PLANET OVER PROFIT
WAKE UP!

Draw the Line

Sept. 20 massive success

From coast to coast to coast and around the world, people came together to draw the line and kickstart a mass movement towards defending people, peace and the planet. See the chapter reports below. It remains to be seen how that movement will go forward as the national coalition and chapters involved in local coalitions evaluate the planning process and measure their successes.

Photos of events across the country

Draw the Line in the News

Some coverage was better than others. Here are a few samples.

CTV News

Globe and Mail

CBC

Guelph Today

Global News - good reporting once you wade through the ads.

Some items of interest

Promotion - Social Media training

From Seniors For Climate Oct. 1, 2024, here re some useful links.

Using Canva

Using social media

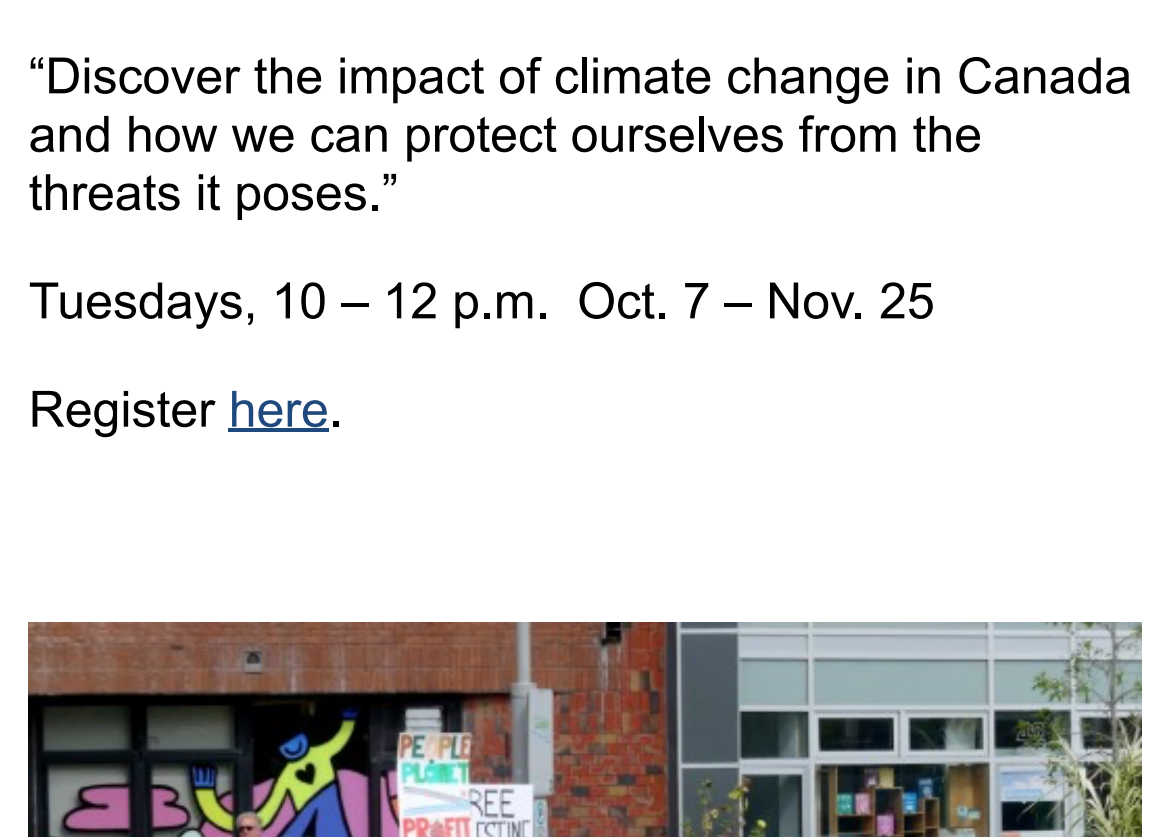
Online series

SCAN! member, Dr. Martin Bush, is offering an online series, The Climate Crisis: A Canadian Perspective.

"Discover the impact of climate change in Canada and how we can protect ourselves from the threats it poses."

Tuesdays, 10 – 12 p.m. Oct. 7 – Nov. 25

Register here.



Chapter reports

Guelph

"More than 100 people gathered at Royal City Park for Draw the Line, a global movement for people, peace and the planet. After hearing from guest speakers, the crowd marched to city hall, chanting and holding signs.

"Our community support systems, food banks, shelters, childcare programs, libraries and mutual aid programs cannot keep up. This is a stark reminder that poverty is not a moral failing. It is a policy choice," said Chelsey Edwards, speaker at the event."

To build towards the day, they continued their tabling activities to provide information and promotion at local markets, festivals and other events.

Coverage the day before.

London

They had a table at the London and District Labour Council Annual Labour Day Picnic beside an accessible walkway. At least fifty seniors stopped by and many took literature including a Draw the Line flyer and Wildfire Information.

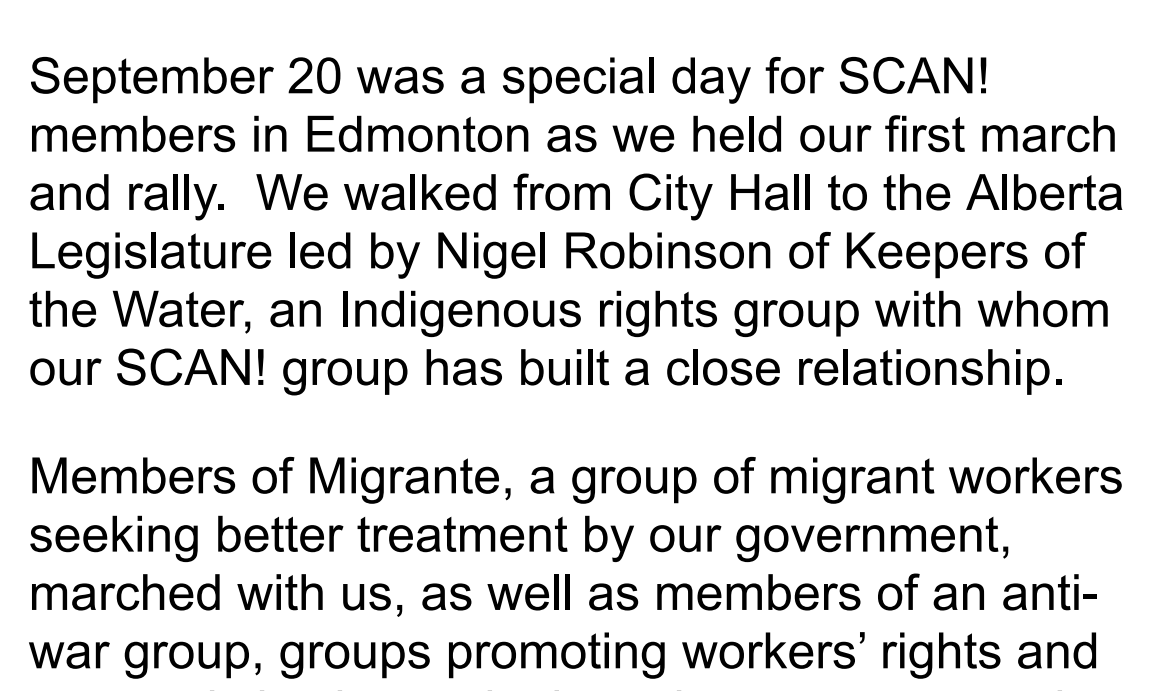
They supported the Seniors for Climate London Group planning for the September 20th rally. Peter Nicholas promoted SCAN! - the climate crisis.

Peter also presented Climate Change 101 to members of the Byron Legion where they have an Educational Program.

Brant, Hamilton, Niagara, Norfolk (BHNN)

Members set up a table at Chiefswood Park to share information about SCAN! at an event called "Voice of the River". They had some good conversations with potential members.

For DTL, they collaborated with Hamilton350 (Elders for Climate Sanity) to create a theatre/drama presentation with costumes for "climate criminals" and "climate heroes". They held it at Gore Park, Hamilton's downtown square.

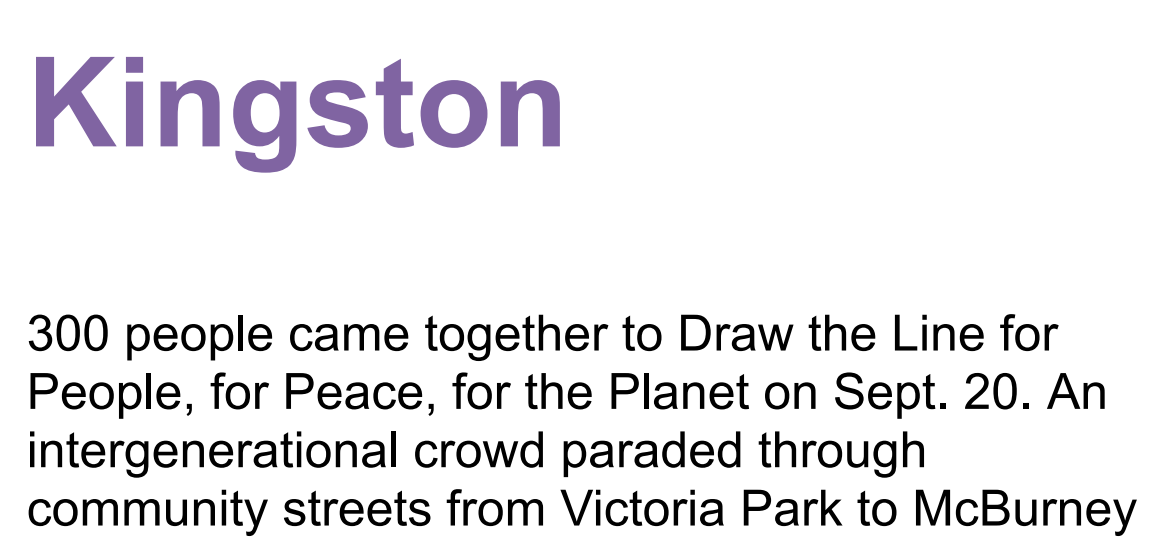


Edmonton reports:

September 20 was a special day for SCAN! members in Edmonton as we held our first march and rally. We walked from City Hall to the Alberta Legislature led by Nigel Robinson of Keepers of the Water, an Indigenous rights group with whom our SCAN! group has built a close relationship.

Members of Migrante, a group of migrant workers seeking better treatment by our government, marched with us, as well as members of an anti-war group, groups promoting workers' rights and economic justice and other climate groups such as Climate Justice Edmonton.

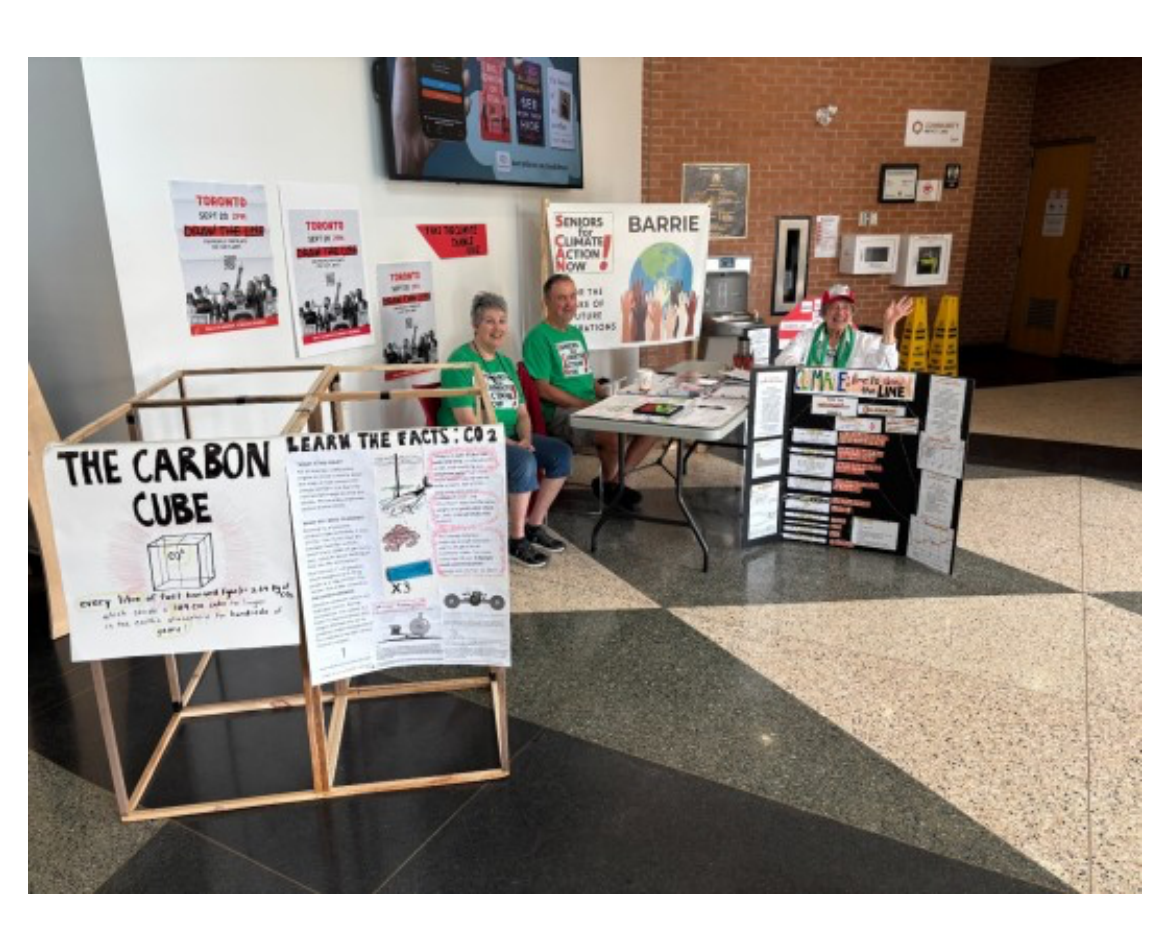
We proudly marched among these coalition members demanding a better future for our children and grandchildren. Speakers spoke passionately about these topics, especially Gil McGowan who has been president of the Alberta Federation of Labour for many years. It was a hot September day, unseasonably so, which was fitting to end a summer that saw so very many wildfires burn across Canada this year. That temperature has fuelled our anger and ignited our intention to launch more protests this year. One of our campaigns will be to protest the start-up of Pathways Alliance's Carbon Capture and Storage project. We are determined to demand better media coverage this next year and recruit more members to help us in our fight.


DRAW THE LINE
FOR PEOPLE. FOR PEACE. FOR THE PLANET.

Kingston

300 people came together to Draw the Line for People, for Peace, for the Planet on Sept. 20. An intergenerational crowd paraded through community streets from Victoria Park to McBurney Park, where there were speakers and an Indigenous drumming circle. Chris Gusen (350 Canada and Kingston Climate Justice Coalition) spoke about the Draw the Line goals: "We reject the Carney agenda and demand that the Canadian government prioritize our communities over billionaires…The government needs to pick a side: injustice, violence, and climate destruction — or a just and safe future for all of us."

Participants chanted and carried banners and signs calling to end to the genocide in Gaza; supporting migrant and Indigenous rights, climate action, and economic justice, including striking OPSEU workers from St. Lawrence college. The event was organized by a small team that included SCAN! members with climate, economic justice and Palestinian leaders in the community. There was an atmosphere of enthusiasm and a lot of interest to continue the cross-movement organizing of the Draw the Line Coalition. 100 people signed up to stay involved with Draw the Line.

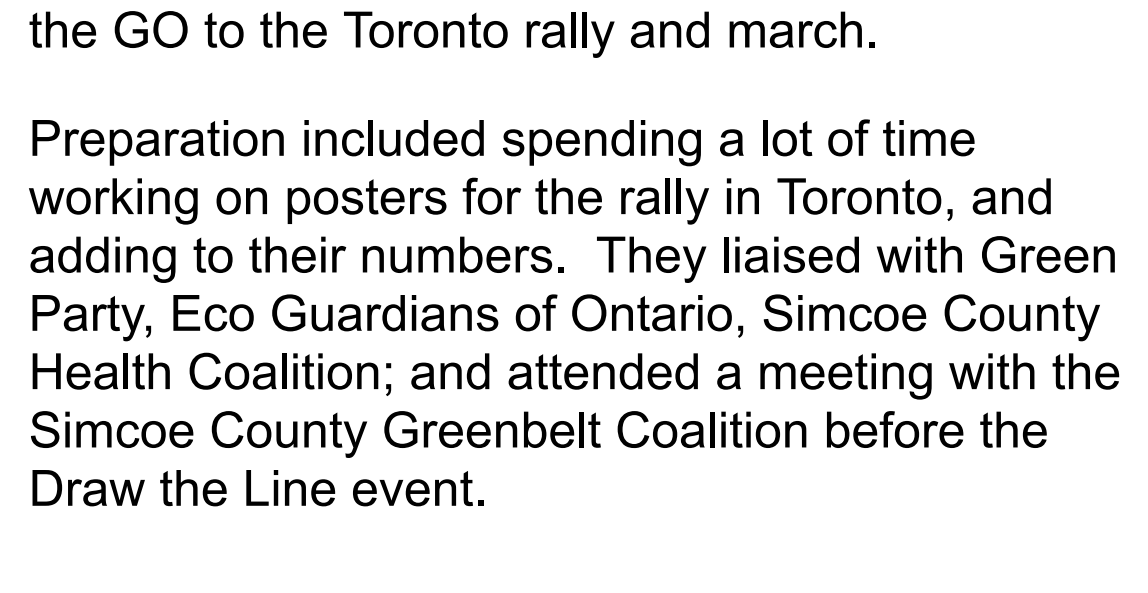


Barrie

In the lead-up to Sept. 20, they took part in the Labour Day picnic September 1st with about 40 people participating in the climate quiz, a very effective way to get information across. It was an opportunity to promote DTL.

They met with their student contact at Rotary. The student group is called "Interact". Some of the students from the Global perspectives class last year volunteered at the visual display at the library in September at the Farmer's Market. Barrie climate activists along with some students took the GO to the Toronto rally and march.

Preparation included spending a lot of time working on posters for the rally in Toronto, and adding to their numbers. They liaised with Green Party, Eco Guardians of Ontario, Simcoe County Health Coalition; and attended a meeting with the Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition before the Draw the Line event.



Ottawa

The Ottawa Chapter focused entirely on September 20th events. Part of their preparation was practising Flash Mob moves, making signs and learning to sing the Song for the Climate.

In Ottawa-Gatineau, a coalition of more than forty organizations with different focuses - climate and environment, Palestinian support, migrant justice, Indigenous solidarity - organized the march. The chapter was responsible for a family-friendly gathering after the march as well as participating in the Core, Program, Outreach and Fundraising teams for the event.

The march began on both the Ottawa and Quebec sides of the Ottawa River, opening with the beat of a Grandfather Drum and a short talk from Algonquin Elder, Albert Dumont. The youth members of World Changing Kids gave very moving pleas for action.

They started at the Prime Minister's Office and wound through downtown Ottawa, with a stop at the US Embassy where the Ottawa group met up with the Gatineau contingent that had crossed over the Ottawa River on the Alexandra bridge.

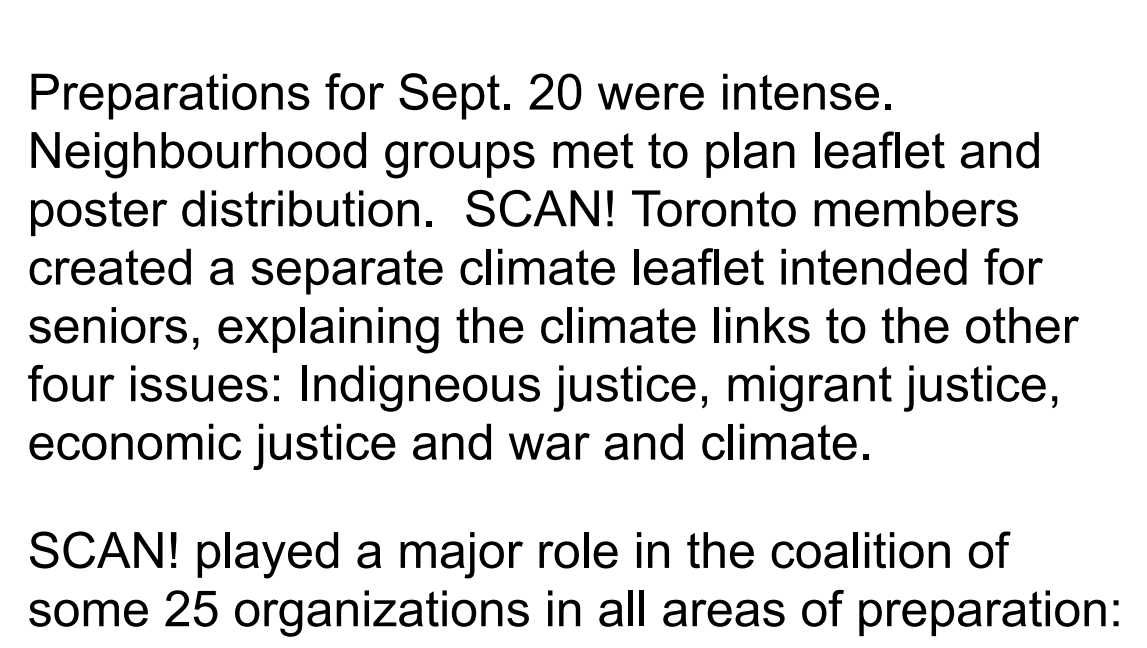
The march ended at the Canadian Tribute to Human Rights, after a brief detour to protect and support the group painting a mural on Wellington, where two activists were arrested.

After the final powerful speeches of the march, the Ottawa River Singers offered up a victory song along with their drumming which was very much appreciated by the crowd.

The After March gathering at City Hall provided marchers with water and food, and an opportunity to visit 14 information tables, many of which provided follow-up actions marchers could take, as well as sign up for their favorite interests and visit with one another.

All in all it was a very demanding 3-4 months of organizing, but the end result was very satisfying. The coalition promises to be a long term proposition and SCAN! intends to be part of it.

Please have a look at the Ottawa Chapter page on the SCAN website for photos and video clips. Here is a report from the Ottawa Citizen.



Toronto

Preparations for Sept. 20 were intense. Neighbourhood groups met to plan leaflet and poster distribution. SCAN! Toronto members created a separate climate leaflet intended for seniors, explaining the climate links to the other four issues: Indigenous justice, migrant justice, economic justice and war and climate.

SCAN! played a major role in the coalition of some 25 organizations in all areas of preparation: program, logistics, outreach, finance and social media with plenty of boots on the ground. Hundreds of flyers were distributed at the Labour Day parade, for example.

The rally by Sankofa Square at Yonge and Dundas began with a media scrum, including David Suzuki. He had agreed to march with SCAN! in the climate contingent to the delight of people around him.

As the numbers grew with representatives from Grassy Narrows, migrant workers' organizations, several climate organizations, Palestine solidarity groups and many more, the march was rerouted, which meant that the speakers intended for the initial rally spoke at Queen's Park instead.

Organizers estimated the height of the march at about 8,000 people, which was underreported in the news. 2 - 3,000 is the more likely estimate.

Arriving at Queen's Park, the Raging Grannies had set themselves up at the south end. Tables for about 20 participating organizations were ready to receive the marchers who filled Queen's Park. This tabling opportunity also gave organizations an opportunity to exchange information and views with each other. There was a good deal of enthusiasm for the speakers on Indigenous rights, migrant rights, economic justice, anti-war and climate. Musicians were outstanding, galvanizing the appreciative crowd.

Web analytics

You might be interested in a snapshot of the popularity of our website.

A quick look reveals Sept. 4 - 18:

793 visitors

Draw the Line – 279

About us – 91

SCAN! Toronto – 86

SCAN! Ottawa - 61

839 clicks – up 58%

All told - Active users 1.4K

New users 1.2K

And on social media

FB continues to have high traffic and engagement: 1.5K followers: this platform is growing.

SCAN!'s FB page gets a lot of traffic. Some chapters have started a FB group or page. For example, Toronto has a FB group. There are also several Instagram accounts: scan_toronto, scan_ottawa, edmontonseniorsclimateaction, scankingston. As well, many of us follow the Seniors For Climate Instagram account: climateseniors.

It is always important to amplify to get the message out. It's great to "like" but better to "share".

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 as well as Bluesky.

You can follow us on Bluesky
@seniorsfcan.bluesky.social

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 website and click on "Become a member".

Encourage friends and family to sign up for the newsletter. Pass it on to a friend, family or neighbour. If they would like to receive it, they can sign up from our website.