

SEPT 20

DRAW
THE
LINEFOR PEOPLE. FOR
PEACE. FOR THE
PLANET.

The world is on fire – and so are we

The Global Days of Action are approaching. People all over the world are [drawing the line](#)

Find [your event](#) on the map of Canadian actions. Seniors For Climate's [website](#) will also be a source of information.

Partner organizations include climate, migrant rights, Indigenous, peace, and music. [Here](#) is the full list.

Chapters have been preparing their events, which are diverse and exciting. See chapter reports below.

Rising up

Indigenous leaders have expressed extreme frustration - and in some cases – extreme anger over Bill 5 in Ontario and Bill C-5 federally. They rightly point out that consultation after the fact is no consultation at all. The Ontario and Alberta premiers have been cementing their energy relationship – a block that will drag the hopes of renewable energy under unless we continue to stand up and fight. The Ring of Fire is at risk for exploitation without free prior and informed consent.

SCAN! is more important than ever. Get involved in whatever way you can. For example, some of our members continue to find their way into the [media](#).

Chapter News

Ottawa

They are deeply involved with the coalition organizing for the Draw the Line events in Ottawa; and SCAN! Ottawa has agreed to take on the activities at the end of the march. There will be a festive and welcoming atmosphere where marchers can visit display tables, set up by the participating groups, meet and visit with each other and planned access amenities. The flash mob will be there, as well as some lively and participatory music, and of course, sign-up sheets.

Their chapter has over 100 signed-up members of whom about 30 are quite active. [*congratulations – ed.*] They are planning a membership “party” to divide up tasks, make signs, practise dancing and learn some chants and songs for September 20.

In terms of relationship building, they are trying to create a real one with the Kitigan Zibi and Pikwakanagan Algonquin First Nations despite the challenging events of this summer.

Organizing for Sept. 20 is their main preoccupation.

Guelph

The City of Guelph Manager of Energy and Climate Change presented his report, Call to Community Climate Action, at their May chapter meeting. They are currently educating the public about it. The Manager is working with the chapter: proofreading their materials and sharing his resources for tabling.

A flyer created by For Our Grandchildren (4RG) was popular with Guelph members. With their permission, support and strong encouragement, they adapted and published the flyer to reflect Guelph’s local situation.

Guelph members tabled at: Hillside Music Festival, July 19 and 20. Mike Schreiner (MPP) asked them to work on his Bill 5 petition at their Hillside table where they also featured the City’s Community Call to Action report.

They will also table at the September Jazz Festival, the Arboretum Fair and the Farmers’ Market.

For September 20th, they are working with 3 other groups: Guelph Wellington Coalition for Social Justice (which includes labour, education, healthcare, OPIRG, Retired Teachers etc.), Guelph Climate Action Network and Fossil Fuel Out of Schools to plan our Sept 20th event. They are considering: a family friendly, intergenerational activity (building a wind farm craft with kids) and a slow wheel parade/march.

Kawartha

Their action will take place on the 29th. Some members are planning to join the Toronto event.

Edmonton

For Sept. 20, their Steering Team to date: 350.org, SCAN! Edmonton, For Our Kids Alberta, Keepers of the Water, Climate Justice Edmonton, Edmonton Youth for Climate, Environmental Defence, Indigenous Climate Action, Migrante, Common Horizons.

Event partner organizations: Women for Rights and Empowerment, Touch Grass Club, CPAWS, Raging Grannies, Council of Canadians, Canadians Association of Physicians for the Environment, New Grocery Movement, Vegans and Vegetarians of Alberta, Solar Power Investment Cooperative of Edmonton, Edmonton River Valley Conservation Coalition, River Cree Singers, Raging Grannies, IMA.

A member recently gave a talk to the chapter on writing letters to the Editor.

Kingston

Kingston SCAN! members have continued work with other local activists to protect tenants from extreme heat.

The City of Kingston Council legal counsel and staff maintain that municipalities do not have the authority to pass a bylaw to cover all tenants. This summer has already seen prolonged heat waves with temperatures in excess of 30 C and close to 40 C with the humidex.

SCAN! Kingston members decided to focus on ways to protect tenants in their homes. They met with local OW and ODSP staff to inquire about the possibility of financial assistance for tenants on OW and ODSP for cooling equipment. However, discretionary benefits for cooling equipment are not available in Kingston aside from particular circumstances.

A 'Community Heat Response Plan' went to the Environment, Infrastructure, and Transportation Policies Committee. The city plan is to have designated cooling centres in existing facilities. A SCAN! member raised a number of issues, pointing out the inadequacies of the plan; and that it would be best to empower residents to mitigate heat in their own homes. The 'Community Heat Response Plan' went forward ignoring proposed recommendations. One councillor did tell SCAN! that she intends to make amendments to the plan and will consult with community activists.

A pilot project will track hygrometer data in the homes of 20 tenants who lack heat pumps or air conditioners to determine how hot it gets for tenants; and whether they have any strategies to mitigate heat in the hope that data collected will help to bring more pressure on the city to act.

SCAN! members marched in the Pride parade with the SCAN! banner for the 2nd year running. They plan a SCAN! information table at the Princess Street Promenades.

Plans are underway for Sept. 20. They have applied to reserve two city parks and a parade permit. They want to have an 'active transportation' parade with the theme, Draw the Line. Bikes, stilts, skate boards, wheelchairs as well as people walking will be welcome. SCAN! will focus on climate issues; but participating groups are invited to include social and climate justice issues.

Toronto

SCAN! Toronto participated in the campaign against Ontario Bill 5, including a rally with Idle no More at the legislature. They tabled at various markets and fairs, held neighbourhood meetings and worked with others in the “Wards Project”. This project puts together teams of people who will meet with Councillors to promote Toronto’s program for getting to net zero GHGs by 2040.

The chapter also educated themselves about a proposal to incinerate Toronto’s garbage; and participated in the City consultation on long-term waste management.

Members participated in the Coalition for Charter Rights and Freedoms to try to prevent a series of “bubble zones” in Toronto.

After almost 3 years of working as a chapter, they held a self-reflective meeting to examine to what extent their work effectively moves them toward their goals. They also discussed how to engage and recruit more members and work with allies.

They are planning a joint social with Climate Action for Lifelong long Learners (CALL).

SCAN! Toronto and CALL helped to form a coalition of 24 organizations to plan the Sept. 20 event. The plan is for a rally in the city centre (Sankofa Square) and march to Queen’s Park. There will be tables from multiple climate and social justice organizations ready to greet the marchers. The plan is for short speeches and music at the initial rally; and short speeches at Queen’s Park interspersed with music and chants. It looks like it will be a very colorful, powerful event. Some local communities will travel to join the Toronto event.

London

The Chapter had a 10’ X 10’ tent at the Home County Music and Art Festival, an event which is in a state of regrowth.

The Chapter was able to make a donation to the Seniors for Climate – London Organizers, for the upcoming September 20th Day of Action.

Some London SCAN! members attended an NDP Roundtable with their SCAN! T-Shirt and Emissions Cap. Marit Stiles and three MPPs were there to hear about climate change and environmental concerns in the London area.

BHNN

BHNN continues to meet monthly. Membership has grown but the core members are still the main attendees at meetings. Actions and activities they are focused on: planning for the September 20 Day of Action, writing letters to the editors of local newspapers, participating in rallies and letter-writing campaigns against Bills 5 and C-5. [*Thank you - ed.*]

Barrie

They continue to work on the visual display for the Barrie Library from Sept. 18 to the 23rd. The intention is to explain where, how and why we need to draw the line to have any chance at planetary survival. They organized an in-home workshop to plan for September 20th. They booked a table at the Barrie Farmer’s Market on that day.

If some Barrie members go to the Toronto event, they will still have coverage at the Farmer’s Market. They will promote Sept. 20 at the library either way to try to encourage others to join them once they have decided on their event(s).

Social media

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, edmonton seniorsclimateaction, 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
@seniorsscan.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”.

How about passing on this newsletter to a friend, family or neighbour? If they would like to receive it, they can [sign up](#) from our website.

SEPT 20 – NATIONWIDE



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