



– MAY 2014 –

ONGOING INITIATIVES

1. Green Speaker Series: Susan Chan

The confirmed date for Green Speaker Susan Chan has been set for Tuesday July 8th at 7:00pm at the Ojibway Nature Centre. Unfortunately partnering with the Essex County Field Naturalist meeting did not work out. Susan will discuss neonicotinoids (found in pesticides) which may be threatening pollinators. This event will be advertised through the WECEC website and Facebook page, email, posters and a media release.

2. Provincial Environmental Advisory Committee Symposium

The WECEC coordinator and co-chair Charlie Wright attended the 3rd Provincial EAC Symposium which took place in Brampton on Saturday May 3rd 2014. The theme of the symposium was public engagement. Presenters spoke about the Brampton Environmental Master Plan, the Brampton Clean City Committee, the Cambridge City Green action committee, the Brampton library environmental initiatives, and the Peel Environmental Youth Alliance. There were many great examples of public engagement, specifically the Oshawa 30 day Carbon Reduction Challenge and the Oshawa Food for Thought initiative.

The 30 Day Challenge took place between Earth Hour and Earth Day and involved participants registering for the challenge. Each Day a challenge was posted and explained each day and participants could comment and post information about how they committed to the challenge or any helpful tips. At the end of the challenge, prizes were given to those who participated most.

The Food for Thought initiative involve a Community Garden Symposium, the development of Tuesday's @ the Table, an ad-hoc meeting for those interested in talking about local food, and many workshops. Volunteers would organize and teach a variety of food skills workshops. Eventually, these workshops were incorporated into the City's Activity Guide, for management and organization.

3. Pat on the Back Awards

WECEC received 14 Pat on the Back applications from local environmental groups and schools. 7 were selected to present their environmental project at the Pat on the Back Award Ceremony on May 27th at the Ojibway Nature Center. After much deliberation, Assumption College Catholic High School Green Industries program, Colchester North Public School, GMO Free Windsor Essex, Queen Elizabeth Public School and Southwood Public School were chosen to receive funding towards their environmental projects.

4. Reports to Council

Report No. 77 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:

That a Private Tree By-law Subcommittee of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee consisting of Councillor Halberstadt, J. Miller, M. Nelson, B. Wansbrough, Planner II, Stefan Fediuk, Landscape Architect and B. Roesel, City Forester **BE ESTABLISHED**.

This report was received for information at the April 23rd Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee. This report was received for information at the May 20th Council meeting.

Report No. 78 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:

That City Council and the Board of Directors of Your Quick Gateway (Windsor) Inc. **BE REQUESTED** to endorse Phase 3 of the Swamp Wetland Restoration Project on the YQG Airport lands as submitted by the Little River Enhancement Group.

This report was received at the April 23rd Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee meeting with approval subject to a report from administration coming forward to Council. This recommendation was received at the May 20th Council meeting.

Report No. 79 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:

That a letter **BE SENT** on behalf of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee to the Greek Orthodox Community of Windsor (with a copy to the company that performed the clear cutting of the woodlot located northeast of Walker Road and the E.C. Row Expressway) requesting that a species at risk study **BE UNDERTAKEN** prior to any reforestation and, to investigate if any profit was realized by the Greek Orthodox Community of Windsor.

This report was received for information at the April 23rd Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee meeting. This report was received for information at the May 20th Council meeting.

Report No. 80 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:

That due to the clear-cutting of the woodlot on the Greek Orthodox Community of Windsor lands (located northeast of Walker Road and the E.C. Row Expressway), that City Council **BE REQUESTED** to consider the implementation of a Tree By-law, and further, that a permit process and the issuance of fines relating to the clear cutting of trees **BE CONSIDERED**.

This report was received for information at the April 23rd Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee. This report was deferred at the May 20th Council meeting pending City of Windsor tree canopy coverage information from Administration.

Report No. 81 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:

WHEREAS the City of Windsor Environmental Master Plan encourages the construction of energy efficient buildings and incorporating sustainable design features into development to “promote ‘greening’ of new and existing city facilities”,

WHEREAS the recently released report *The Business Case for Green Building* released by the World Green Building Council (2013) shows that the energy savings in green buildings over a twenty-year period typically exceed any design and construction cost premiums by a factor of ten, and could be more with the increasing costs of energy. The study also concluded that the green attributes of buildings and indoor environments can improve worker productivity and occupant health and well-being, resulting in bottom line benefits for business. “By greening our built environment at the neighbourhood and city scale, we can deliver on large-scale economic priorities such as climate change mitigation and adaptation, energy security, resource conservation and job creation, long-term resilience and quality of life.” (World Green Building Council, 2013)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City Council **BE REQUESTED** to consider environmental features as identified below for inclusion in the Request for Proposal for the new City Hall:

- High-efficiency glass for windows and doors to conserve energy;
- Energy efficient, low flow appliances in the building (*i.e.* low flow toilets, LED lighting);
- Consider making it a zero-energy building (meaning that the total amount of energy used by the building on an annual basis is roughly equal to the amount of renewable energy created on site);
- Using natural light to light the inside of the building;
- Use of district energy;
- Building materials free of the toxic chemical Formaldehyde
- Recycled building materials where appropriate (*i.e.* recycled carpet);
- Re-use of building materials from the current City Hall after demolition;
- Re-use of grey water either inside the building (flushing toilets *etc.*) or outside the building (watering grass *etc.*);
- Stormwater management features such as raingardens, bioswales or a permeable pavement parking lot;
- Underground parking to reduce extra pavement needed for surface parking;
- Roof structurally able to support solar panels or a greenroof;
- Secure storage for bicycles as well as change room facilities with a shower;
- Furniture made from recycled materials;
- Native plants in the landscape design;
- Planting of fruit trees and space for a community garden.

This report was moved at the April 23rd Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee meeting. This report was moved at the May 20th Council meeting

Report No. 82 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:

That all surrounding municipalities in the Windsor-Essex region **BE ENCOURAGED** to enter into discussion regarding the development of regional transportation for Windsor-Essex County.

This report was received for information at the May 21st Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee meeting.

WECEC BUDGET – SUMMARY

2014 Budget		
Expense	Credit	Expenditure
2013 Budget	\$8,300.00	
Website domain renewal		\$76.32
Website hosting fee		\$427.10
Earth Day		\$35.00
Provincial EAC Symposium		\$75.00
Pat on the Back		\$2,500.00
Green Speaker - Sue Chan		\$1,000.00
Green Speaker #2		\$1,000.00
Green Speaker #3		\$1,000.00
Totals	\$8,300.00	\$6,113.42
TOTAL REMAINING		\$2,186.58