



– MAY 2012 –

ONGOING INITIATIVES

1. Provincially Significant Wetlands Subcommittee

At the April 25th Environment and Transportation Standing Committee, Report 51 was developed stating the recommendation to receive the “Candidate Natural Heritage Site No. 37 – Supplemental Information” report as well as begin discussions with the Federal Government regarding Ojibway Shores. This recommendation went to City Council on Tuesday, May 22nd. There was much discussion and confusion regarding the recommendation. Report 51 was deferred and sent back to the Environment and Transportation Standing Committee for clarification. Members of the PSW subcommittee will be in attendance when this happens.

2. Renewable Energy Media Campaign with Generator Design

The campaign content has been developed and the advertisement is currently being created by Generator Design. Media buys are scheduled for the County newspapers, Windsor Star online banner, and the Experts on Call session has been booked. A renewable energy fact sheet is being developed to be placed on the website to provide more information to residents. Unfortunately, since Siliken has ceased operations in Canada, they will no longer be a partner in our campaign.

3. Water Quality Subcommittee

The subcommittee was able to meet with representatives from the Ministry of the Environment regarding the recent release of their Greenhouse Wastewater Monitoring Project results. This study concluded that there is a decrease in water quality between upstream and downstream locations in the Sturgeon Creek, Lane Drain and Lebo Drain. Of the greenhouses sampled, 65% had a discharge with high to extremely high levels of nitrate, phosphorous, potassium and copper. This wastewater is going directly into watercourses or indirectly into watercourses via control ponds.

These results confirm our need for increased education and awareness about this issue. In addition to a public service announcement video, the subcommittee is interested in exploring the idea of hosting public information sessions about this topic.

4. Pat on the Back Awards

The Pat on the Back subcommittee met to discuss this year’s program structure and application process. Similar to last year, four \$500 awards will be given out to local sustainability projects. The application is complete and has been emailed out to interested groups as well as posted on our website and Facebook page. Organizations can submit their applications before Monday, June 18th. The subcommittee will evaluate the applications and select 6 or 7 “top applicants” who will present their ideas at our Pat on the Back Award Ceremony on July 4th, 7-9pm at the Ojibway Nature Centre. The judges will deliberate and then present the awards by the end of the evening.

IMPORTANT UPDATES AND INFORMATION

1. Green Speaker Series – Gord Miller

The second Green Speaker Series event with Gord Miller, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, was another success. Approximately 15 people arrived at the Dr. David Suzuki Public School in advance for a tour of the LEED platinum building. Nearly 50 people attended Gord Miller's presentation about climate change and the potential impacts to biodiversity in Southern Ontario. The event received positive media attention from AM 800, CBC, Our Windsor and the Windsor Star.