

Global Climate Strike, September 15, 2023. Kingston.

More than 200 people rallied at 12 noon at University and Union, Douglas Library, Queen's University for the global climate strike in Kingston.

Local media coverage also reported on a Global Climate Strike demonstration at St. Paul's Catholic School. See:

Kingstonians of all ages gather for climate rallies, Ryan Peddigrew, Sept. 15, 2023, Global: <https://globalnews.ca/news/9964392/kingstonians-of-all-ages-gather-for-climate-rallies/>

Protesters gather on Queen's University campus for climate strike, Elliot Ferguson Sep 15, 2023, Whig Standard:

<https://www.thewhig.com/news/protesters-gather-on-queens-university-campus-for-climate-strike>

The Global Climate Strike MC was Phyllis Waugh (Seniors for Climate Action Now!) and music was provided by singer/songwriter, Frank Ryan. Speakers addressed different aspects of the climate crisis.

Siena Margorian (Queen's Backing Action on Climate Change): "The urgency of climate action can't be overstated. The greed of fossil fuel companies and the banks that shovel money their way has created the world that my generation is inheriting."

Dr. David McLagan (Assistant Professor in Faculty of Arts & Sciences, Queen's University): "What climate change does is increase the capacity for extreme fire weather, temperature, low humidity, winds and drought. We get small fires that rapidly grow into large mega destructive fires, that surpass our capacity to suppress them."

Joan Jardin (Kingston and District Labour Council): "One thing that always strikes me is the intersectionality of it all. Climate change, inequality, cost of living, housing, racism... it's all related. It's the same struggle; and education and solidarity are the answer."

Kathleen O'Hara (No Clearcuts Kingston); speaking about the local campaign to save the 'tannery site' a woodland and wetland area, from development. "We need to do all that we can to keep Kingston liveable and safe."

Dr. Henry Swoboda (Kingston Health Sciences Centre): "We know that the smoke in our skies will increase the amount of asthma, respiratory and cardiac diseases; and as it is, air pollution from the fossil fuels burned in our plants, by our cars, and in our homes, accounts for over 15,000 Canadian deaths each year. We expect those air pollution deaths to increase with every degree of warming."

Aric McBay (Just Recovery Kingston): "The climate crisis is about much more than just degrees of Celsius and megatons of CO₂, it's about justice and it's about power. We cannot solve the climate crisis without tackling the deeper injustices of capitalism and colonialism. The people who make money from hiking rent and driving up the cost of groceries are the same people who are destroying the planet."

SCAN! members circulated two petitions, one calling for a bold emissions cap launched by local MP Mark Gerretsen, and a second petition calling for an end to financing fossil fuels; as well as

various SCAN! campaigns and educational materials. No Clear Cuts Kingston announced two upcoming events and Just Recovery Kingston called on participants to get on board the bus to Toronto on Sept 27 to join the “March for the Land” demonstration, organized by five First Nations from northern Ontario calling on Premier Ford to end mining on Indigenous territories.

The rally was organized by Seniors for Climate Action Now (SCAN!) Kingston; 350 Kingston, and Queen’s Backing Action on Climate Change (QBACC); and additionally, was endorsed by: No Clearcuts; Kingston Youth Climate Action (KYCA); Just Recovery Kingston; Queen’s University Faculty Association (QUFA); Kingston & District Labour Council (KDLC); and Ontario Secondary School Teachers’ Federation (OSSTF).