



– JUNE 2013 –

ONGOING INITIATIVES

1. Trip to the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge

The tour of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge on Friday June 14th was very successful. Nearly 20 people participated and attended a tour of Humbug Marsh along with a presentation by Refuge manager Dr. John Hartig. Participants included WECEC members, Essex County Field Naturalists, City of Windsor administration, Detroit River Canadian Cleanup as well as their Public Advisory Committee members. Dr. John Hartig discussed the process by which Humbug Marsh was saved from development as well as highlighted many ongoing Brownfield restoration and manmade wetlands sites.

2. Green Speaker Series: Dan Burden – Walkable and Livable Communities Institute

On Friday June 7th WECEC continued their Green Speaker Series with host Dan Burden, Co-Founder and Director of Innovation and Inspiration at the [Walkable and Livable Communities Institute](http://www.walklive.org). Dan spoke to over 100 people about how creating more walkable streets can contribute to healthier, more vibrant communities with thriving economies.

Participants included many members of City of Windsor administration as well as county municipality administration, City Councillors, architects, students, St. Clair College professors, BIA members, the Windsor Essex County Health Unit, Tourism Windsor Essex, members of the public, the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation, non-profit organizations and the Greater Essex County District School Board.

During the walking audit, Dan pointed out many simple solutions to begin improving walkability. For instance, clearly viable crosswalks and signage were often missing from city streets. Dan suggested using bumpouts at intersections, diagonal parking along side streets and more greenery and places to sit. He also demonstrated that Wyandotte East is wide enough to accommodate bike lanes by lying on the street perpendicular to a parked car. A bike lane is one “Dan” wide, and there was plenty of space for cars to pass by.

After the walking audit, participants were split into small working group around aerial maps along Wyandotte. The groups brainstormed how to increase walkability. The diverse backgrounds of participants allowed for lively and passionate discussion while working towards a common goal.

There was a great media presence leading up to as well as during the workshop. Days before the event, the Windsor Star did an article with City Planner Thom Hunt highlighting areas in Windsor that are very walkable as well as areas that need improvement. Representatives from the Windsor Star, Blackburn media, AM800 and CBC attended the presentation. The Windsor Star and CTV accompanied the group on the walking audit and CBC radio hosted Dan on their show after the event. Positive media stories were released that day discussing walkability and the potential it has in Windsor.

Dan has provided all workshop participants with his presentation. Many valuable resources are on the Walkable and Livable Communities Institute page: www.walklive.org

3. Water Quality Subcommittee

The subcommittee has recruited two ERCA volunteers to continue work on our educational campaigns. One ERCA volunteer has created a lesson plan for blue green algae educational video "Overload". This lesson plan will be introduced to teachers so that they can incorporate it into their lessons.

Another ERCA volunteer has begun researching phosphorous content in detergents, fertilizers, soaps etc. as part of the background information for a phosphorous education campaign. This campaign would build on the blue green algae video by educating residents about how to read product labels such as fertilizer and laundry soap and compare the phosphorous content for various products. The group has talked of getting permission to use phosphorous free lawn signs on city parks as well as handing them out to homeowners to encourage and educate others. Another short video about how to read labels and make informed decisions would be of great benefit to this upcoming campaign.

4. WECEC Budget – Summary

2013 Budget			
Expense	Credit	Expenditure	Status
2013 Budget	\$8,300.00		
Website domain renewal		\$76.27	Spent
Website hosting fee		\$500.00	
Pat on the Back		\$2,446.46	Spent
Earth Day		\$40.00	Spent
Dan Burden		\$1,000.00	Spent
David Suzuki		\$1,000.00	Spent
Green Speaker 3		\$800.00	
WQ video		\$500.00	
Wildlife tour		\$793.23	Spent
Promotional Items		\$348.00	Spent
Conservation Campaign		\$596.00	Spent
June meeting at Ojibway		\$122.50	Spent
Totals	\$8,300.00	\$8,222.46	
TOTAL REMAINING		\$77.54	