

PRE-ELECTION
EDITION!!

tea leaves

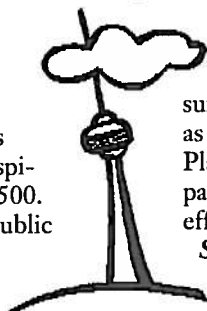
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TORONTO ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE • AUTUMN 2000 • PRE-ELECTION EDITION

Toronto Receives a grade of 'C-' on Smog Report Card

Air Pollution kills 1,000 Toronto residents each year and hospitalizes another 5,500. When Toronto Public Health published these figures, local politicians pointed to the *Toronto Smog Plan* as their response to this crisis. TEA has evaluated the City's work on smog prevention this year, and given them a grade of "C minus".

"Toronto City Council has shown that they can 'talk the talk' on smog better than anyone" said Keith Stewart, TEA's Smog and Climate Change coordinator. "Now it's time to make the investments necessary to protect our health." Failure to apply the resources necessary to implement the City's smog plan hurt the grade.

Toronto spends only 77¢ per capita on smog and greenhouse gas reduction measures, compared to \$1.29 in Vancouver, \$1.86 in Ottawa and \$4.53 in Los Angeles. A glaring example of neglect is the complete lack of an employee trip reduction program – a commitment which was first made in 1997 and which was promised again for this summer at the *Smog Summit* in June.



The Smog Report Card summarizes commitments made as part of the Toronto Smog Plan, evaluates progress in the past year, and grades the City's efforts. This is the third annual *Smog Report Card*. In 1998, the Toronto Environmental Alliance gave the former City of Toronto a grade of 'D', while the former Metro government got an 'F'. Last year, the amalgamated city got a 'D'.

"The City has done a great job of highlighting smog as a health problem and bringing it to the attention of the public and other levels of government" said Stewart. This year's higher grade is due to Toronto Public Health's research and public education efforts, for organizing the federal-provincial-municipal Toronto Smog Summit, and for the purchase of low-sulphur gasoline for municipal vehicles.

To ensure a better grade next year, TEA called on candidates in the upcoming municipal election to commit to: re-investment in public transit, implementation of the Green Fleets and Employee Trip Reduction programs, the purchase of renewable energy for City operations, and measures to encourage other large corporations to undertake similar initiatives.

...continued on Page 3

WE WIN – POLLUTING ADAMS MINE DUMP LOSES, DIVERSION GAINS MOMENTUM *by Shelley Petrie*

In a stunning turnaround, the City of Toronto has decided not to send our million plus tonnes/year of garbage north to the open pit Adams Mine.

City Works Commissioner Barry Gutteridge informed Rail Cycle North and Waste Management International that its insistence to "continue to pursue the inclusion of the provisions to deal with unavoidable costs, involving some flow through of those costs to the City," meant he could not sign the deal.

TEA had alerted City Council and staff to the probability that RCN and WMI would work to keep Toronto paying for twenty years for necessary improvements in water treatment systems, the long-term liability of the mine and eventual changes to government laws overseeing waste diversion. Obviously, the Adams Mine proponents could not bear those costs.

Some media argue that the deal was broken on a technicality, but TEA remains convinced that it was the broad based public opposition to the proposal that won the day.

"The people of Toronto spoke loudly and clearly against the Adams Mine proposal. With their phone calls to councillors and the Mayor, they turned the garbage train around," said TEA spokesperson, Shelley Petrie.

The often emotional debate over Toronto's garbage has another positive outcome – during the upcoming municipal election race, waste diversion options, like TEA's and CUPE's Wet/Dry diversion program and increased backyard composting, have become real talking points at the doors over all the City. TEA will insist that the full slate of waste diversion options are fully discussed by the new Council in January. ♻️

INSIDE!

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tea Annual General Meeting

by Katrina Miller

TEA had a lot to say to the attendees of the TEA Annual General Meeting, held at Metro Hall on July 18th. It has been a striking year for TEA, and plans for 2000-2001 promise us many interesting stories for next year's AGM. TEA worked hard to get a diverse attendance to this AGM and succeeded. From fellow old hats of the environmental field to enthusiastic youth, over fifty people came to find out what TEA has done this past year and plans to do in the future.

Lois Corbett, TEA's Executive Director, kicked off AGM by giving an enthusiastic report TEA's successes, challenges and changes over the last year.

Lois began by giving thanks to the Board of Directors for giving valuable insight, direction, and opinions that have helped TEA move forward while staying true to its mission of being the

citizen's voice for local environmental change. Many have gone beyond the normal commitment of a board member by being basically on call seven days a week for last minute advice and campaign support.

Regarding TEA's staff, Lois expressed her sorrow at the loss of our long time smog campaigner **John "Smog Boy" Wellner**, who has moved over to take the helm of Pollution Probe's Smog Campaign.

However, as holes rarely remain unfilled for long at TEA, Lois welcomed the addition of **Dr. Keith Stewart**, a former board member who has now taken the title of "**Doctor Smog**".

TEA's volunteers have been essential to the success of TEA over the last year. Lois gave a huge thanks to all of our volunteers, from the many concerned citizens who contacted their local politicians in support of TEA's initiatives, to those who regularly donated their time giving much needed support to TEA's staff. Because volunteers are so important to TEA, Lois discussed the

many ways we are trying to integrate volunteers into the working of TEA, as well as diversify our volunteer bank to truly reflect the multi-culturalism of Toronto.

Over the last year, TEA has been making itself known down at city hall. As part of the Environmental Task Force, TEA worked with city staff and other environmental groups to create **Toronto's Environmental Plan**.

Although this plan does not answer all of the concerns TEA has about Toronto's environment, it is easily the best plan Toronto has had so far. TEA was also instrumental in the passing of a sewer use bylaw, which will help keep our drinking water less polluted by industrial waste. In the coming year TEA will take part in the city's Sustainability Roundtable, as well as continuing to develop relationships with green councillors.

Out side of Toronto, TEA has been deeply involved with negotiating air quality policy with all levels of government. Lois ended her report by thanking all friends of TEA for their support and stated that TEA is pushing for even greater successes to report to its members at the next AGM!

The next item on the AGM agenda was election of the Board of Directors. TEA said an appreciative goodbye to retiring board members **Peter Leiss**, **Joan Dorion**, **Keith Stewart** (now staff), **Hallie Beecher**, and **T.J. Schur**. TEA gave an appreciative welcome to **Leslie Woo**, **Christine Ferguson**, **Michael Olivier**, as brand new board members as well as thanks to **Sean Brathwaite**, **Clarissa Morwaski**, **Ed Drass**, and **Kevin Mercer** for agreeing to stay on another year.

After a small break for sandwiches and cookies, our AGM attendees returned to hear Lois Corbett and Don Huff give a Keynote Speech on Urban Environmentalism and Local Action. **Don Huff** is a communication consultant who once acted as the conservation director of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and has worked at both municipal and provincial levels of government.continued on page 11

ACTION:
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and vote for cleaner air
in the upcoming
Ontario election.

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Lois Corbett appointed to US/CAN Ozone Agreement delegation

TEA's Executive Director has been appointed to the Canadian team negotiating a smog reduction agreement with the United States.

Lois Corbett serves as the sole environmental non-governmental representative to the 20-plus member committee set by Canada to develop an **Ozone Annex** under the 1991 Canada-US Air Quality Agreement. The Canadian delegation is chaired by David Egar of Environment Canada.

The Ozone Annex is supposed to address health and environmental problems common to both countries by reducing emissions of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds, leading to reductions in ground-level ozone concentrations in both countries. Ozone is a significant contributor to smog.

Ground-level ozone is a main component of smog in Toronto, as well as cities and towns all over southern Ontario. It is a direct cause of serious health problems in Canada and the US, including respiratory distress, increased hospital visits and admissions, and premature deaths.

The City's Medical Officer of Health recently reported that over 1,000 city residents die prematurely each year due to Toronto's polluted air.

"As much as 40% of Toronto's smog comes from the US," said Corbett. *"It's important that the new agreement reduce emissions flowing over the border and that we use this opportunity to clean up our own act."*

Canada's Environment Minister agrees. In a press release before the opening of the second negotiating round in Washington in June, David Anderson said, *"strong domestic action by Canada strengthens our hand in negotiations with the US. Securing an ozone agreement with the US is critical to reducing air pollution in Canada. I am pleased that negotiations are moving well and it's my hope that we can complete and sign a binding agreement to reduce smog before the end of the year."*

"These negotiations recognize that smog doesn't respect borders. Canada and the U.S. are committed to reducing transboundary air pollution and its serious health effects," said Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Foreign Affairs. *"In southern Ontario and Quebec, air pollution from the United States contributes to about 50% of the ground-level ozone. This is why we must act jointly with the U.S. to address this serious problem."*

Other federal government departments represented on the negotiation team include Foreign Affairs, Industry Canada, Natural Resources Canada and Health Canada.

Ontario Power Generation represents industry on the Canadian delegation and Tony Rockingham, from Ontario's Ministry of the Environment and Raynald Brulotte, of Quebec's environment ministry, represent the provinces. ☘

TORONTO SMOG REPORT CARD 2000

SMOG PREVENTION AND REDUCTION

Three years later, most of the smog prevention programs (actions to reduce everyday emissions of air pollutants) are still on the drawing board. *The Environmental Plan*, adopted in April 2000, has a number of good smog prevention and reduction initiatives. But without resources and a strong commitment from senior staff, these are unlikely to be implemented.

GRADE: **D**

BUDGET

Toronto spends only 77¢ per capita on smog and greenhouse gas emissions reduction (Vancouver spends \$1.29, Ottawa spends \$1.86, San Francisco spends \$4.03 and Los Angeles spends \$4.53). Last June, Council recommended that the Budget Committee allocate the resources necessary to speed up the implementation of the smog plan and to initiate other initiatives that will reduce smog. **No such resources have been allocated.**

GRADE: **F**

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The City's "clean hands" approach and the Medical Officer of Health's reports to other governments and the public on transboundary air pollution, Canada Wide Standards, and the Lakeview generating station have been excellent. *Bonus marks to the Board of Health for producing the Air Pollution Burden of Illness in Toronto report and to the Toronto Atmospheric Fund for organizing the Toronto Smog Summit.*

GRADE: **A** (for effort)

SMOG ALERT PROGRAM

Some good work here to reduce emissions from City operations and to inform the public on how to protect their health on days with very bad air quality. But there is a lot more work to be done, as fewer than one third of City departments have *Divisional Response Plans* and less than a quarter of the employees surveyed actually change what they do on Smog Alert days.

GRADE: **C+**

PUBLIC EDUCATION

There's a lot of room for improvement here. The creative partnerships and programs sponsored by the Toronto Atmospheric Fund should be used as a model for other City education programs.

GRADE: **C**

EMPLOYEE TRIP REDUCTION

Still no Employee Trip Reduction plan in place. Car-pooling, bike, transit and telecommuting program for City employees could be a catalyst for similar initiatives at other downtown offices. The City-sponsored *Transportation Management Association pilot project* is a step in the right direction.

GRADE: **F**

GREEN FLEETS

The group which was supposed to create a strategy to switch to zero emission vehicles such as hydrogen fuel cell buses and bikes or to vehicles which use cleaner fuels, hasn't met in years. Some natural gas vehicles are being purchased. *Bonus marks to Council for purchasing low-sulphur gasoline.*

GRADE: **C**

TARGETS, MEASURING AND MONITORING

The City has set some good targets for itself now it must measure and monitor progress toward achieving them. In May 1999, the Chief Administrative Officer produced the first of what was to be an "annual" Smog Prevention and Reduction Status Report and Work Plan. No report has been produced for 2000.

GRADE: **D**

OVERALL GRADE

Time to invest in protecting the public's health from air pollution.

GRADE:

C-



The hidden costs of the perfect lawn

by Janet May

As Health Canada dilly-dallies with pesticide reform, studies outlining the alarming effects of pesticide are piling up.

PESTICIDES AND CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOUR

In the Yaqui Valley in Mexico, farmers spray their crops with pesticides up to 45 times per crop cycle whereas in the foothills of the valley, farmers use traditional agricultural techniques. University of Arizona anthropologist Elizabeth Guillelte compared the behavioural development of the children living in the valley to those living in the foothills. The first phase of the study examined play behaviour of 4 and 5 year olds from the two areas. Science News reported that the children of the valley "demonstrated significantly less stamina, gross and fine eye-hand coordination, 30 minute recall, and drawing ability" than the foothills children.

Guillelte returned to the area in 1998, two years after the first tests. The 7-year-old children exposed to pesticides were drawing at a 4-year-old level. According to Guillelte, "The 7 year old lesser-exposed were identifying people by gender, with a dress or pants, appropriate hair, fingers, facial features and shoes."

Guillelte also found the exposed children were less energetic than the less exposed group and, after observing the two groups walk along a 2-by-4 plank and turn around, noted a poorer sense of balance among the valley children.

PARKINSON'S DISEASE AND PESTICIDES

A study published this April in the International Journal of Epidemiology found that people living in rural counties

in California where pesticides are frequently used died from Parkinson's disease 1.5 times the rate of people living in urban counties. Researchers examined over twenty-two thousand death certificates issued between 1984 and 1993.

The mortality from Parkinson's of those living in counties reporting pesticides use was from 19 to 49 per cent higher than in counties reporting no pesticide use.

EPA TAKES BUG KILLER OFF SHELVES

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took products containing *chlorpyrifos*, a commonly used insecticide off the shelves of garden centres and hardware stores earlier this summer.

Chlorpyrifos is found in many home and garden products including

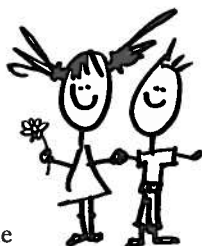
Dursban, flea control products and lawn fertilizers. Dow

Elanco, the manufacturer of this widely used but dangerous product, was presented with an ultimatum by the EPA: either voluntarily remove products containing *chlorpyrifos* from the shelves or the products will be

banned. Dow Elanco chose the voluntary route — not because the chemical

giant had suddenly developed a social conscience — but because banned products can no longer be manufactured in the US for export to other countries.

In Canada, Minister of Health Allan Rock thought he had negotiated a similar deal with Dow Elanco. However, at the eleventh hour, Dow reneged on the agreement. This means that Canada will have to provide studies proving risk to Canadians before the government can remove *chlorpyrifos* from our shelves. This, unfortunately, could take two to four years. ☘



ACTION:
Think green at the polls
and vote for a
pesticide-free city

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ONTARIO NEEDS A SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT

by Shelley Petrie

"In the United States safe drinking water is not a privilege, it is a public right upheld by U.S. law,"

explains Margaret Wooster, Executive Director of Great Lakes United.

TEA, the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) and Dr. Adam Winterton of Chesley, Ontario are using the Environmental Bill of Rights to ask Ontario Premier Mike Harris to review the need for a Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and introduce pro-active legislation to protect Ontario's drinking water. The Ministry of Environment has agreed to the review and is expected to make a decision in November.

The US SDWA, over 25 years old, has steadily decreased the incidence of water-borne disease outbreaks, such as E.coli, in American cities and towns.

Ontario's new Drinking Water Protection Regulation announced by the province in August standardizes treatment, water testing and public reporting procedures to be followed by municipal waterworks. This regulation will ultimately result in more boil-water advisories being issued across the province, but does nothing to keep contaminants out of municipal drinking water sources - either surface or groundwater.

"An Ontario SDWA would ensure that water coming out of your tap is drinkable," says Rick Lindgren, a lawyer with CELA. "The Act would establish drinking water as a key public health priority, rather than simply another municipal service at the mercy of funding cutbacks and provincial downloading."

It appears that Walkerton's deadly water occurred because of a lack of leadership and accountability to secure safe drinking water. Information on water pollution sources and trends in Ontario is out of date. Existing drinking water and water protection regulations, such as controls

on agricultural waste management and industrial sewer discharges are inadequate and often differ between municipalities.

In practice, a SDWA would be administered by the province. The Ontario government would be legally compelled to act on repeated drinking water violations; commit funds for municipal infrastructure repairs to water and wastewater treatment facilities; and, evaluate the effectiveness of water protection regulations in preventing contaminant runoff into drinking water sources.


A SDWA would also provide for public involvement, which is key to protecting drinking water and enables the public, as well as government, to foresee the type of problems that led to Walkerton.

A "Consumer Confidence Report" released regularly under a SDWA, by municipalities and annually by the Ontario government, would identify what contaminants are present in local tap water, pollution sources and the associated health risks. TEA adds "This transparency serves as an early alarm, warning governments and the public when immediate action or new regulations are needed to further protect drinking water. This would eliminate secrecy and the need for the public to blindly trust their government."

Premier Harris must enact a SDWA and repair Ontario's damaged reputation with local citizens and American tourists planning to vacation in Ontario cottages and campgrounds. Bottled water is neither an equitable nor a cheaper solution. ☘

Shelley Petrie is TEA's Water Campaigner.

NOTE: GREAT LAKES UNITED is an international coalition dedicated to protecting and conserving the Great-Lakes-St. Lawrence River ecosystem and promoting clean air and water for all citizens.



ACTION:
Think green at the polls
and vote for
better quality of
drinking water

Supreme Court Challenge Update

On December 7th, 2000 the Supreme Court of Canada will listen to the challenge from **Chemlawn** and **Spraytech** to the by-law passed by Hudson, Quebec which prevented the use of pesticides on public and private green space. The Quebec Trial Court and the Quebec Court of Appeal previously upheld the right of the municipality to pass a by-law protecting the health of its residents.

Earlier this year, TEA and ten other non-profit organizations were given leave by the Supreme Court to intervene in the case. The Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) is representing TEA and the other groups.

The legal arguments filed by CELA include:

- *Pesticide application for cosmetic purposes is a local concern and municipalities have the power the enact by-laws to address these concerns. By-laws, such as building appearance, tree removal and vegetation control are issues addressed by local by-laws;*
- *Different municipalities have different concerns. Traditionally, municipalities have been able to pass by-laws that reflect these differences. Some examples of these types of by-laws are land use and local nuisances.*
- *Municipal by-laws regulate activities which have an impact upon others residing within its boundaries. Under general health and welfare powers granted by the provinces, municipalities can address issues such as noise and air quality. Because pesticides do not stay on the lawns where they are applied, a municipality can pass a by-law to regulate applications on both private and public property.*

The complete factum can be viewed at CELA's website: www.cela.ca
<<http://www.cela.ca/>> ☘

TEA would like to thank everyone who contributed to this important Supreme Court case. We are about \$ 1,000 short of our goal and are still accepting donations to cover our legal costs.

TEA CANVASS: AN ACTIVE PRESENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

by Kale Broadhagen

The Toronto Environmental Alliance door to door fundraising program turned out to be a huge success this spring and summer. You may have seen a cold or wet canvasser at your door — our group of dedicated canvassers, made up of 15 to 20 people ranging from young students to seasoned canvass veterans, goes out into the streets in any weather conditions to spread the good word. With your generosity and help, TEA not only raised money for our education efforts, but brought your voice and that of your community to support environmental issues around and beyond the city.

Your support helps TEA speak loudly. In late fall 1999, we were involved in a nation-wide letter-writing campaign to Finance Minister Paul Martin to make climate change an issue in the upcoming budget. TEA managed to gather over 2000 letters and post cards to be delivered to Parliament, and the last federal budget delivered much-needed resources towards combating climate change.

TEA's door-to-door activists encouraged as many people as possible to call Mayor Mel Lastman in an attempt to sway City Councilors decision on the Adams Mine proposal to ship Toronto's garbage to Northern Ontario.

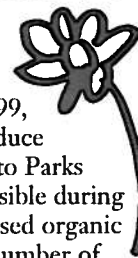
This spring the canvass also tried to make a difference in the local environment by helping many people choose alternatives to chemical pesticides and herbicides on their lawns. We thought that more face to face pleading might be more effective than a handout or brochure.

But most important of all, the canvass excels at introducing the Toronto Environmental Alliance to the public. We feel that this is the single best way to gain new support for our organization and for the environmental issues we work on. So please try not to get annoyed if one of us shows up at your door while you're eating dinner; we are only there doing what we can for cleaner air and cleaner water. ☘

THANKS TO THIS YEAR'S CROP OF CANVASSERS:
Andrew, Nick, Howard, Rory, Taylor, Harry, Dave, Aaron, Liora, Sophie, Justin, Erin, Atalay, and Adam.

Toronto Parks Rack Up Impressive Pesticide Reductions

by Janet May



Congratulations to Toronto's parks staff and management! In 1999, a multistakeholder committee was formed to develop a plan to reduce pesticides on city-owned land. At the beginning of this process, Toronto Parks predicted that pesticide reductions ranging from 10% to 50% were possible during the first year. Both TEA and *Healthy Home Services* — a Toronto-based organic lawn care company — pushed for greater reductions and suggested a number of alternatives. One alternative now being used in Toronto is *Aquacide*, a hot water weed technology that cooks weeds to death. Aquacide has replaced glyphosate — better known as *Round-up* — on paved areas and on warning tracks in sports fields. Claire Tucker-Reid, Arthur Beauregard and Doug McDonald are to be congratulated for championing pesticide reductions within the city.

Unfortunately, this year's budget process left the pesticide reduction program without any financial support. In order to keep our green space beautiful and pesticide-free, the city does need to invest in new technologies like *Aquacide* and to hire two experts to train staff about pest identification and non-toxic alternatives. This short-term investment will lead to long term savings, which includes cleaner water and a healthier population.

Let your local councilor know that it is not acceptable to reduce the budget of programs that ultimately benefit both our health and the environment for short-term savings. ☘

TEA'S YOUTH CAUCUS WASHES BIKES FOR CLEAN AIR

**BE A SMOG BUSTER --
TAKE YOUR BIKE TO
SCHOOL OR WORK.**



That's the message TEA's Youth Caucus brought to the streets of Toronto in mid June with its first-ever Bike Wash. Our friends at *Grassroots Environmental Products* gave up their sidewalk to our soapy gang of student environmentalists. We got lots of smiles, and cleaned everything from muddy mountain bikes to tiny training wheels. Watch for us on streets and boardwalks in the Fall -- if you're cycling, pull over and let us thank you for protecting our air! ☘



TEA's Tina Vashista and Sabrina Bowman clean up...literally!

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

Thanks to all those generous individuals and groups who have supported TEA this year. We depend on your support, which goes directly towards projects to improve your local environment. **SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

- Our friends whose generosity and extremely hard work kept Inisfill, Ontario incinerator-free
- The students at Upper Canada College for their generous donation
- The staff at Home Depot for supporting TEA's work
- Our generous supporters of our Supreme Court pesticide challenge (we still need support, and are accepting contributions now!)
- Howard Stellar, YESIC and ReBoot Canada, who brought our computer system (almost) into the new millennium
- Everyone who phoned Mayor Mel Lastman and said no to our trash being dumped in an old mine pit in Kirkland Lake, Ontario
- As always, our dedicated office volunteers — and you know who you are!



KEEP IN TOUCH

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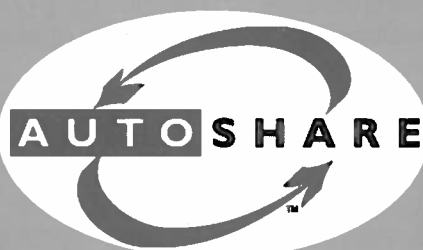
is produced by the **Toronto Environmental Alliance** twice a year. If you have any announcements, comments, or would like to submit an article, please contact us.

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tea PUBLICATIONS

PAMPHLETS & FACTSHEETS

NEW - SMOG ALERT! How to protect yourself and reduce emissions. FREE

NEW - "Our Changing Climate" Junior Level Curriculum Unit: A curriculum unit on climate change designed for teachers of junior-level students.

NEW - Use It, Re-Use It: The guide to reuse, repair and rental businesses in Toronto. FREE

NEW - Return to Re-Use: A look at deposit-return systems to reduce waste and save taxpayers money. FREE

NEW - User Pay: User pay for residential garbage neither reduces waste nor saves money - find out the better alternatives. FREE

Pesticide-Free Zone Kit: A series of factsheets outlining alternatives to lawns and alternatives to pesticides; also provides tips on how to talk to your neighbours. \$3.00

Green Lawns: A guide to environmentally-friendly lawn care. FREE

VIDEOS

Growing Like a Weed: Explores the issue of urban pesticide use and possible health effects caused by these chemicals. Also illustrates chemical-free lawn care. \$15.00

Great Lakes - Great Lawns: Views from community activists and homeowners around the Great Lakes basin and their efforts and successes in eliminating pesticide use. \$15.00

Auto Domination - Avenues of Change: Background on current transportation issues and sustainable alternatives. \$15.00

REPORTS

NEW - What's Wrong with Ontario's Smog Plan? FREE

NEW - Key Findings on Ground-Level Ozone: Health and Smog Report. FREE

NEW - City of Toronto Smog Report Card. FREE

Moving Up the Ladder: The place of re-use and refill in Canadian waste management strategies. \$15.00

Organic Waste Diversion in the Greater Toronto Area: A critical analysis of the GTA's 3Rs analysis input document. \$15.00

Curbing Curbside Toxics: An examination of the GTA's 3Rs Analysis. \$15.00

Paper Diversion in the Greater Toronto Area - Threat or Promise? Examination of collection and diversion of paper in the GTA. \$15.00

The Green Grocer's Guide to Waste Reduction: How to conduct a waste audit, practice source reduction and establish re-use and recycling measures. \$15.00



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HOW TO TALK TO CITY HALL,
and many other environmental issues!

Toronto Environmental Alliance

Volunteers: the backbone of tea

Volunteers have been ready at hand over the last year in helping TEA build environmental awareness in Toronto through supporting TEA staff and promoting our campaigns. Just this spring alone, over 30 volunteers participated in an Earthweek fundraiser that raised over \$5,000 for community-based environmental initiatives and made thousands of people in Toronto aware of the great work TEA does.

The fundraiser, performed in partnership with Earth Day Canada and the Brewers of Ontario, was held on April 15th at 21 beer stores across Toronto. Beer store patrons were approached by cheerful TEA volunteers and asked if they would donate the refund from their returnable bottles to local environmental initiatives. The response was very positive and some supporters went as far as to drop off van loads of empty cases for the cause!

Back in the office, we have successfully recruited a group of eager and enthusiastic volunteers, most of whom are new to TEA, to attend two volunteer-led Climate Change workshops. Each volunteer brushed up on their Smog and Climate Change knowledge and are going to work together to take action on Climate Change in Toronto.

As well as making TEA events successful, our volunteers help to make the office even more productive. Volunteers came out to help staff with phone calling, filing, fact sheet writing and Internet research - giving much-needed support to TEA's staff.



TEA fundraiser - Bucks for Bottles

In the fall, TEA will be recruiting volunteers who are interested in performing public education workshops regarding water conversation and contamination. TEA will provide these volunteers with the training they need to talk to community groups about what they can do to help preserve the quantity and quality to Toronto's drinking water.

TEA's "Elect Environment" campaign is another great opportunity for citizens to help out with an important initiative that will have a lasting effect on Toronto's environment. The size and reach of this campaign will be very dependent on how many volunteers are available to help out!

Volunteer support is essential to the success of TEA. Therefore, we are looking for ways to better support our volunteers in realizing their own goals for environmental activism.

Integrating more volunteers in TEA caucuses, providing room for volunteers to take initiative on their own ideas, and developing a more diverse

volunteer base that better reflects the multicultural mix of Toronto are the strategies TEA will continue to use to support its volunteers in the future. Providing a place for citizens to have a voice in environmental decision-making has been a long-standing tradition at TEA and our staff is dedicated to making sure this tradition continues.

If you or someone you know would like to find out more about TEA's volunteer opportunities, please contact KATRINA MILLER at 416-596-0660 or e-mail to: tea@web.ca

Be the Coolest Kid Around — JOIN THE TEA YOUTH CAUCUS

Students these days know about BIG environmental issues: genetically-engineered foods, clear-cutting, selling Great Lakes water. But right here in Toronto, in our urban world of concrete and cars, there are important issues that you should also know about, and a great opportunity to get involved. **TEA's Youth Caucus** is busy fighting poisonous pesticides, smelly smokestacks, growing garbage and dirty drinking water right here at home — and we need your help!

Read through TEA Leaves and you'll see the problems...

One thousand Torontonians die prematurely every year from smog. Pesticides wash from lawns to contaminate the Don and Humber Rivers. Incinerators pump toxic pollutants into our air. It's a depressing list, but you can be part of the solution by joining our Youth Caucus.

In the past few years, the **Youth Caucus**, made up of students from across Toronto, has:

- *cleaned up two urban parks;*
- *distributed information on alternatives to lawn pesticides;*
- *produced a newsletter called "TEA Biscuit" (cute, eh?)*

- *Volunteers collect bottles in TEA's "Re-fund" raiser;*
- *protested pollution from cars on Earth Day, and;*
- *spoke at hearings to improve Great Lakes Water Quality.*

Consider it a sanity break from homework. The **TEA Youth Caucus** meets regularly and maintains a website to discuss issues and plan events.

If you're interested in the environment, give us a call. You'll be the coolest kid you know.

To get involved, contact RICH at TEA at (416) 596-0660.
Visit us at www.geocities.com/teayouth.

BECOME A PART OF TEA

TEA has many volunteers who work with us everyday or come to our regular meetings. Get involved by giving us a call or work on an issue that interests you. In the office call...

LOIS CORBETT, Executive Director
JANET MAY, Pesticide Reduction Caucus
GORD PERKS, Waste Reduction Caucus
MARJORIE NICHOL, Rocket Riders Caucus
SHELLEY PETRIE, Water Caucus
RICH WHATE, Toxics
KEITH STEWART, Smog and Climate Change Caucus
KATRINA MILLER, Executive Assistant

at (416) 596-0660



This November, vote for the Environment

by Gord Perks

Can Toronto be greened? Of course! Through TEA's first dozen years we have been astonished at the willingness and capacity for Torontonians to imagine and work for a green City. This November could be a watershed moment for our work. The moment is the November 13th municipal election after the first full term of the MegaCity.

What a time that first term has been. The city has developed a broad ranging environmental plan, been a leader in advocating for clean air, phased out pesticide spraying, and forced the LCBO to make a significant investment into recycling liquor and wine bottles.

But there is so much more that needs to be done. The City needs to put its money where its mouth is. We put fewer dollars per capita into cutting smog than many North American cities. Council passed the Environmental Plan, but has put off deciding whether to spend the money required to implement it. Toronto is starting to lag behind many cities in composting and recycling, and urgent action is needed to make the City more "water friendly". We need to go much further to cut the emissions of toxic chemicals into to our local environment. We need *Right to Know* rules so that everyone can know about hazards in their neighborhood.

This is a small part of an ambitious agenda for change, but we are confident that the November elections can put green issues front and centre.

First, public interest in the environment has never been higher. The *Walkerton* tragedy has reminded us all of the need to be vigilant and visionary on environmental

issues. The ongoing smog problem in Toronto gave TEA and the Toronto Atmospheric Fund the clout to draw all three levels of government into a Smog Summit on Toronto's Air Quality this spring.

Second, whatever the problems with amalgamation, the political shakeup has created opportunities for environmentalists. Many new councillors were brought into work on environmental issues creating the space for our victories on smog, pesticides and waste. Similarly, changes in the administration of

the city has in some departments created the opportunity for new thinking to emerge. Overall, it is fair to say that the last three years have been some of the most productive ever for environmental issues in Toronto.

The next three could be even better. Recently the province changed the municipal ward boundaries. This means that many councillors will have to fight hard to keep their seats. Depending on the outcome of these tough fights, Toronto could wind up with its greenest council ever.

TEA is mobilizing to take advantage of this opportunity. We have structured an issue questionnaire for candidates. Similar to the questionnaire we prepared for the 1997 campaign, this will have three uses. It will allow us to rate candidates on the specific commitments

they are willing to make to greening Toronto; it will be published widely to help voters evaluate candidates; and it will be used to help us keep winning candidates to their promises in the coming years.

TEA is researching local environment issues in many wards throughout the City to help residents raise local concerns alongside the city-wide issues we will raise with the questionnaire.

We are establishing a volunteer network to extend the reach of the environmental message throughout the city. We hope to have a team in every ward talking to community members, and getting information to residents groups, tenants associations, business groups, and community agencies. Those same volunteers will participate in all candidates meeting and monitor the campaigns run by various candidates.

We are planning a media strategy that may include public opinion polling. It will certainly include releasing the results of

the candidate questionnaires. We are working with other community groups in the city to jointly spread our message through "*the Badger*." This newspaper has been published in the run up to each of the recent municipal elections and has reached tens of thousands of voters.

TEA is also establishing a web site for the election. It will carry information on all of the activities above. Check the site

during the campaign to keep abreast of the latest developments. The site address is: www.torontoenvironment.org
<<http://www.torontoenvironment.org/>> ☘

**TO FIND OUT
MORE ABOUT
THE MUNICIPAL
ELECTION GO TO
OUR WEBSITE**

www.torontoenvironment.org

**WHAT IS TORONTO
CITY COUNCIL DOING
TO PROTECT OUR
ENVIRONMENT?!!**

Sign up for our
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WATCH
on-line newsletter and stay
informed!

Send e-mail address to
tea@web.ca
or call (416) 596-0660.

STUDENT ENVIRONMENTALISTS WANTED!!

No environment club at your high school? Come out and join TEA's Youth Caucus. Meetings and events are held regularly.
Visit www.geocities.com/teayouth or e-mail us at tea@web.ca.

tea & Ontario hospitals join to "green health" care by Rich Whate

You might be surprised to hear that hospitals are a large source of pollution, and may be unintentionally risking your health while trying to save it. Fortunately, Ontario hospitals are interested in solutions and many have expressed interest in working with TEA on a campaign to promote environmentally-responsible health care.

As we mentioned in a recent issue of *TEA Leaves*, TEA has joined an international campaign called **Health Care Without Harm**, which is working with hospitals to find healthy alternatives to mercury and PVC (vinyl) medical equipment (like thermometers and I.V. bags) and safe, non-incineration options for medical waste. In Canada and around the Great Lakes, the need for environmentally-sustainable health care is becoming more and more clear, for at least two reasons:

(Canadian hospital incinerators are

the second largest source of dioxins into our air each year.) Ontario's estimated 58 hospital incinerators are the country's largest polluters. Dioxins are profoundly toxic: they are a known human carcinogen and have been strongly linked to adverse developmental, reproductive and hormone effects. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency very recently determined the risk of getting cancer from dioxin to be 10 times higher than reported in 1994. These pollutants are created when hospitals unnecessarily burn PVC plastic, papers and other garbage in their incinerators. The solution lies in careful separation of waste so that only regulated "pathological" waste is burned and "infectious" medical waste is sterilized; recycling programs and switching to reusable products can do the rest.

(Mercury use in hospitals contributes to worker health risks as well as environmental pollution.)

Mercury, a potent nervous system toxin, is found throughout hospitals — from lab chemicals and thermometers to sphygmomanometers and fluorescent lights. Accidental breakage contaminates air in the hospitals and can make its way through drains to Lake Ontario. It is often improperly disposed of: Ontario hospital incinerators released 30 kg into the environment last year. Across the

U.S., hospitals are switching to electronic devices and supporting municipal by-laws to prohibit sale of mercury thermometers.

On September 22nd, staff from a dozen hospitals joined TEA in a Healthcare without Harm workshop. Participants at the event agreed that a local network should be formed to share stories and collaborate to "green" healthcare in Toronto and Ontario. TEA will facilitate this network by providing information on alternative products and services, and by connecting hospital staff and the public into this growing resource. Judging by the enthusiasm of our new network colleagues, we're confident that our hospitals will be pollution prevention leaders in our communities. ☘

Fall HEALTH CARE WITHOUT HARM events:

Sept. 22 — "It's Easy Being Green" workshop at Hospital for Sick Children (Toronto)

Oct. 21 — "Reducing Health Care's Environmental Impact" workshop at Ottawa Civic Hospital

Nov. 6-7 — Ontario Hospital Association National Convention (Toronto) — Exhibitor

For more information about joining **HEALTH CARE WITHOUT HARM** and for events and workshops, contact **RICH WHATE** at (416) 596-0660 or visit us at www.torontoenvironment.org/campaigns or www.noharm.org



"Part of the Toronto HCWH network." From left: Janaka Weerasinghe (Scarborough Grace Hospital); TEA's Rich Whate; Dr. Lynn Marshall (Women's College Hospital); Dr. Nancy Bradshaw (Women's College Hospital); Dr. Frank Foley (Women's College Hospital); Dr. Rina Bray (Environmental Committee, Ontario College of Family Physicians); TEA's Lois Corbett; Lydia Chudleigh (St. Mary's Hospital in Kitchener.)

Chlorpyrifos: A toxic legacy



by Janet May

In June of this year, the United States took a dramatic step to protect the health of its citizens — it banned the sale of the pesticide DURSBN, also known as **Chlorpyrifos**. Unfortunately, Health Canada and Dow Canada, the manufacturers of **Dursban**, have yet to follow the lead of the U.S., and Canadians continue to face the legacy of this toxic pesticide.

- **Chlorpyrifos belongs to the organophosphate family of pesticides;**
- **Organophosphates were developed during WWII as a nerve gas;**
- **In humans, exposure to products containing chlorpyrifos, is linked to headaches, blurred vision, muscle weakness, incoordination, and memory loss;**
- **82% of American adults and 92% of American children have**

detectable levels of chlorpyrifos in their urine. Chlorpyrifos is also highly toxic to fish, bees and birds.

In 1999, Environment Canada found chlorpyrifos in the Humber and Don Rivers. Some samples found the chemical at 140 times the acceptable government level for the protection of aquatic life. In 1995, Dow Elanco was fined over \$700,000 for failing to report adverse health effects resulting from exposure to chlorpyrifos to the EPA. ☘

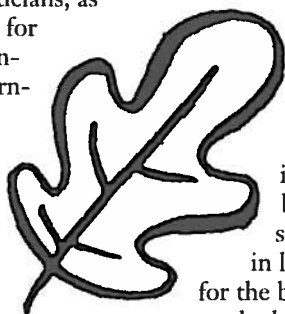
TEA has repeatedly challenged Health Canada, Health Minister Alan Rock and Dow Canada to get Dursban off our shelves. Their resistance to public concern and U.S. leadership has demonstrated once again a disgraceful unwillingness to regulate pesticides and a lethal lack of concern for the health of Canadians.

continued from page 2... Both Lois and Don pointed out that with the province downloading more and more responsibility on municipal governments, our ability to work with municipal governments on developing sound environmental policy and practices is increasingly important. Lois described the path TEA has been taking in building relationships with local politicians, as well as acting as a watchdog for good environmental decision-making on all levels of government. Don made the point that building relationships with politicians is extremely important for environmental organizations that want to achieve effective lobbying. "You can not go into a politician's office and start making demands without first building some sort of relationship with them that makes them think you are someone they should listen to". Don also expressed the importance of local activists supporting the environmental agendas of local MPs on the federal level of government.

Don and Lois both agreed that it is also very important for local environmental groups to show innovation in their campaigns and projects. Often,

environmentalists can become overly focused on creating a process that pleases everyone involved, Don said, but results are the real prize. Don warned that process can be a trap, clouding our ability to see real opportunities to move forward on our goals. Lois agreed with Don, saying she often looks for innovative ways to move campaigns outside of the environmental movement to examples from other social movements, or even from big business or the political rights.

Attendees were greatly interested in the points made by the speakers, and many shared their own experiences in local environmental activism for the benefit of us all. The keynote speech also offered a perfect introduction into TEA's "Elect Environment" Campaign. With the fall municipal elections looming close, TEA has begun strategizing how it can work with other local activists and public citizens to ensure that Toronto elects an environmentally progressive council who will work to protect the health of Toronto's environment and residents. The discussion that ensued was so lively that attendees voted to forgo caucus reports, which were last of the agenda for the night, in order to allow the discussion to continue. ♻️



GET INVOLVED IN THE tea COMMUNITY

Volunteers are a great help!!



- update our membership database
- join a TEA issue caucus
- join the TEAleaves production team we need writers and stamp lickers
- translate TEA information & materials into other languages
- volunteer to be TEA's volunteer coordinator

Become a Friend of tea

You can contribute to **TEA's** work and the environment by making a donation. And because we are largely a volunteer organization every dollar goes a long way. **TEA** will keep you up to date on our accomplishments through **TEAleaves**, "What's Brewing Action Alerts" and our publications. Please check your donation below.

TEA does not have charitable status, therefore we cannot issue you a tax-deductible receipt.

☐ \$200 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other \$

Name: _____ Address: _____
 City & Province: _____ Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____
 e-mail: _____ Area of Interest?: _____

Please mail your cheque to: **TEA, 30 Duncan Street, Suite 201, Toronto, ON M5V 2C3 tel. (416) 596-0660**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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Toronto Environmental Alliance



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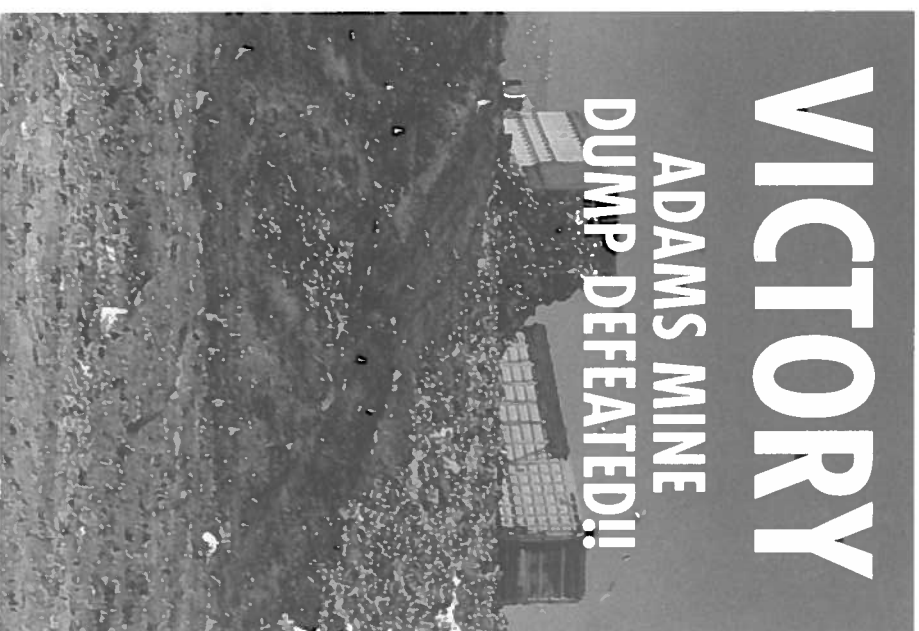
ELECT ENVIRONMENT

**TORONTO SMOG
REPORT CARD**

**SAFE DRINKING
WATER ACT**

**"GREEN"
HEALTH CARE**

**CHLORPYRIPHOS:
A TOXIC LEGACY**



and much more inside!