



**– JANUARY, 2011 –**

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## **ONGOING INITIATIVES**

### **1. Provincially Significant Wetlands**

Phil has written a comprehensive letter to City Council regarding re-zoning city property around Ojibway Shores from Industrial Port to Natural Heritage. The letter has been reviewed by the PSW sub-committee and will be presented to the Committee at the February meeting.

I have contacted a member of the Windsor Essex Mobility Group about attending a meeting with the PSW subcommittee and am awaiting a response back. The Windsor Essex Mobility Group will establish a local project office in the Windsor area in the second quarter of the 2011.

### **2. Protection of Ojibway Shores/Black Oak (video)**

I have spoken with Bobi Gavrovski from Axxess Design and he is glad to hear that WECEC has accepted the offer to work with Axxess Design. Before he can send us a story board or outline for the film, he will need to do some research regarding the project, as well as visit the damaged areas. He insists that it would be impossible to film or view any of the damages at this time, and looks forward to speaking about the storyboard once the snow has cleared. I have brought him up-to-speed regarding the hesitation of the Port Authority as well as some general knowledge about the issue.

### **3. Sustain This!**

I have begun advertising for the conference by sending many personal email invitations to residents throughout Windsor-Essex County. These have included City and County Councillors, MP's, MPP's, members of educational institutions, public health, business and industry.

In addition, many posters have been printed and placed in public facilities, such as the University and St. Clair College, as well as libraries and arenas.

Details regarding room set-up, equipment and catering have been worked out with University catering department.

### **4. Share the Road Application**

The first draft of the application has been completed and the City of Windsor is currently commenting on this document. The application has not been made public and therefore at this time WECEC is unable to comment on it.

## IMPORTANT UPDATES AND INFORMATION

### 1. Renewable Energy Project – River Canard Energy

Mindscape Innovations has submitted a *Notice of Proposal* and *First Public Meeting* for a Renewable Energy project that they would like to introduce to the public in the Town of LaSalle and surrounding area. This notice responds directly to the requirements set forth for Wind Energy Projects under Ontario Regulate 359/09, *Renewable Energy Approvals* under the *Environmental Protection Act*. The location of the proposed River Canard Energy project area is privately owned agricultural land, Lot 5, Concession 2, Town of LaSalle.

**Meeting Location:**

DATE: February 9, 2011  
TIME: 6-8pm  
PLACE: Knights of Columbus, 8965 Malden Road, Windsor ON

**Documents for public Inspection:**

The Draft Project Description Report titled River Canard Energy-Draft Project Description Report describes the project as a single 500kW wind turbine development which includes one 65m high wind turbine, a transformer station and an access route.

Please email me if you would like a copy of this document.

### 2. Government of Ontario Policy Proposals ([www.ebr.gov.on.ca](http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca))

a. *Second Extension of the 2007 Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem*

The Canada-Ontario Agreement helps Canada deliver on its Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement obligations. This document was extended for one year and is now set to expire on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

This document is available for public comment until February 28<sup>th</sup>. To view the policy proposal, visit [www.ebr.gov.on.ca](http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca). The EBR # is 011-1929.

b. *Draft update of Ontario's Transit-Supportive Guidelines*

The draft Guidelines provide municipalities with ideas, tools and best practices to consider transportation and land use planning simultaneously in their local decision-making in order to develop more transit-supportive communities.

This document is available for public comment until March 15<sup>th</sup>. To view the policy proposal, visit [www.ebr.gov.on.ca](http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca). The EBR # is 011-1329.

### 3. WECEC Banner/Brochure

A draft brochure has been made for the WECEC which may be viewed by Committee members and printed in time for "Sustain This!"

#### 4. Newspaper articles

- a. Windsor Star – January 10<sup>th</sup>: *Another century of emissions will fuel 1,000 years of climate change: Study*

Shawn Marshall, a geography professor at the University of Calgary, recently completed work with a team of researchers from an Environment Canada research laboratory at the University of Victoria. Together, the team performed the first full climate model simulation to make prediction on the effects of climate change 1,000 years from now.

They found that current carbon dioxide levels will cause unstoppable effects to the climate for at least the next 1,000 years, which could cause an eventual rise of at least four metres in the global sea level by the year 3000, as well as the collapse of the West Antarctic ice sheet.

- b. Windsor Star – January 11<sup>th</sup>: *2010 hottest year in Canada on record*

National temperatures exceeded average values by a whopping 3 degrees Celsius, the warmest since record-keeping began in 1948. All of the country was above normal, with most of Nunavut and northern Quebec at least 4 degrees C above normal. An area over southern Alberta and Saskatchewan was the only part of Canada with close to normal temperatures this past year. Of the 10 warmest years on record, four have occurred within the last decade.

- c. Windsor Star – January 13<sup>th</sup>: *Windsor's 'Generation G' embraces green philosophy*

Renowned Canadian environmentalist Geoff Green, with breathtaking stories of his “Students On Ice” polar expeditions, is inspiring local public school students to sign on for Generation G. Generation G stands for green, global, generous, grace, gratitude and good karma. Over 10 years, Green has led 1,500 students on life-changing journeys of personal and academic discovery in the Canadian arctic. It's about engaging youth with environmental issues to ensure those young people are encouraged to protect that ecosystem for their children and their children's children.

- d. Windsor Star – January 15<sup>th</sup>: *Windsor tied for worst ozone levels*

An Ontario Ministry of the Environment report released Friday showed that provincial levels of nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxide are down between 40 and 60 per cent over the past decade. Ground level ozone, created when pollutants mix with sunlight, is still threatening the health of residents with vulnerable respiratory systems, according to the report.

The Canadian standard for ground level ozone is 65 parts per billion. Only two cities -- Ottawa and Thunder Bay -- met the standard. Windsor far exceeded the rate at 81 ppb, tying Kingston for the highest reading in the province. Almost 80 per cent of the pollutants in Windsor's air come from the U.S., compared to 50 per cent for the province as a whole.

- e. Windsor Star – January 18<sup>th</sup>: *Leamington council vows fight on wind farms*

The new Leamington council unanimously agreed Monday it is opposed to wind turbines in Lake Erie. SouthPoint Wind has proposed 15 turbines south of Leamington and Kingsville and then 700 turbines around Essex County in Lakes Erie and St. Clair. All parties are waiting for the provincial government to announce regulations for offshore wind farms. SouthPoint Wind had proposed putting the turbines more than one kilometer offshore.

- f. Windsor Star – January 23<sup>rd</sup>: *County busing takes back seat over costs*

County Warden Tom Bain says he is hopeful the idea of expanded regional busing can be revived in a year of two with less costly options. He feels pressure from the public regarding more busing in the county. County politicians unanimously dismissed the idea of a start-up cost of \$4.5 million for bus purchases and operating costs in 2011 that would require a 6.9 per cent tax increase. The 2012 county budget is already being projected as a difficult one for any new alternatives, and a \$2-million reserve snow clearing fund is approaching depletion. Starting in 2012, the tax rate will have to be increased again for snow clearing.

- g. Windsor Star – January 25<sup>th</sup>: *Windsor's urban chicken debate ends with close council vote*

City hall won't be forming a committee to study the urban chicken issue any further. Council made the decision by a close vote on Monday night – striking a major blow against Windsor's backyard egg-farming movement and signalling an end to the debate in council chambers. According to the mayor, city resources have other priorities, and there are other organizations fully capable of studying the matter.

- h. Windsor Star – January 26<sup>th</sup>: *New Windsor-Detroit bridge not needed, says study*

A new Windsor-Detroit bridge crossing would be a waste of taxpayers money because of declining traffic in the corridor, says a report to be released Wednesday by the Sierra Club Ontario that has launched a legal challenge against the project. President Dan McDermott noted that the findings show a decline in traffic since 1999.

The Sierra Club also has argued that the Canadian portion of the proposed crossing would expand into the habitat of endangered plant species, such as the purple twayblade orchid, as well as threatened or endangered animal species, such as the common musk turtle, the bald eagle and the grey fox.

## TASKS FOR NEXT MONTH

### 1. Provincially Significant Wetlands

At the February WECEC meeting, the letter drafted to council regarding the re-zoning of city property around Ojibway shores will be addressed. This letter will hopefully proceed to council shortly after.

I have contacted a representative from the Windsor Essex Mobility Group asking for a delegation to the WECEC regarding the environmental assessment of the Windsor-Essex Parkway. I will continue to make more contacts and follow-up to try and schedule a meeting with the WEMG.

### 2. Sustain This!

I will continue to promote our conference by releasing a media advisory as well as a press release. I will prepare for the day of the conference by confirming some members of WECEC to volunteer at the event.

### 3. Solar Source

I will continue to await response (or follow up) from either Ross Beatty (Solar Source), Kerri Brock or Lia Vanbaalen (ESEI Group) to inquire about delivering a presentation to WECEC regarding the solar panel plant being built on airport property.