SENIORS for CLIMATE ACTION NOW!

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Fires and floods

As predicted, this has been a horrendous summer for climate “events” as the media like to refer to climate catastrophes. All across the country people are suffering. Although the mainstream media is catching on, we still need to harp on making the links between these events and the burning of fossil fuels.

If you haven't already, please send a letter to your MP about the current wildfires.

SCAN! work around the regions has been exceptional. No splashy demonstrations, but beavering away in a very productive way, especially in their plans for the Seniors for Climate October 1st events.

CLIMATE ART
SENIORS for CLIMATE ACTION NOW!

Around the regions - cuz that's where the action is

London

London is focusing on Seniors for Climate planning. They have finalized the theme and venue(s). The plan is to have an ***Intergenerational Climate Walk and Talk***. They will meet at Victoria park for a rally with speakers, then walk to Reimagine, a store, refillery and hub for community action and environmental activism. *For Our Children* will facilitate follow-up climate discussions for all ages (with snacks).

No COP badges to oil and gas postcards were handed out at several events and more ongoing.

Their database of agencies and individuals is growing.

Guelph

They are growing and starting to plan their Oct. 1st event with meetings throughout the summer. They intend to hold a rally at City Hall followed by a short march through downtown to the Quebec St. Mall. Their target is building awareness of their group and their community of climate activists. They are also planning to ask City Council to adopt a by-law regarding maximum indoor temperature as a tangible change they want to see.

Regarding heat and health, they plan to publish and distributed a postcard in the community and online, in conjunction with Public Health and the City of Guelph.

They also distributed COP 29 and CPPIB postcards “whenever and wherever”.

They sent a letter to the Board of Directors at Guelph Wellington Seniors Association/Evergreen Centre, about a partnership: they can provide education, workshops, speakers and tabling at their events.

They attended Green Drinks to promote their group, and Oct 1st project. Guelph Today featured SCAN! Guelph and promoted their June event at the Shelldale Centre.

Barrie

They are working hard at organizing their October 1st plan of action: a seniors' march from city hall to Meridian Square (a waterfront hub for activities) with (hopefully) speakers, music and dancers.

They handed out COP 29 cards on the busy Barrie waterfront, gave away several Stop Highway 413 signs and identified other groups who might like to collaborate with them.

Ottawa

They are considering endorsing the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty as a regional chapter following an exploratory session with Stand Earth and some local organizations.

Mères au Front will likely endorse Oct. 1st as a provincial organization; and some indicated an interest in organizing an activity in their regions. SCAN! Ottawa hopes the Outaouais group will join up with the Ottawa group to participate.

The court dates for the judicial review of the decision by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission to license the construction of the nuclear waste megadump at Chalk River took place July 10th and 11th. On July 10 people demonstrated in support of the Kebaowek First Nation over the Chalk River storage of extremely dangerous radioactive waste.

They gave out 280 of the 300 COP 29 postcards they ordered, with the remaining 20 spoken for.

SCAN! Ottawa began planning their Ottawa Oct. 1st activities. They are working with GASP Ottawa and the Council of Canadians Ottawa. For future meetings they expect representatives of other groups such as the Raging Grannies and Decolonial Solidarity.

In mid-July they had a social gathering/picnic. All work and no play…

Kawartha

SCAN! Kawartha has working diligently to combat the proposed Enbridge expansion in their City. The Enbridge expansion in the Bobcaygeon area is one of the larger Enbridge projects; and SCAN! Kawartha has targeted that area.

In 2017, their council endorsed Enbridge's proposal. SCAN! Kawartha has been advocating for the current council to reverse that decision. Their efforts have included attended a meeting with the mayor and lobbying councillors.

Some of their members have distributed flyers and knocked on doors to provide accurate information on heat pumps and the actual cost of natural gas - including the natural gas subsidies.

In addition, SCAN! Kawartha organized an information session held in Bobcaygeon at the end of June.

SCAN! Kawartha has also been advocating an extension of the GO-Bus service to Lindsay. Currently there is no intercity transit service in Lindsay. They have had indications that some progress towards achieving that goal has been achieved.

Northumberland

SCAN! Northumberland has an Action Plan for National Seniors' Day: "Communicating with seniors and with those who are planning to become one".

October 1st AM: Communicating with Seniors - Legion Village Retirement Home. In the afternoon, they will be on local Northumberland Radio.

(See below for their Waterfront Festival with Artists for Climate in Cobourg.)

They also had a tent at the Cobourg Market with Northumberland Food Policy Council and are planning one for the Cobourg Market with Northumberland Environmental.

In September, they are planning Communicating with Seniors in Northumberland Seniors' Homes. After the Oct. 1st events, they will attend the Cobourg Market and the Cobourg Harvest Festival.

Believe it or not they are already making plans for the Winter Festival.

Cobourg

Climate Art Exhibit at Cobourg's Waterfront Festival (see photo at the top of this section).

The 'Climate Art' group of artists in the 'Pine Ridge Art Association' exhibited their paintings for three days at the 'Cobourg Waterfront Festival', June 29 - July 1.

The exhibit was to raise public attention, interest and concern about the global warming climate crisis.

Based on a count of a key handout given only to discussion-engaged visitors - plus artists and volunteer estimates of the number of visitors per shift - well over 300 people of all ages spent time inside the 'Climate Art' booth - looking, reading and talking with artists and volunteers. Hundreds more paused and took note of what the exhibit and messaging were about.

Toronto

The SCAN! Toronto steering committee is keeping track of work going forward, which is reported to a monthly meeting of SCAN! Toronto. This work includes:

…ongoing work with Toronto East End Residents for Renewable Energy (TERRE). They are waiting for a response to their request for a full environmental assessment of the Portlands plant. TERRE wants to co-operate with other groups across Ontario opposing gas plant expansion (Windsor, Napanee, Bobcaygeon). (See more below about TERRE.)

They tabled at the Leslieville Farmer's Market at the end of July and will do so again in August. Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA) is assisting TERRE in finding appropriate measuring devices for methane gas which they already have for particulate matter.

The City Budget Working Group is defining priorities for dealing with City Hall and writing position papers. Members attended the Infrastructure and Environment committee dealing Emissions Performance Standards.

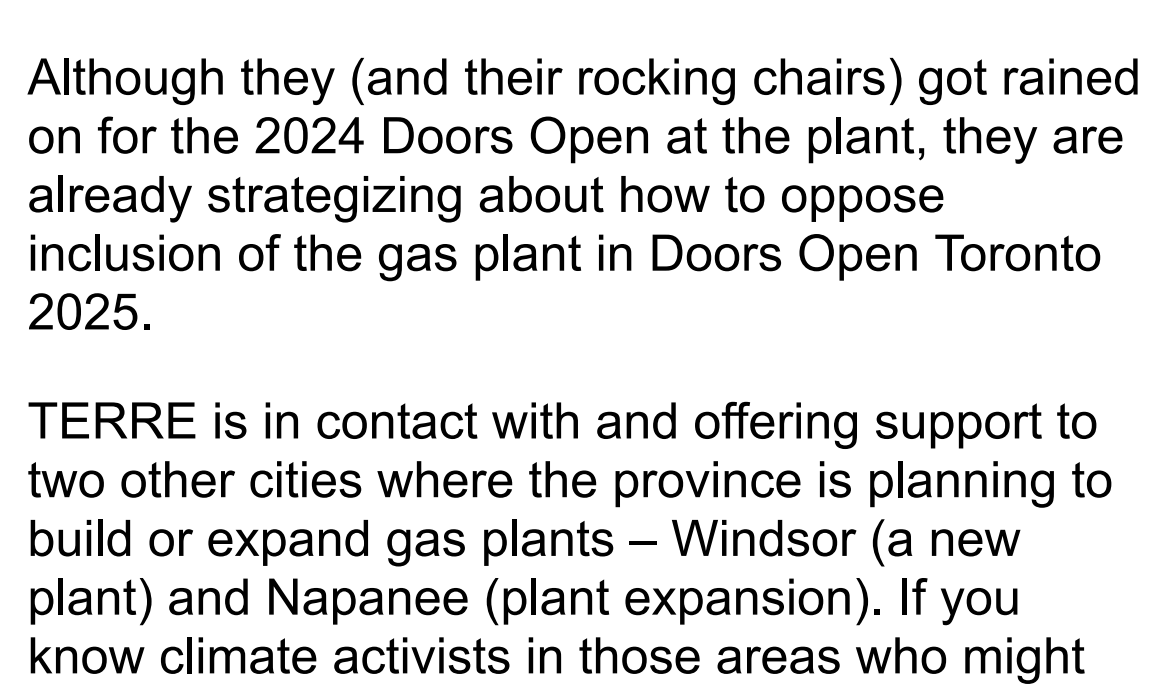
They are preparing for a meeting with City staff, in particular on the issue of resilience.

They are also working with Toronto Climate Action Network (TCAN)'s coalition on emergency measures for extreme heat. The coalition is calling for a maximum heat by-law. Currently, a group of councillors is meeting to work out a by-law which could be palatable to landlords as well.

The neighbourhoods' committee is looking at organizing by riding, which will also allow for co-operation with other climate groups by riding, and support the work of the City Working Group.

Members presented to local Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) with discussions "at a high level". Some members have joined a local Healthy Living Seniors' Group supporting community gardening, extreme heat adaptation and other climate efforts.

They also tabled at a mall in late July at an Environment Day.



Gas Plant Expansion

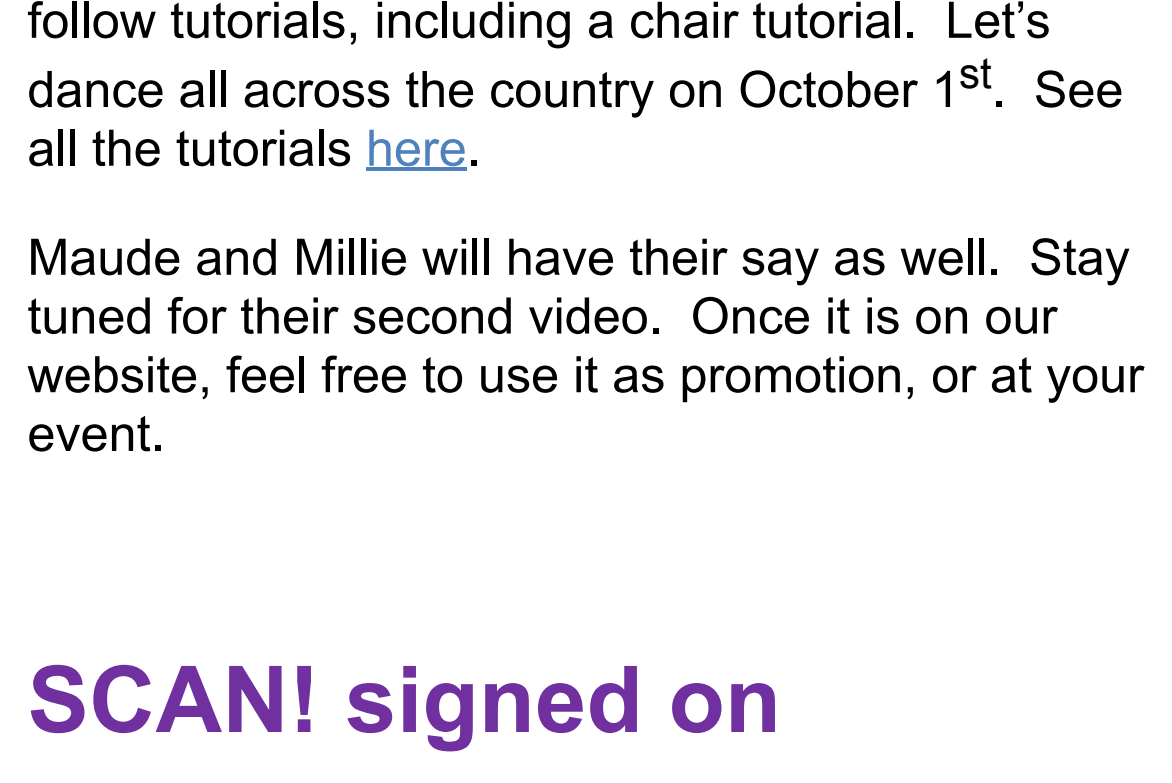
Gas plants are expanding all around the province. One organization, Toronto East End Residents for Renewable Energy (TERRE) has been working hard to educate about and protest the Portlands Energy Centre (PEC). SCAN! is working with them.

TERRE has had no response from the Ministry to its submission regarding the request for a full Environmental Review of the PEC expansion project.

Although they (and their rocking chairs) got rained on for the 2024 Doors Open at the plant, they are already strategizing about how to oppose inclusion of the gas plant in Doors Open Toronto 2025.

TERRE is in contact with and offering support to two other cities where the province is planning to build or expand gas plants – Windsor (a new plant) and Napanee (plant expansion). If you know climate activists in those areas who might be interested in this issue and are able to share contact information for them please email: clochdrake@gmail.com.

TERRE is in the early stages of planning a Fall Day of Action in October.



Seniors for Climate

As of this writing, there are **50** events across the country planned for October 1st.

As you prepare your events, here is something you can add.

Who doesn't love a flashmob? There are easy to follow tutorials, including a chair tutorial. Let's dance all across the country on October 1st. See all the tutorials here.

Maude and Millie will have their say as well. Stay tuned for their second video. Once it is on our website, feel free to use it as promotion, or at your event.

SCAN! signed on

We signed on to a letter initiated by Climate Action Network Canada to the Prime Minister, leaders of the political parties, and Premiers, to take action in face of the growing devastation of wildfires:

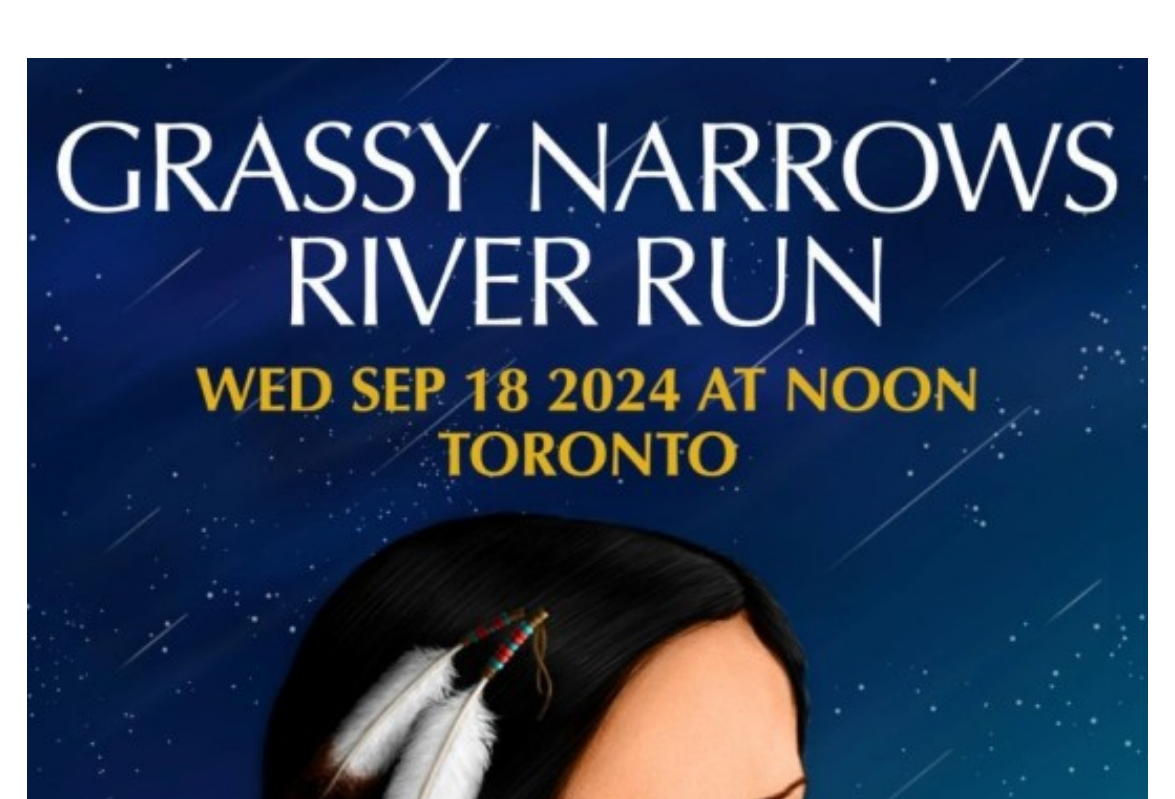
We, [the undersigned] urge the federal government, with support from all federal and provincial leaders and political parties, to immediately, with no further delays, regulate oil and gas companies responsible for one third of Canada's carbon pollution to sharply reduce their emissions, along with the financial institutions that bankroll them, so that devastating wildfires, heat domes and floods don't continue to worsen across this country.

SCAN! members write

Robert Hicks had this article printed in the Standard.

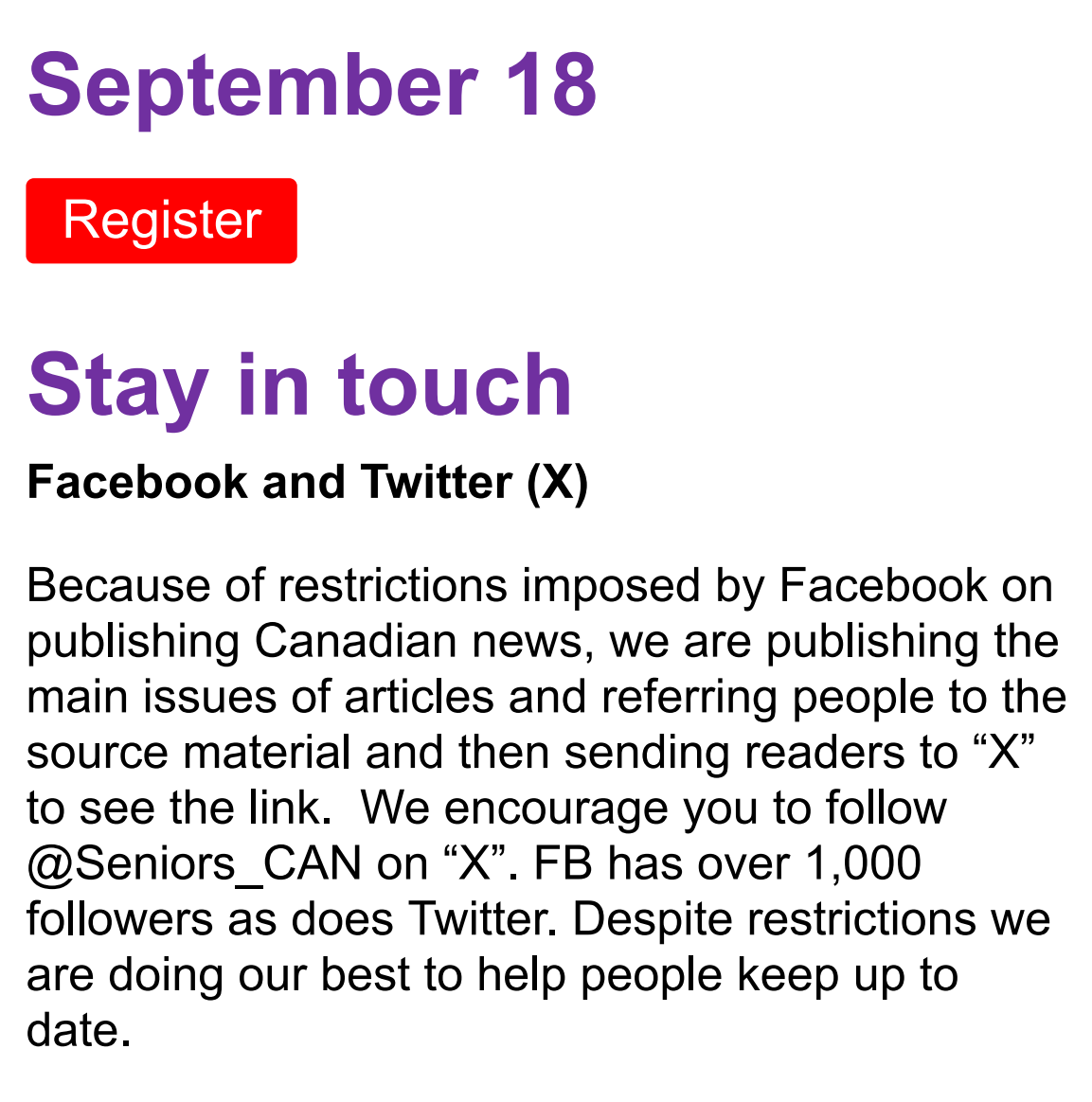
Nuclear Waste

Out of Sight, Out of Mind?



Register for this important webinar.

Register



September 18

Register

Stay in touch

Facebook and Twitter (X)

Because of restrictions imposed by Facebook on publishing Canadian news, we are publishing the main issues of articles and referring people to the source material and then sending readers to “X” to see the link. We encourage you to follow @Seniors_CAN on “X”. FB has over 1,000 followers as does Twitter. Despite restrictions we are doing our best to help people keep up to date.

Readers of this newsletter who are not yet members are welcome to join as members any time. Go to the web site and click on “Become a member”.
Questions? email us: info@seniorsforclimateactionnow.org