gardening beautifully without pesticides***. Hosted by the PEC Environmental Advisory Committee, various workshops included creating landscapes for birds and butterflies, organic lawn care, organic flower gardens and how to build healthy soil. PEC County Council has so far rejected attempts to draft a cosmetic pesticide by-law but attendees were provided with a postcard to send to Council urging that this be done. The proposed bylaw is supported by the Pesticide Reduction Committee of Quinte Watershed Cleanup, the **Safe Water Group** and the Prince Edward County Field Naturalists.

**OEN Member Group Profile:
Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre**

New Sustainable Energy Coordinator at Wye Marsh

The Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre in Midland now has a Sustainable Energy Coordinator to help focus attention on wind, solar and other renewable energy sources, and energy conservation. Susan Hirst will be working closely with staff, community partners and interested members of the public, to promote the idea of “easing up on energy”. Education on planet-friendly alternative ways to generate energy will also be available. For more information contact Susan at research@wymarsh.com.

**The Power of the Future
By Susan Hirst, Sustainable Energy Coordinator, Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre**

The interest in renewable and clean, green energy sources is growing at a phenomenal rate. When the media starts running news clips and printing articles on solar, wind and biogas projects, as well as energy-efficient homes, you know it's reaching the public eye. The number of sustainable energy fairs and workshops is increasing as people realize that fossil fuels and nuclear are expensive and environmentally hazardous forms of power.

Wind turbine farms are springing up all over Ontario, with one of the largest in the Shelburne area. Here at the Wye Marsh in Midland, we are planning to erect a small wind turbine to use mainly for educational purposes. The public perception of this power source is sometimes negative, and we want to show the pros and cons of these turbines harnessing the energy in the wind.

Solar power is drawing a lot of attention at the moment, mostly due to the Ontario government's offer to pay \$.42 /kwh to people selling their excess electricity back to the grid. This involves photovoltaic (PV) systems, which convert the sun's energy to electricity. There are also solar heating systems that are used to heat hot water, pools and inside air.

Other renewable energy sources which are getting more popular are geothermal, or earth energy systems, which draw heat from the ground; and biogas generators, which convert manure to methane gas for power use, and are of interest to farmers.

All these clean, green sources come with fairly high initial installation costs, and other issues to consider, making it unlikely they'll be able to provide all our energy needs. Conservation and energy efficiency are still the best ways to help the environment. Still, renewables are the wave of the future, and will provide new careers and technologies as they move us towards a sustainable world.

Seventh Generation Community Projects is a non-profit organization that promotes integrated sustainable living practices in the greater Ottawa area in order to help preserve our planet and create health and well-being for people and our community. We facilitate workshops, seminars, and tours on topics such as green energy and energy efficiency, water conservation, organic food production, simple living, healthy homes, ecological construction, recycling/waste recovery and green transportation. We also produce The National Capital GREEN PAGES, a comprehensive directory of Ottawa-area green businesses and organizations. See www.seventhgeneration.ca for more info.

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Editors: Naveen Ahuja & Phillip Penna

Network News is published 3-6 times per year by the Ontario Environment Network, a non-profit, non-government network for Ontario environmental organizations. The OEN seeks to increase the public's awareness of these organizations and to facilitate communications and cooperation among them.

Opinions stated in Network News are those of the individual contributors, not of the OEN. The OEN does not take positions, either on its own or on behalf of its member groups. Rather, Network News acts as a forum for discussion. Reprints are encouraged; please credit the OEN. Advertising and sponsorship rates are available upon request.

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*For more information about Environmental Issues in Ontario, please go our on-line edition of our newsletter (<http://www.oen.ca>) as well as our **OEN Caucus Action Pages** which can be found at <http://www.oen.ca/caucus.html>*

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**Ontario Environment Network
Annual Membership Renewal
Due April 1, 2006**



Membership is open to non-government, not-for-profit, environmental organizations in Ontario.
Membership dues are \$40 per year.

OEN Membership Renewal Form and the publication "What you get for \$40!" can be found at <http://www.oen.ca/membersinfo.html>

Individuals, businesses, and government agencies can join as "Subscribers." Subscriber's dues are:

- \$30 per year for businesses and government agencies
- \$15 for Individuals