



– ANNUAL REPORT 2014 –

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ROSE City Clean Sweep Kickoff (\$0)

WECEC partnered with the City of Windsor and the Downtown Windsor Business Improvement Association to organize a successful kick-off event for the City's Rose City Clean Sweep campaign. Over 40 participants met on Maiden Lane West on Friday April 25th to help pick up litter around the downtown. There was significant involvement from the media, including a write-up in the Windsor Star.

Earth Day (\$35)

WECEC participated in the Windsor Essex Earth Day celebrations by having a booth at the event on Sunday April 27th at Malden Park from 10am until 3pm. Members distributed our brochure, customized magnets, as well as our Energy Conservation Campaign information.

Provincial Environmental Advisory Committee Symposium (\$368.33)

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.

Pat on the Back Environmental Awards (\$2,298.69)

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, the following organizations were selected to receive Pat on the Back funding:

- Assumption College Catholic High School Green Industries program (\$500)
- Colchester North Public School (\$500)
- GMO Free Windsor Essex (\$500)
- Queen Elizabeth Public School (\$200)
- Southwood Public School (\$300)

The ceremony was well attended by many members of the public and environmental organizations.



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Green Speaker Series: Susan Chan (\$890.09)



Green Speaker Susan Chan spoke to over 70 members of the public on Tuesday July 8th at 7:00pm at the Ojibway Nature Centre. It was our most successful Green Speaker Series presentation yet! Susan discussed neonicotinoids (found in pesticides) which may be threatening pollinators and our agricultural system. This event was advertised through the WECEC website and Facebook page, email, posters and a media release. A video of the presentation can be found on the WECEC website: www.wecec.org.

Green Speaker Series: Paul Helm (\$500 estimate)

On November 12th, WECEC in partnership with the Essex County Field Naturalist Club will host Green Speaker Paul Helm, Senior Research Scientist with the Great Lakes unit of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change. Paul will discuss “Microplastics in the Great Lakes: Contaminants You Can “See”! WECEC expects a great turn out for this interesting and timely talk.

Green Speaker Series: Low Impact Development with Credit Valley Conservation Authority Experts (\$1,000 estimate)

In November, the City of Windsor in partnership with the Essex Region Conservation Authority are planning to bring in Low Impact Development experts from the Credit Valley Conservation Authority to conduct a workshop with municipal staff across the region. WECEC will partner with these organizations to create a Green Speaker Series event for the public during the same time. This event will focus on Low Impact Development for homeowners, businesses and the development industry.

WECEC BUSINESS

Website Maintenance (\$455.77)

The WECEC Coordinator maintains our website, www.wecec.org. Here we post news and events along with information about WECEC and our meeting agenda's and minutes. The website is an important part of our communication and advocacy strategy. We pay yearly website hosting fees as well as a domain renewal fee.

Promotional Supplies (\$1,000.00 estimate)

WECEC often participates in community events such as Earth Day. At our booth we hand out promotional supplies such as WECEC customised pens or magnets to encourage members of the public to visit our website and learn more about what we do. This year, WECEC will spend their remaining budget on promotional environmental items such as pens made from recycled materials.

June and November Meetings at the Ojibway Nature Centre (\$216.00)

This year, WECEC decided to host their June and November meetings at the Ojibway Nature Centre.

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Monthly meetings at the Airport Boardroom (\$152.64)

At their meeting in June, WECEC decided to change their monthly meeting location to the Airport Boardroom.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY AND COUNTY COUNCILS

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 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 moved at the April Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee meeting for approval subject to a report from administration coming forward to Council. This recommendation was rejected at the August 25th Council meeting due to a non supportive memo from Administration.

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 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 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.

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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 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 Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee meeting. This report was received for information at both City and County Council.

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Report No. 83 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:

That the WECEC Coordinator **BE DIRECTED** to send a letter on behalf of WECEC to the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) with a copy to the Citizens for an Accountable Megahospital Planning Process (CAMPP) reflecting the following principles for the new megahospital:

- Focus should be on access for the greatest number of users, not geographic centre;
- Challenge the 50-60 acre assumption;
- Greenfield only if no suitable redevelopment (brownfield) options exist;
- Must understand the locations effect on neighbourhoods and sprawl/blight;
- Ensure urban planning experts are heard and their concerns addressed.

This report was received for information at the August Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee meeting. This report was noted and filed by City Council. This report was approved by County Council.

Report No. 84 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:

That the YQG Board of Directors **BE REQUESTED** to consider waiving the \$50 monthly fee for the meeting room rental at the Windsor Airport for the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee's monthly meetings.

This report was received for information at the July Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee meeting. This report was received for information at the August 25th Council meeting.

Report No. 85 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:

That the *Revised Terms of Reference* dated July 2014 for the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee relating to the amendment to the "Composition and Selection of Members" **BE APPROVED**.

This report was received for information at the August Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee meeting and at the October 6th Council meeting.

Report No. 86 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:

Whereas in February of 2014 the International Joint Commission released the Lake Erie Ecosystem Priority (LEEP) report providing policy advice on solving the algae bloom issue in Lake Erie;

Whereas the LEEP report concludes that the Maumee and Detroit River are the largest contributors to the phosphorus loading in Lake Erie, and that 66% of the bloom is from agriculture/rural nonpoint sources, mostly from Ohio. In addition, at least half of the annual load occurs in the spring (March 1 – June 30) but 90% of the annual load is deposited in select rain events; and

Whereas the recommendations of the LEEP report include, but are not limited to:

- Setting Loading Targets:
 - Proposed 37% reduction in total phosphorus (TP) and 41% reduction in dissolved reactive phosphorus (DRP) for the Maumee River and Lake Erie west basin tributaries
 - Proposed 46% reduction in TP and 78% reduction in DRP from the Lake Erie west basin and central basin tributaries

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- Developing Agriculture & Non-point Solutions – provide incentive and regulatory interventions focused on:
 - the critical March-June period
 - priority watersheds
 - mandatory certification standards for fertilizer applicators
 - linking insurance with conservation performance
 - ban fertilizer applications on frozen ground
 - mandatory septic inspections
- Urban Areas
 - improve adoption of green infrastructure
 - prohibit sales and use of phosphorous fertilizers for lawn care (with some exceptions)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City and County Council **RECEIVE** the Lake Erie Ecosystem Priority report and its recommendations and strive to implement them where possible;

And further **BE IT RESOLVED** that City and County Council send letters to the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture inquiring as to how the proposed recommendations will be implemented in Ontario.

This report was received for information at the August Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee meeting and at the October 6th Council meeting. This report was also received at County Council.

Report No. 87 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:

Whereas rain gardens are designed to absorb runoff from impervious urban areas diverting it from storm drains or combined sewers therefore recharging groundwater, diverting stormwater from municipal infrastructure and reducing polluted runoff into the local water bodies; and

Whereas rain gardens constructed with native plants improve biodiversity and provide food for pollinators; and

Whereas the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) has already begun working with member municipalities to create rain gardens at various locations including Harrow, Leamington, and Windsor; and

Whereas ERCA staff will provide expertise to design and build a rain garden and help monitor its effectiveness;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that every Windsor and Essex County member municipality strive to complete a demonstration rain garden by the end of 2015 in partnership with the Essex Region Conservation Authority.

This report was received for information at the August Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee meeting and at the October 6th Council meeting. This report was also received at County Council.

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Report No. 88 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:

That City Council **BE REQUESTED** to endorse segregated bike lanes on Cabana Road as identified in the report of the Transportation Planning Engineer dated June 25, 2014 entitled “Cabana Road Active Transportation Facilities for the Windsor Loop and CQ28-2013 Feasibility of Constructing a Pilot Segregated Cycle Lane”.

This report was received for information at the August Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee meeting and at the October 6th Council meeting.

Report No. 89 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:

That Report 71 (below) **BE REAFFIRMED:**

The Windsor Essex County Environment Committee at its meeting held May 13, 2014 approved Report No. 71 as follows:

That City Council **BE REQUESTED** to reconsider/revoke/review Council Resolution CR433/2007 relating to a rezoning for Part of Block Z, Registered Plan 927 as there are no adequate plans for the mitigation of identified species, and further, that a new bylaw **BE ADOPTED** relating to the Official Plan Amendment rezoning.

And further, that City and County Councils **BE URGED** to decline the adoption of the report of the City Engineer dated August 28, 2014 entitled “Sprucewood/Matchett Road Development – OMB Hearing Species-at-Risk, Servicing Agreements & Settlement Agreement” (Item 16 – September 8, 2014 Council Agenda) due to:

- No change of information from the original information that resulted in Report No. 71;
- That the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) result was provided on August 13, 2014 and not published on the Register until August 27, 2014;
- That the reasons for the approval of the permit by the Ministry of Natural Resources did not address key areas of concern for:
 - Additional 16,000 vehicles/day;
 - Increase of NOX's;
 - Changes in hydrogeology;
 - Effects on prescribed burns;
 - Effects from garbage;
 - Effects of road salting;
 - Effects of additional lighting.

And further, if the City of Windsor determines these issues are not required to be addressed in the MNR Permit, that the City **BE REQUESTED** to determine the foregoing issues before approving a development agreement or sending the issues forward to the Ontario Municipal Board.

This report was rejected at the September 8th City Council meeting.

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FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2014 Budget		
Expense	Credit	Expenditure
2014 Budget	\$8,000.00	
Website domain renewal		\$28.67
Website hosting fee		\$427.10
Earth Day		\$35.00
Provincial EAC Symposium		\$368.33
June meeting at Ojibway		\$108.00
Pat on the Back		\$2,298.74
Green Speaker - Sue Chan		\$890.21
Green Speaker - Paul Helm		\$500.00*
Green Speaker - LID		\$1,000.00*
Meetings at the Airport		\$152.64
Promotional items		\$1,000.00*
Nov meeting at Ojibway		\$108.00
Totals	\$8,000.00	\$7,416.69
TOTAL REMAINING	\$583.31	

*Estimates

This Budget is as of October 31st 2014.

WECEC IN THE NEWS

THE WINDSOR STAR

Push is on to make garden plants safer for bees



A bee sits on a flower in the east end of Windsor on a sunny August 13, 2010.
(TYLER BROWNBRIDGE / The Windsor Star)



Mary Caton

Jul 07, 2014 - 7:45 PM EDT

Last Updated: Jul 08, 2014 - 8:21 AM EDT

Local gardeners may unwittingly be adding to the demise of the world's bee population with the colorful displays of flowers they've worked so hard to nurture this season.

Bee colonies have been declining globally at an alarming rate for the past seven years with much of the blame placed on the effects of pesticides.

An environmental group known as [Friends of the Earth](#) released a report called "Gardeners Beware" outlining how more than 51 per cent of plants from North America's top garden retailers contained bee-killing neonicotinoids. Canadian samples were collected from London, Montreal and Vancouver.

Susan Chan, a native pollinator expert for Farms at Work in Peterborough, will discuss the potential effects of pesticides on the quality of our food and the health of our agricultural system tonight at the Ojibway Nature Centre at 7 p.m.

Hot, wet weather has many area flower beds blooming in a rainbow of colours, which attracts bees for the nectar they produce, July 19, 2010.

This free talk is part of the [Windsor Essex County Environment Committee's](#) "Green Speaker Series."

Three-quarters of the world's food crop requires pollination.

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“Pollinators are incredibly important for the security of our food supply,” said Beatrice Olivastri, CEO of Friends of the Earth Canada.

FOE Canada just released the results of a poll to gauge the public’s concern over pesticide use in garden centre plants.

The poll showed 76.8 per cent of people in Southwestern Ontario think gardeners should be able to buy plants that are neonic-free and 73.2 per cent feel farmers should have the option to buy seeds not coated in neonic pesticides.

“We did the Gardener Beware study so we would have some scientifically based information,” said Olivastri of a push to have the provincial government step in.

Agrichemical companies coat seeds with certain pesticides to boost yields of staple crops such as corn and soybeans.



A recent study by the Harvard School of Public Health determined neonicotinoids significantly harmed honey bee colonies over the winter.

Last year, the European Union banned the use of three neonicotinoids for two years.

“It’s rock up hill to get government to change,” Olivastri said.

While the provincial government has banned cosmetic pesticides, neonicotinoids are classified for horticultural use and therefore allowed.

“Ontario could close this loophole,” Olivastri said. “There’s some opportunity for leadership here.”

The provincial government did announce Monday that it’s looking at restricting the use of pesticides that pose a risk to bees.

The bee population in Canada is down an estimated 35 per cent over the past three years.

[The FOE Canada website](#) has an online petition available asking Home Depot, Canadian Tire, RONA and Sears Canada to keep bee-killing pesticides out of their garden plants.

THE WINDSOR STAR

Council rejects Windsor committee’s mega hospital motion



The now closed GM Transmission Plant site on Kildare Road has been suggested as a use for the new megahospital. (Tyler Brownbridge / The Windsor Star)



Dave Waddell

Oct 06, 2014 - 8:16 PM EDT

Last Updated: Oct 06, 2014 - 10:14 PM EDT

A motion asking Windsor city council to endorse sending a letter from the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee to the Erie-St. Clair Local Health Integration Network urging the proposed mega hospital be kept in the city of Windsor was defeated Monday.

Though council share the goal of keeping the hospital inside the city, the majority felt the letter’s concerns were largely included in the criteria of the site selection committee. It was also felt with the selection committee having settled on 20 proposed sites, this part of the process is closed.

The only councilors voting in favour of the motion were Fulvio Valentinis and Alan Halberstadt.

“I’m disappointed. I think they could’ve taken a stronger stand,” said Philippa von Ziegenweidt, chair of the Citizens for Accountable Megahospital Planning Process.

“They essentially say they agree with us, but they won’t go to bat for us.”

The letter encourages the site selection committee keep the new hospital in the city and to consider locating on brown sites first. The GM transmission plant was one commonly suggested site.

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Von Ziegenweidt said locating the hospital in the county or Windsor’s suburban edges risks further population erosion of the city’s core and inflicting severe economic hardship on the area.

“To put it on a greenfield site on the city’s southeast extreme is not sensible,” von Ziegenweidt said.

A series of groups also criticized the city’s own proposal of submitting the airport lands as a potential site.

However, Mayor Eddie Francis said the city submitted the site as it was the only piece of city-owned land that met the province’s criteria. He also added without knowledge of what private landowners might submit, the city didn’t want to be caught without at least one location within Windsor.

“We made it clear in the event other prospective sites in Windsor were submitted, they should be considered over the airport,” Francis said.

Marra represented the majority opinion in explaining his opposition to the motion that it would only raise false expectations that it would be included in the process at this time.

“Access to transit, to the community and the population will all be weighted in the process,” Marra said.

“A lot of the issues raised are already entrenched in the process. I don’t think writing a letter now, we can change things.

“This part of the process is complete. We should focus on the redevelopment of the other (Met and Hotel Dieu-Grace) sites.”