



– ANNUAL REPORT 2015 –

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Earth Day

WECEC participated in the Windsor Essex Earth Day celebrations by having a booth at the event on Sunday April 26th at Malden Park from 10am until 3pm. Members distributed our brochure and customized magnets.

Pat on the Back Environmental Awards

WECEC received 10 Pat on the Back applications from local environmental groups and schools. 6 were selected to present their environmental project at the Pat on the Back Award Ceremony on May 25th at the Ojibway Nature Center.

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

1. Windsor Essex County Community School Garden Collective for a community garden at Roseville Public School;
2. Tecumseh Vista Academy for a community garden;
3. The Bloomfield House for a fence weave art project beautifying the community; and
4. The Blue Dot for their “Right to a Healthy Environment Campaign”.

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



Brought to you by: Windsor Essex County ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Green Speaker Series

FREE TO ATTEND!

Consumed: Food for a Finite Planet

Tuesday, October 20th at 7:00pm
Capitol Theatre (121 University Ave W)
Please register by calling 311/211

Sarah Elton is the bestselling author of "Consumed" and "Locavore".

Thank you to our sponsors:

WINDSOR HEALTH UNIT
United Way Centralide
PATHWAY TO POTENTIAL Windsor Essex County

Green Speaker Series: Sarah Elton

On Tuesday, October 20th, WECEC in collaboration with co-sponsors the City of Windsor, The Health Unit, Pathway to Potential and The United Way, continued the Green Speaker Series with Toronto-based journalist and award-winning author Sarah Elton. Sarah spoke to approximately 70 people about numerous dimensions of food, including eating local, political decisions about food and how your choices as a consumer can cause significant shifts supplier behaviour, the complexity of the global food system, and the junction between food and the environment, including climate change implications

Sarah framed her talk using effective stories such as her grandmother’s utilization of ingredients, and how she got them, to her awakening as a “locavore”, or local eater, where after inspecting a cookie her daughter

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brought home, which appeared to have been locally baked, she discovered that it had been baked and shipped from China. This led Sarah to learn more about food systems.

Following the talk was a lively and engaged question and answer session, which spanned topics including the potential future of corporate food chains, local food production, monoculture systems, the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides, and how climate change may impact how we get our food.

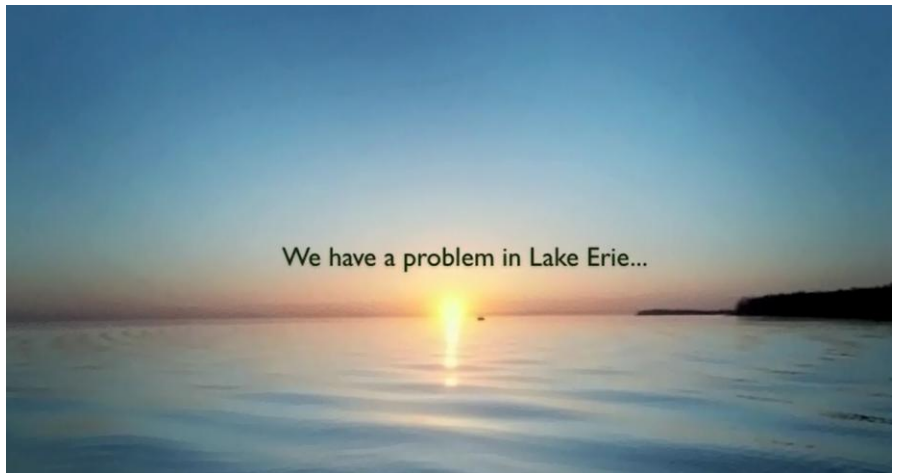
OVERLOAD

Lake Erie Blue Green Algae: Problems & Solutions

From November 26, 2014 through October 31, 2015, a 30-second informational commercial has been playing at Lakeshore Cinemas (164 Commercial Blvd).

The commercial is intended to raise awareness of blooms of toxic blue-green algae in Lake Erie, as well as provide easily-implemented community and individual initiatives that can contribute to decreasing the size of future blooms, including naturalizing shoreline properties to act as a runoff buffer, using

phosphate-free detergents, maintaining septic systems, installing rain barrels and rain gardens and reducing the need for residential fertilizers through means such as the planting of native vegetation and grasses.



At the recent Lake Erie/St. Clair Binational Public Forum, held November 6-7 in Leamington, the Overload commercial was raised as an effective engagement strategy to help reduce phosphate loading by a biology teacher with the Greater Essex County District School Board who was in attendance.

WECEC plans to renew their contract and continue to show the video commercial through much of 2016.

WECEC BUSINESS

Due to the municipal elections held in October 2014, as well as the changes to the WECEC committee, the first meeting of 2015 was not held until April 30th. Coupled with the new *Terms of Reference*, which reduced the number of meetings from a monthly to approximately bi-monthly schedule, WECEC was not as active in 2015 as in previous years.

Website Hosting

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.

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Promotional Supplies

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. To utilize the remaining funds of the 2015 budgetary year, WECEC may procure promotional environmental items such as coasters or pens made from recycled materials.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY AND COUNTY COUNCILS

Report No. 90 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:

The Windsor Essex County Environment Committee at its meeting held June 25th 2015 approved the following Report as follows:

Moved by D. Coronado, seconded by J. Gardner Costa,

That the following recommendations **BE APPROVED** by City and County Councils:

1. Officially recognize the Right to a Healthy Environment, through a Municipal Declaration or equivalent measure;
2. Respect, protect and fulfill the right to a healthy environment within municipal boundaries, and
3. Encourage provincial and federal action to protect the right to a healthy environment for all Canadians.

And further, that the following proposed amendments to the Municipal Declaration (**attached** as Appendix “A”) **BE ADDED** to:

- Include a concrete action that the Federal government can strive towards; and
- Include interim targets and timelines for implementation within the 20 year strategic plan.

Carried.

This report was moved at the July 22nd Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee meeting. This report was adopted in principle (pending review from Legal) at the August 24th City of Windsor Council meeting and sent to administration for review at the September 2nd County Council meeting. The Blue Dot is meeting with various town council administrations to have the recommendation presented.

Note: The Blue Dot Movement, started by the David Suzuki Foundation, is the simple, yet powerful idea that all Canadians deserve the right to clean air, healthy food, and fresh water. Since October of last year, 53 municipal governments have passed declarations showing support for their residents’ right to a healthy environment. The intention is to build a coalition of municipal declarations and individual signatures, prompting matching responses by the provinces with the culmination of an amendment to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to include our right to a healthy environment.

Report No. 91 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:

The Windsor Essex County Environment Committee at its meeting held July 30th 2015 approved the following Report as follows:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Joe Bachetti, seconded by Councillor Fred Francis,

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That the **Revised Terms of Reference** dated July 2015 for the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee **BE APPROVED**.

Carried.

This report was moved at the July 22nd Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee meeting. This report was adopted in principle (pending review from Legal) at the August 24th City of Windsor Council meeting and sent to administration for review at the September 2nd County Council meeting.

The Windsor Council at its meeting held September 21st 2015 approved the following Report as follows:

Moved by Councillor Gignac, seconded by Councillor Holt,

That Report No. 295 of the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee of its meeting held August 26, 2015 regarding —Report No. 91 of the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee (**Revised Terms of Reference**) --- **BE ADOPTED** as presented

Carried.

Note: Changes in WECEC's *Terms of Reference* include the following:

- WECEC composition was reduced from 14 members to 11
- Quorum was reduced from 8 members to 6
- The frequency of meetings was reduced from monthly to bio-monthly
- Active subcommittees were reduced from
 - 1) Air;
 - 2) Transport;
 - 3) Provincially Significant Watersheds; and
 - 4) Water Qualityto
 - 1) Air

Report No. 92 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:

The Windsor Essex County Environment Committee at its meeting held June 25th 2015 approved the following Report as follows:

Moved by M. Nelson, seconded by D. Coronado,

That City/County Councils **BE REQUESTED** to support the Call To Action to join the Green Infrastructure Ontario Coalition to realize the vision for the consideration, maintenance and improvement of green infrastructure across Ontario.

Carried.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2015 Budget			
Expense	Credit	Expenditure	Status
2015 Budget	\$8,000.00		
Green Speaker Sponsorship	\$1,250.00		
Website domain renewal		\$25.44	Spent
Pat on the Back		\$2,057.39	Spent
Green Speaker		\$3,898.43	Spent
Website hosting fee		\$406.80	Proposed
Promo material		\$750.00*	Proposed
Overload theatre renewal		\$2,000.00*	Proposed
TOTALS	\$9,250.00	\$5,981.26	
ESTIMATED TOTAL REMAINING			\$20.94*

This Budget is as of November 2015.

WECEC IN THE NEWS

THE WINDSOR STAR

Windsor declares the right to a healthy environment



Windsor City Council meeting on August 24, 2015 August 24, 2015.



[Craig Pearson](#)

Aug 24, 2015 - 11:31 PM EDT

Last Updated: Aug 25, 2015 - 7:22 AM EDT

The City of Windsor is now officially committed to a green community.

After hearing impassioned presentations from members of a youth advisory committee, the city adopted a municipal declaration that says, in part: “All people have the right to live in a healthy environment.”

The two-page declaration must still be vetted by the legal department. Language in the proposed declaration will be changed from such things as “the municipality shall take cost effective measures to prevent the degradation of the environment” to start with the qualifier, “shall endeavour to take cost effective measures.”

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As part of a campaign pushing for the declaration, about 600 postcards, hand drawn from area school children, were sent to city councillors with messages such as: “I want to see birds in the sky.”

“We’re young people saying we want to stay in the city, and for us to stay in the city we need to know we have a bright future, and that includes the right to healthy water, healthy food and clean air,” said Missy Sauro, the founder of the Windsor-Essex Youth Advising City Councillors. “So it was an incredibly empowering experience to go in front of council.”

THE WINDSOR STAR

LOCAVORE AUTHOR SARAH ELTON COMING TO WINDSOR



SHARON HILL, WINDSOR STAR

[More from Sharon Hill, Windsor Star](#)

Published on: October 18, 2015 | Last Updated: October 19, 2015 2:49 PM EDT

A cookie her daughter received at a birthday party turned Sarah Elton into a locavore.

“I was reading the ingredients just to see what was inside when there, in small letters at the bottom, were three words that changed my life: Made in China,” the Toronto food columnist and author of three books on food said last week.

Elton started questioning where her food came from and the distances it travelled to get here. She saw how we’re losing control of our food and became passionate about buying local, sustainable food and saving farmland. She wrote [Locavore](#), *From Farmers’ Fields to Rooftop Gardens, How Canadians Are Changing the Way We Eat*, and *Consumed: Food for a Finite Planet*.

She’s coming to Windsor to share some of her passion for local food at the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee’s Green Speaker Series on Tuesday, Oct. 20. The event is free at the Capitol Theatre at 7 p.m. but please call 311 to register.