SENIORS CLIMATE ACTION NOW

SCAN! organizing pays off

Last month we gave brief reports on the Seniors for Climate events around Ontario. Below you will find more detailed reports from the SCAN chapters. Being a United Voice given the EFC home page is see some videos of the 79 events that took place across Ontario on the same day. Congratulations to all members. We can be proud of the tremendous planning for - and executing of - this remarkable variety of events.

What is even more exciting is the feeling that we have shared. We are a community of concerned people mobilizing to create dramatic change in the way our government has been responding to the climate crisis. We are a group of people who have been discouraged by all of actions has been very poor indeed. It is time to call for emergency climate action at all levels of government. We are a community that is ready for fundamental change in the way we use energy in this country. Time is running out. Listen to Tom Mulcair.

Also, SCAN! signed on

SCAN! endorsed a letter from Canadian Seniors for Climate Action to the Premier of Ontario. We ask ancient ancestral feelings to wellbeing and the wellbeing of our children. We have been protection. It emphasizes the fact that we are willing to work with the province to change to improve wetland protection so that all those living in Ontario may continue to experience the natural benefits wetlands provide for generations to come.

SCAN! signed on to the call for a Youth Climate Corps. Right now, the federal government is underway with a consultation on a youth corps. SCAN! is calling for a joint and public commitment by a Youth Climate Corps this fall, and $1 billion in initial funding in the 2015 Federal Budget.

Kawartha

SCAN! Kawartha organized a rally MC'd by Sherry Hillman, at Victoria Park in Lindsay with about 100 people. There was music by George Hewson, Wally Hendershot and Jamie Kennedy. Kawartha chapter member, Bill Steffler, spoke on behalf of SCAN!. Sgt Ian Kouten, the president of the OSSTF Trillium District, spoke on behalf of the union. Mr. Kouten's leader, Mike Schwartz, dropped by the rally after his visit to the International Flowing Match.

About 20 students from I.E. Weldon Secondary School, of the Green Action Associates club attended. Leah Mitchell-Anyon, the club's co-president, was on hand. "We are inheriting a planet of floods, fires and hurricanes. The new generation needs a planet where people can thrive, not just survive."

Dr. Neil Thomas is a family physician in Minden and a climate change activist. He spoke to the crowd, to the students, visiting her remains and the rally with these powerful words, "the stakes are high. They are the stakes of our children's future. There is no shame and regret of doing nothing. Later is too late. There is no later."

Read the coverage in the Lindsay Advocate.

London

The London Chapter organized, in collaboration with Fix Our Kids, their October 1 Seniors For Climate Action event at Wellington Square, in front of the Middle of Victoria Park. There were greetings from the NDP and the London and District Labour Council followed by a talk by Professor Emeritus Bruce Mitchell, of the Climatologist at Western University. His topic was the impact of climate change at home and around the globe, which was very well received.

The Seniors For Climate flag and banner were then presented to Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario. The march stopped at Liberal MP Peter Fragiadakis Constituency Office to deliver a petition and a few speeches. Kathleen Wynne, the Premier, accepted, led by a high school student. The parade continued to the park.

Families gathered at the Reimagine Store for a light meal and refreshments, and intergenerational conversations led by Fix Our Kids, as a post project.

Toronto

Toronto had a very successful day on October 1. More than 300 people came out to a rally at University and Armoury where they heard from a speaker from the Toronto Climate Change Coalition, listened to ukuleles and came by to say hello; and over 80 joined both the rally and the march. People then continued to the Toronto City Hall where they were given a flash mob had finished their first performance of the day. The City proclaimed October 1 "Seniors for Climate Day" in Toronto. Mayor Rob Ford could not to speak to the group and read the proclamation. The march then continued on to an indoor rally at the Church of the Holy Trinity.

At the Church, a crowd of 400 people heard from Toronto Climate Change Coalition, Tim Gray, Professor David Phillips, a climatologist, Amy Mainn from U of T Climate Justice, and grandfather, David Suzuki. Lillian Ng, Toronto Chapter member, led the crowd in a Whitney-get everyone singing, as did the Raging Grannies. The flash dance mob finished off the event.

SCAN! the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and SHAKERS organized an environment event for the Toronto Chapter at the Blackhood Centre the evening before the rally.

In other news...

The SCAN! Toronto city working group and the Toronto Chapter have been busy preparing for the City's public consultations and consultations on the City's next five year plan for achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The City has been posting reports summarizing priorities for City Hall. SCAN! Toronto members and other environmentalists will work to put climate change mitigation and adaptation at the top of the consultation list.

SCAN! Toronto is expecting a report back on the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Initiative to protect lakefronts that are at risk from storms.

The province has moved forward with preparing the site that was formerly Ontario Power for a new smaller size and a reduced Ontario Science Centre by raising 800 trees. No comment, just sign.

Toronto East Residents for Renewable Energy Projects, a community group, has been active in Portlands gas-powered electricity generating plant. A report to the Waterfront this month indicated that it will be considering a proposal to build over 1000 residential towers in the new Villiers Island development. No recent measures have been taken of the pollution it produces on the rest of the area.

The nuclear industry is taking advantage of pressure on Toronto to consider a small nuclear electricity generating plant in Toronto by promoting Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) as the necessary replacement to meet a supposed increase in electricity demand.

SCAN! Toronto has a new Instagram account. Please follow us: @scan_toronto

Kingston

On Oct. 1, the Seniors for Climate event at Kingston City Hall was a joint event with the community fair, followed by a rally. There was a packed program of four fabulous musicians (Abby Mollet, Kathryn Ricketts, Jamie Kennedy, Ian Thomas) and speakers (Nancy Nicol, SCAN!, Abby Mollet (youth climate activist), Sister Pauline Lally (Providence Care Centre), Jamie Kennedy, Kathryn Ricketts, Dr. Henry Sandoski (Kingston General Hospital), Chris Cowan (350.org) and Kingston Climate Justice Coalition). Mayor Rob Ford could not attend Conference of Canada, Queen's U) and a performance by the Funnies. Nancy Bailey (SCAN!, 350 Kingston, and New Climate Stories was the MC for the event.

An organizing committee of ten people built the event, contacted over 100 people, and made 50 phone calls to community groups, labour, educators and youth, faith groups and Indigenous peoples and groups, as well as local and provincial politicians (Mayor, City Council and Liberal representatives). They invited youth groups to have an information table.

The outreach for the event and the rally itself raised the profile of SCAN! and built new connections with allies and groups. The participation of the rally, held on a Tuesday afternoon and the city closed Ontario Street, the turnout was "respectable". They received positive feedback from the 50 people at the outreach (including SCAN!) table information tables. People signed up as new SCAN! members, and dozens signed the petition. The rally raised over $500 in donations, before and during the event.

Their request to proclaim Seniors for Climate Day was passed unanimously by city council. They used the proclamation to build public awareness. The proclamation was read at the City Council Meeting. Standard and was part of a Seniors for Climate display at the Naval data bookstore.

On Oct. 1, SCAN! Kingston circulated their petition calling on the City of Kingston to bring in a bylaw to protect lakefronts from extreme heat.

In other news...

SCAN! members participated in Kingston Climate Justice Coalition's Town Hall, on Sept. 28, the coalition's first public event. SCAN! was a founding member of the coalition. Dr. Henry Sandoski, Lead Report Card on the climate report of the city of Kingston. The event was well attended. Participants were asked to write on post-it notes, in three categories: Climate Targets, Transportation, Vulnerable People, Green Spaces, Provincial and Federal Governments, and Economy. Over the weekend 50, SCAN! members participated in a walk for National Truth and Reconciliation Day. SCAN! members also participated in the Sept. 21st Climate March. Kingston Anglican members have been making climate T-shirts to give away, which has proven to be very popular. All in all, Kingston SCAN! members feel they have reunited with others, and renewed their energy for addressing the climate crisis.

Guelph

The empty square was soon to fill up. The photo is from a news article in Guelph Today.

They did a lot of tabling, presentations seven events/meetings in September leading up to their Oct. 1 event. They reached out to the Guelph community but also to promote the Oct 1 event.

They had very good pre-event media coverage, about 10 days before the event (Guelph Today, Wellington Advertiser, Guelph Tribune/Mercury, CFRU radio) and post-event (Guelph Mercury, Guelph Tribune) got a lot of media coverage at the event (CTV/MB, CBC KW, Guelph Today).

On Oct. 1 they had two walks/marches in downtown Guelph. The walks converged at City Hall where they had speakers, music, and information tables/groups including the City field information tables.

A bus from local retirement residence brought a group to the rally. Overall, 120 people attended. There were eight speakers, two youth, and an Indigenous representative. Mayor Karen Farbridge, Councillor Gordon, singer-songwriter extraordinaire, Guelph's council meeting joing on stage at the time, and Guelph Chapter member Carol and the Mayor, only one stepped outside briefly.

Thanks to an announcement by one of our MCs, 17 people signed up as members on the spot. A lot more people came to receive more information, order a shirt and sign up.

In other news...

Their next tabling event was the ECO Market in Quebec St Mall, right before the Storms hockey games, on Oct. 18 and 19.

Barrie

Barrie's October 1 Seniors for Climate event was a success after much hard work by an ever-growing group of dedicated SCAN! and Greys for Green members. Starting at Barrie City Hall at noon, at 6:30 p.m. nine-minute interview on Rogers One CBC, which covered why seniors, why now, what we (seniors) wanted and what Barrie was doing specifically.

Then event began at 1:30 around the perimeter of the City Hall building. Barrie's Mayor, Jeff Lehman, local environmental groups, The Lions Club, environmental music and Maude and Mike playing on the stage. Barrie Chapter member Ann Mc Ilwain, MC, member delivered the land acknowledgement. The program continued till 4:00 with a combination of speakers, music, dancing, a flash mob, a poem, and three speakers. One of the speakers was with Project Neutral from Toronto and the other was from a local group called Climate Change Barrie. Presentations were Both were inspiring and engaging. The last speaker, a SCAN! member and a grandfather, gut the Lake in Barrie's environmental condition.

They then marched downtown following a bagpiper. Once downtown they chanted and sang "Canada is Burning" and "We Shall Overcome" before getting back to City Hall.

Their media coverage was fantastic. In addition to the CBC interview, CTV filmed and interviewed Pat Smith putting a piece on the 6 o'clock news. As well, there was coverage in the Barrie Examiner. The Greys Organizers celebrated a job well done with dinner and a drink at a local pub.

Ottawa

October 1 in Ottawa was quite successful and enjoyed by participants and passers-by. The day started off as a great picnic at the National Observatory. Their fantastic flash mob dancers, who spent many hours rehearsing, did their dance for the first time at the picnic and it was fantastic. The public flocked to watch them as soon as the music started. Some even joined in. Speakers included Mayor Jim Watson, Mayor-elect as well as Michael Bean, publisher of the Energy Mix.

They also had an indoor event at Knox Presbyterian with six presentations by local and national environmental groups, followed by a lively discussion with the audience. Mayor Jim Watson was in attendance. The city of Ottawa is far from where it needs to be in implementing the Climate Emergency Master Plan. Mayor Watson promised to "Make Ottawa a leader in Climate Day" and the deputy mayor began first event with the presentation of the framed proclamation. They also had a rally and march on Oct. 1 in Ottawa Gardens, another flashmob dance and ended with two powerful numbers by the Just Voices choir. There were many positive comments about the day, the opportunity to show attending to network and become more familiar with the groups involved. It was a day to celebrate.

An op-ed was written by one of their members.

In other news...

They organized a rally, encouraging their members to register for the October 15 CPPB public meeting.

Northumberland

On Oct 1, Northumberland SCAN (NS) set up tables in front of the Cobourg municipal building for a few hours in collaboration with the Northumberland EV Society. The EV Society had a display of electric vehicles and their organizing team was recorded on local community radio (see photo above) on September 24 and promoted the event on their website and Facebook on the Feb. the online information site of one of their partners, Community Power Northumberland. They also had a table at their local Farmers' Market with as many people as possible. Approximately 60 people passed by the tables and at least 30 of them signed petitions and/or left their contact information. SCAN! NS member Dennis Laxton, is working with Nancy Nicol on her project to create a mural on local grain elevators at the many sites across Canada on Oct. 1.

In other news...

On Saturday, Oct.3, the town organized its Harvest Festival and SCAN! NS had a table in front of Ring St. for a few blocks. The street was closed to vehicles, with booths lining both sides of the road.

In collaboration with a number of other local organizations, a "Sustainability Expo" was also arranged for a couple of weeks. Displays were spread around town in shop windows and other locations. Display at the Saturday morning farmers' market, Bob Dylan's birthday, and many other venues in the town. SCAN! members

And all the way from Alberta

New chapter - Hamilton

SCAN! welcomes a new chapter. We'll be hearing more from them soon.

In front of Calgary City Hall, people came to listen to Deputy Mayor Sonya Sharp who read the Proclamation of Oct 1 as Seniors for Climate Action Day, First Nation representative, Cheryle Chagnon-Greyeye singing Praise to Mother Earth, Dr. Joe Vipon, ER doctor and Climate Action activist who was at COP28, the Raging Seniors singing, "No More Coal Mines". Well done!

They have posted dozens of photos on their FB page from across the country as they arrive from Seniors for Climate. Check out the page. Lots of good information there.

CPPIB protest

SCAN! Ottawa joined shift for a rally at the CPPIB public meeting, boosted by the Seniors for Climate flash mob.

They report that despite all of the well framed questions that were put to the CPPIB representative, they mostly got "non answers and obfuscation".

They further report that the CPPIB is much more aware and mindful of the public's concerns and wants to *appear* as if they're doing the right thing. SCAN! and shift are like a dog with a bone. Keep gnawing away.

A big win

You've probably hear the good news by now but it's worth repeating and celebrating.

Huge news out of Ontario's top court, the Ontario Court of Appeal.

The court sided with young people and future generations in their historic climate case against Ontario.

Seven young people argued their Charter rights to life, security of the person, and equality had been undermined by the provincial government's weakening of its climate targets.

The court overturned the dismissal of the case and has ordered a new hearing, allowing it to move forward.

Ecojustice is celebrating it as a landmark victory

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" where the full link is tweeted. We are also trying a new workaround in an attempt to try to keep people up to date. We encourage you to follow @Seniors_CAN on "X". FB has more than 1,000 followers and Twitter as well. Despite restrictions we are doing our best.

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