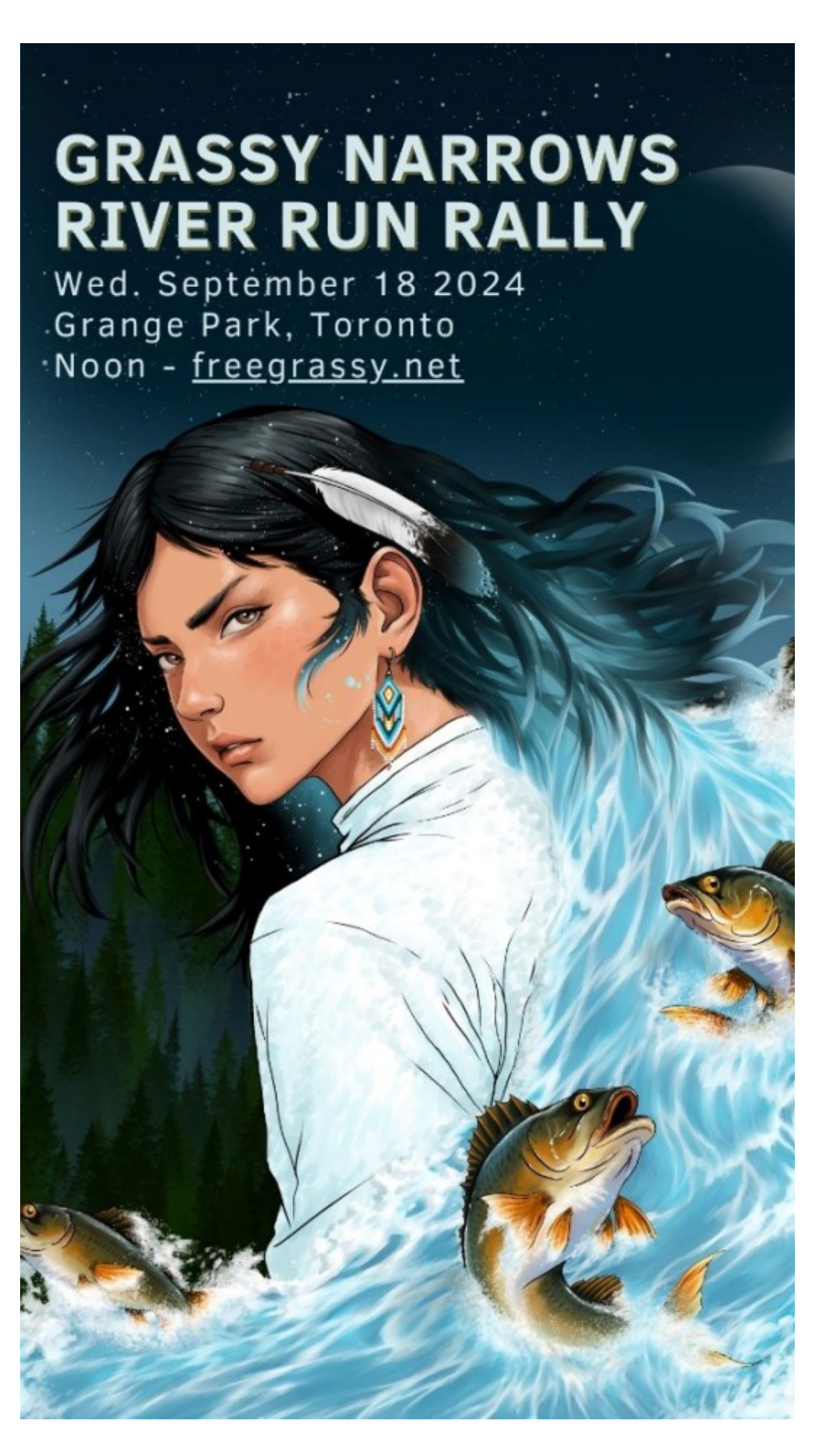
September is a month to mobilize



Seniors for Climate

SCAN! members across the country are working with like-minded groups to prepare 55+ events on October 1st. Visit the SFC website to see details about an event near you. There are lots of organizing tools to support you.

Watch Maude and Millie promote the SFC Day of Action.

More mobilizing

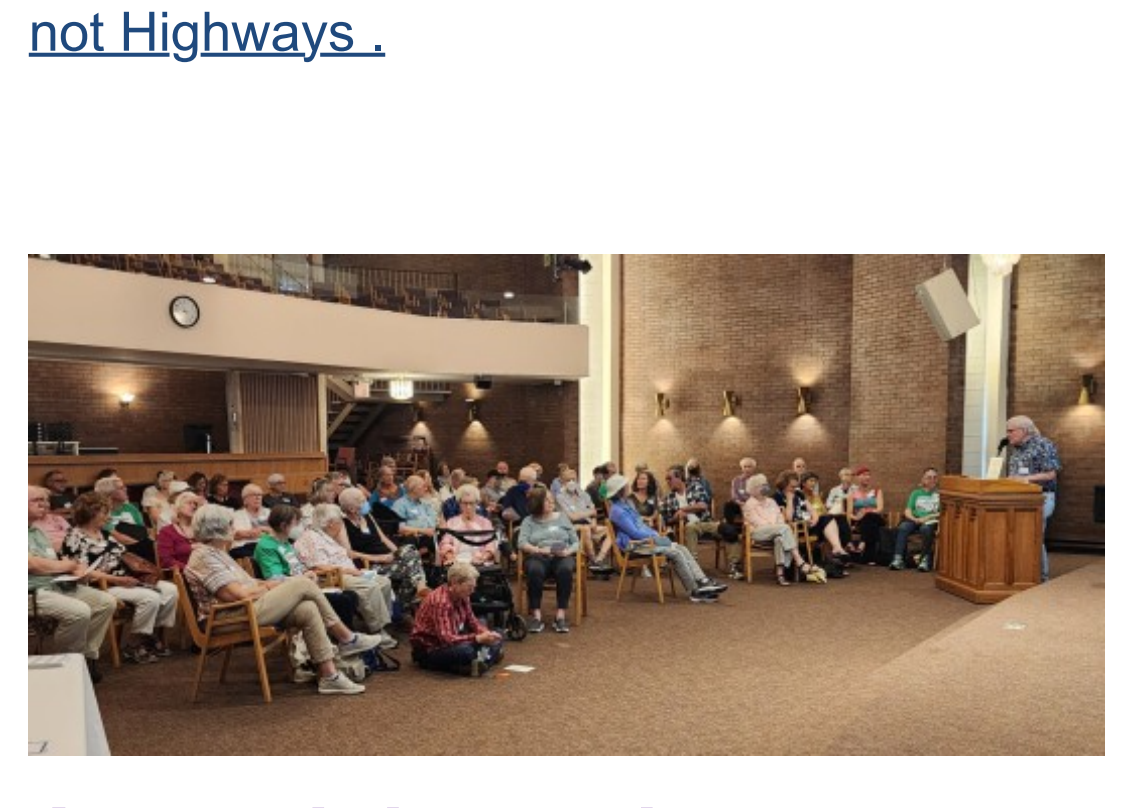
SCAN! will release a statement to pay tribute to the September 30th Truth and Reconciliation Day, which falls the day before our October 1st mobilization.

On September 15th SCAN! members will join other organizations to support migrant workers, demanding justice. We endorsed their mobilization.

In Ontario, Toronto will welcome the River Run representatives from Grassy Narrows on September 18. SCAN! was pleased to endorse River Run. RSVP here.

Buses are coming in from several locations. We will meet at Grange Park at noon (see poster above).

Also coming up in September, Healthcare not Highways .



Around the regions

Toronto

Pictured above, a social in August for members of the three organizations planning October 1st : SCAN!, CALL and GASP. About 100 participants enjoyed meeting other climate activists and participating in an uplifting program. They picked up posters and flyers and signed up for the upcoming volunteer tasks.

On October 1st, people will rally near city hall and then march to the Church of the Holy Trinity. Included in the speakers' line-up are David Phillips, David Suzuki and a climate youth activist. Lillian Allen will read a poem and Ken Whiteley will sing the climate blues. The Raging Grannies will also perform.

Also…

SCAN! Toronto members met with City of Toronto staff regarding the City's climate plans. Several well researched documents have been written which will be shared with City staff. They are also involved in neighbourhood organizing and continuing work on the Portlands gas plant.

Climate Change and Health

The **Willowdale Climate and Health Forum**, October 5, 2024, 2:30-4:15 p.m., takes place at the North York Central Library. This is a free session offering tips on how to support your health - and a healthy community - in a changing climate. Listen to authoritative, practical information about the health impacts of climate change, extreme heat and using retrofits to end fossil gas use.

Hosted by SCAN!, ClimateFast and Green Neighbours Network. For more information contact jane@garthsonleadership.ca.

Barrie

The Barrie Chapter has been busy planning for the October 1st event. They plan to march from city hall to Meridian Place which is a very popular amphitheatre in the centre of downtown.

They secured a bagpiper to lead the march to the site where he will play some environmental related or protest songs. They also plan to invite some dancers. They have lined up an excellent champion of the environment to speak.

They made contact with some seniors' organizations and environmental groups.

Some of their members attended a large Barrie event (Kempenfest) and passed out flyers asking people to save the date for October 1st.

They received an offer from a former city council member who is willing to help them get the word out on social media. They are searching for other ways to invite attendees.

Some of their members attended a "change makers'" picnic, held by an environmental group.

Their small group of organizers is growing: all hands will be on deck to make October 1st a success.

London

They are finalizing plans for the National Seniors Day of Action. Beginning at 4:00 they will meet in Victoria Park to hear Dr. Gordon McBean. Dr. McBean was a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change team that won the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. They are honoured that Dr. McBean has agreed to bring his expertise to their gathering.

The next stage of the event will be to walk to Reimagine, London's hub for community action and environmental activism. At 5:00 pm, For Our Kids' representatives will lead climate discussions.

They have planned a spectacular day.

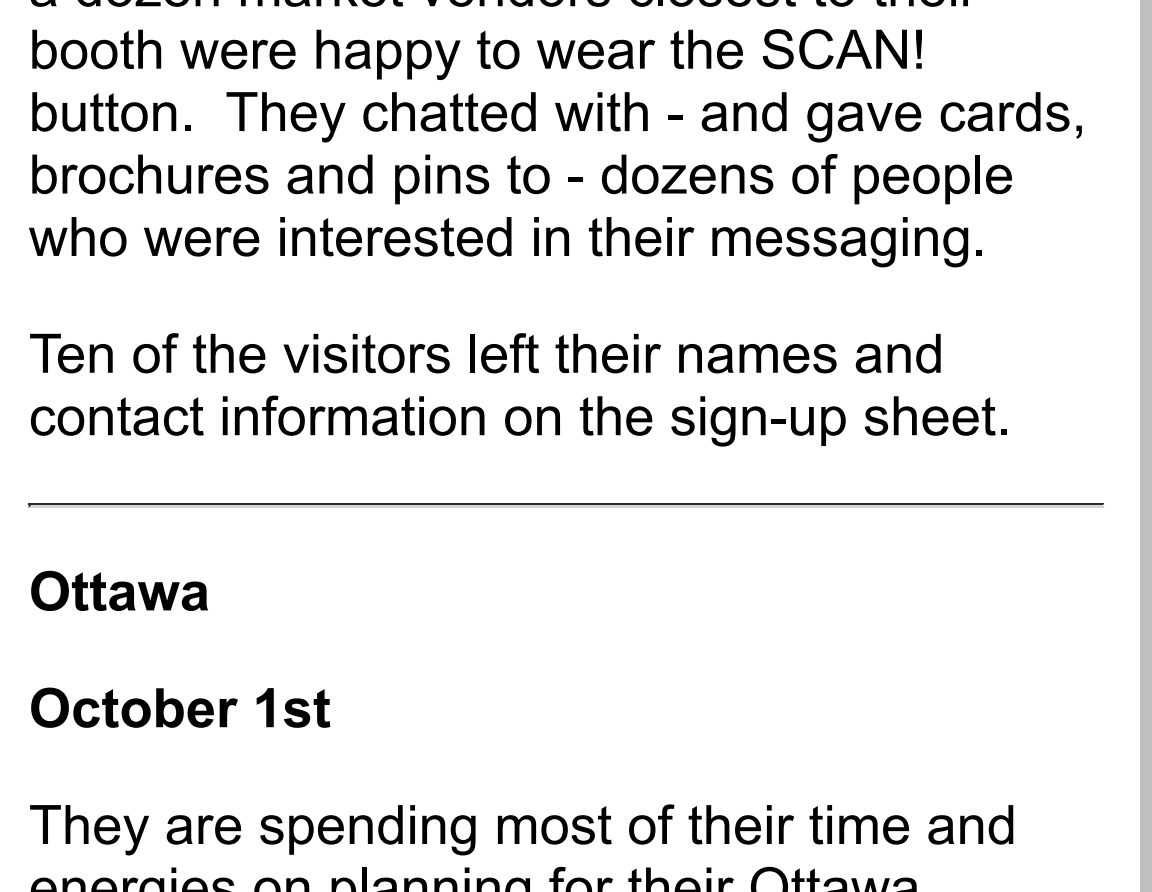
Guelph

Here is the plan to participate in Guelph on October 1st:

2:30 pm - meet at St. George's Square or the Covered Bridge in Royal City Park, and then walk to City Hall. They are asking people to bring a sign or placard with their climate emergency message.

3:15 pm - rally at City Hall with music, infotainment, collective pledge, speakers, and a call for action.

They are inviting people to share this project with seniors in their communities. They will be happy to come and speak about it.



Cobourg

They spent a tiring six hours at their Cobourg Farmers' Market booth, but report that it was very positive and helpful. About a dozen market vendors closest to their booth were happy to wear the SCAN! button. They chatted with - and gave cards, brochures and pins to - dozens of people who were interested in their messaging.

Ten of the visitors left their names and contact information on the sign-up sheet.

Ottawa

October 1st

They are spending most of their time and energies on planning for their Ottawa October 1st event. They have members of other groups working as part of the core organizing committee: The Council of Canadians, Decolonial Solidarity, the Grandmothers Advocacy Network (GRAN) and GASP. The event will include a flashmob. They will also have some musical performances and a singalong. They are working on getting a proclamation from the Mayor's office.

The indoor event will be a round table discussion with the participation of five or six local environmental groups: CAFES, OREC, ACORN, Horizon Ottawa, Ecology Ottawa and perhaps CAPE. It will be held in the afternoon from 2 to 5 pm.

For the Global Climate March in Ottawa, September 21st all of their SCAN! members will be encouraged to participate.

They will also encourage their members to take part in Truth and Reconciliation Day on September 30.

More Ottawa climate politics

As a result of the SCAN! nuclear waste webinar, a coalition of Ottawa groups is proposing an event focusing primarily on the Chalk River situation; but also on the two sites being proposed in Ontario. They will highlight the blatant conflict of interest and undemocratic process being used by the nuclear industry and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

They are waiting on the outcomes of the next COP 29 meetings and webinar to encourage their Ottawa members to participate in whatever actions the SCAN! COP 29 campaign will involve.

They have established a link between their Ottawa group and a Gatineau group, Mères au Front, which they hope will lead to opportunities for collaboration with the seniors. It will necessitate a bilingual approach.

SCAN! is being represented in an effort to collaborate with the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty campaign.

Kingston

Kingston SCAN! is busy planning the Seniors for Climate rally on October 1, 3-5pm at Confederation Park across from city hall.

Their request to the mayor and council to declare a Proclamation for the City of Kingston for Seniors for Climate was passed unanimously by city council. The proclamation will be printed in the local Whig Standard newspaper.

Plans are underway for speakers, musicians and a performance by the Furies at the rally. They have invited organizations to set up information tables and will have a SCAN! information table. Their goal is to widen their outreach and build a large rally that draws in wide participation, including from the city of Kingston council and staff.

They are doing outreach to Indigenous groups, community groups, labour, educators and youth. So far, they have received endorsements, from: Providence Centre for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, Kingston, No Clearcuts Kingston, Kingston Health Coalition, Kingston Climate Justice Coalition, 350 Kingston, Green Party of Canada for Kingston and the Islands and Providence Associates.

The local Seniors Centre (with outreach to 4,000 seniors) refused to place an ad for Seniors for Climate Day in their magazine on the grounds that it was 'political'. They are reviewing their decision.

They are negotiating with city council to support free transit on October 1, and have requested that the city provide an information table on what the city is doing to address the climate crisis.

They are working to build connections between three events: Sept. 28, the Kingston Climate Justice Coalition Town Hall focused on climate initiatives at the city level; September 30, National Truth and Reconciliation Day, and October 1, Seniors for Climate.

Recently, they visited the All Our Relations Land Trust, Indigenous Food Sovereignty Garden, and hope to build a relation with them.

In other news, SCAN! members have gathered 700 names on the petition for a temperature by-law in Kingston. They will highlight the petition at the October 1 rally. Kingston SCAN! members have been tabling at the local markets and the Princess St. Promenade. The COP 29 postcards, leaflets for October 1 and the temperature bylaw petition have been popular.

They produced some new educational leaflets for the tables. Upcoming, they will have a SCAN! table at Labour Day on September 2.

On September 18, Just Futures Kingston has organized a bus to Toronto to join in the Grassy Narrows River Run. SCAN! has reached out to members and supporters join with others on the bus to participate with Grassy Narrows on their path to justice.

Along with 350 Kingston, they continue a monthly picket of RBC. SCAN! Kingston is launching a fundraising campaign to support the Seniors for Climate rally on October 1 as well as other work.

Pension Corner

In July 2024, a company which is 99% owned by the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, announced a final investment decision of approximately one billion dollars to increase fossil fuel production capacity. Wolf Midstream will build the NGL North Phase Two project, significantly increasing the natural gas liquids (NGL) production capacity of the company's NGL North System (NGL North). CPPIB continues to invest huge amounts of our money into fossil fuels.

What can we do?

Let people know that their CPP pension contributions have been - or currently are - making the climate crisis worse. Both young adults and seniors need to become aware of this misuse.

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”. Our FB page has 1.2K followers and Twitter 1,026. 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:
info@seniorsforclimateactionnow.org