SCAN! - Flourishing in May while addressing threats to peace and climate

Missiles and drones continue to rain down causing death, destruction and a heavy cost to the climate. The first analysis of the coal found in Iran's Shajarak mine, which was the largest coal producer prior to the war, is that it has emitted 2.5 million tonnes of CO2 in the first 14 days. The Guardian reports on "the catastrophic environmental harm being caused by attacks on oil and gas infrastructure, military bases, civilian areas and ships at sea."

SCAN's Co-ordinating Committee took a clear position on the war in Iran, adding their statement to the previously published one from the Ritac Climate and Militarism Working Group.

On the ground, members across the country continued to visit their MPs and their MPs' offices. One Toronto riding caught the attention of local police. They contacted a member, asking for a description of someone who had left a note. It came to watch the small band as they sang in the rain outside their MP's office, and then followed them up the road to a second location!

And check out the collage below of the March 27 Day of Action:

Nuclear Power Action Alert

Ontarians are faced with the government's plans to waste their time and money. SCAN! is reaching with an action to protest the Welseyville Project in Niagara. Read more here and sign the petition today. Ontarians can use to write their MPP.

Read more here.

LNG protests

It was the first of five demonstrations across major Canadian cities in one week, bringing together Indigenous leaders and climate activists in a call for public funding to be redirected from LNG to clean, renewable energy sources. Activists including SCAN! argued that LNG projects accelerate climate change, undermine Indigenous rights, and drain public resources at a time, above, the Toronto protest. Read more in the National Observer coverage.

Chapter reports

For the CRR campaign Day of Action, the Chapter held a March Fridays For Future at the corner of London City Hall (pictured above). The very busy downtown intersection got many honks and waves. Their social event took place at the Ship Tavern where 11 people enjoyed lunch and conversation.

In mid-April, seven members rallied in front of Liberal MP Anita Kayabaga's office in the Mustey weather. A gust of wind took one of the banners and it was blown into the street. Fortunately given prominence held to a metal fence. They took an information package to the MP's office, including the seven demands.

Edmonton

They have been attending Edmonton's council meetings to make councillors aware of the climate and militarism problem within their province, and even their city. They are involved with the Coalition for Responsible Energy and For Our Future, a coalition of 20 organizations. On May 7 they will visit MLAs to ask them to vote "No" at the provincial legislature meeting in May. They are also involved with a group called "Stop the Wars at Home". They are that the UCP has been using distraction tactics to avoid the information getting out to the public.

The chapter was also involved in planning a "Stop the Wars" rally in Edmonton which included concerts, which took place at a community hall at the end of April.

They continue to visit their MPs as part of the Community Resilience and Resistance Campaign.

The chapter invited a geologist working in the Carbon Capture and Storage industry to their general meeting to explain the process, and offer a critique of the CCS industry and the Alberta Carbon Trunk Line, which is the scheme.

They will hold their first in-person community climate cafe on May 5.

Toronto

Like other chapters, Toronto has been busy with the CRR campaign. Six ridings – and now a seventh (pictured above) - have been going door-to-door. Many MPs have been open for coffee afterwards, some have outside. For the new 7th riding's first foray, they left a brief note on the door, and received a call back from the MP's meeting. They attached a SCAN! postcard and button "in case he wants to wear it". Then they visited the office of Liberal MP Kevin Vuong, a positive response from their placards and friendly smiles, conversations and beeping horns.

The chapter's City Working Group has been keeping abreast of Bill 98, which strips Toronto and other Ontario municipalities of their ability to enforce green building standards — again. SCAN! Toronto members made a "deputation" at the Environment Committee meeting were greeted with hostility.

Discussions are under way about participation in the upcoming municipal election.

SCAN! Toronto worked with the Elementary Teachers of Toronto to plan for the 20th Globe Walk. Read the piece mid- April. (See the bottom of the page.)

Barrie

They held their 8th CRR action at the end of March, with 11 activists, holding up signs with the demands for action from the federal government, distributing many flyers. They had prepared notes for the Liberal candidate in Simcoe-Grey, Dr. Medonna MP, who cancelled at the last minute but rescheduled for mid May.

In mid-April, they tabled for Earth Day at the Farmers Market. They created – and shared - a "Barrie Climate Action Plan" and used it as a tool in conversations. They also tabled at a church for an environmental presentation.

Some members attended a discussion sponsored by the Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition re: the future of water protection in Simcoe County.

Brantford Hamilton Niagara Norfolk (BHNN)

In late March, members joined with Elders for Climate Sarnia at an "outreach" outside the office of the Liberal MP for Hamilton-Westmountain/Ancaster. The MP had refused to meet with the group. Despite the rally, they went out for refreshments and climate trivia.

They joined with a larger group in late April to show a documentary, "Red Alert", filmed by Layla Staats. This was a fundraiser for Layla, an Indigenous filmmaker and musician.

They also held a film screening and community event at Birds Canada in Port Rowan for Earth Day.

Kingston

SCAN! and the Kingston Health Coalition (KHC) hosted a talk by Dr. Mark Gabbott, who spoke as part of nationwide tour to promote Canada's social justice and the enforcement of the Canada Health Act. About 30 people participated, chanting: "money for healthcare, not for war", "money for climate action, not for war".

Shortly after they had sent a press release for the event, the KHC received a formal cancellation of invitation to meet. Their next in-person rally took place in mid-April.

The chapter is organizing a family-oriented Earth Festival in Confederation Park on June 6. There will be a "climate action" tent, and the local community event for all ages, with information booths, activities and music. The goal is to remind those who attend how much we value the planet.

At the municipal level, SCAN! members have participated in the City's consultation on its draft follow-up report on its Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Card, as well as the draft municipal Plan - and the recently release Climate Adaptation Report. SCAN! is particularly concerned with advancing a maximum temperature bylaw.

The result: in late April, a SCAN! Kingston representative made a presentation to a pilot program to provide free air conditioners to low-income Kingstonians. The ultimate goal is a bylaw to set a maximum maximum temperature for every rental unit in Kingston.

They have also been working to delay a motion to expand city boundaries and to protect their natural heritage. Read the local coverage.

They are currently reviewing the city plans and strategizing on how to move forward at an upcoming community RCJC meeting.

Ottawa

They held his MP office rallies. At Maria-Fiorce Lopez's office, the MP for Orleans, her assistant invited them in and assured them that the MP supported SCAN!'s demands. In late March, they met with Liberal MP for Ottawa-Vanier, Mona-David McGuinty. There were 12 at the Lalonde rally and 15 at the McGuinty one, despite bitter cold. The MP was sympathetic to SCAN!'s CRR Day 22 - they called downtown ("That's a lot of rallying ") and [ ]

In late March, a few members attended the Suzuki Foundation Stronger Together Event in Ottawa and were excited by the process.

Their newsletter came was filled with ideas for people to participate in environmental activities and petitions. They post frequently to their social media accounts.

Activities for April included a paper mache workshop and an Earth Day rally (gorgeous photo above).

They signed on to a petition supporting ACORN's demands for a maximum heat bylaw.

Sunshine Coast (SC-SCAN!)

On the west coast, this newly minted chapter is busy getting oriented to SCAN! and participating in both SCAN!'s and Seniors for Climate zoom gatherings and webinars.

Since joining SCAN! in February they have held a successful "Climate Action" table at a community newspaper, serving the 34,000 coastal population. Their letter on Bill C-15 managed to generate a response from Liberal MP Patricia Bell. They met with and provincial MLA covering the seven points needed for Canada's "bold and comprehensive climate plan" was also published.

They participated in a two day Climate Faire in Gibsons, on the southern end of the peninsula, with a SC-SCAN! information table. They also participated in Earth Day celebrations on Sunday in Roberts Creek.

The chapter is planning a major public forum around the theme of Break Through The Climate Silence in mid-June.

They expect that their public presence and exposure in these events will result in a boost in membership applications.

Guelph

The chapter meeting was on Earth Week event. They showed the film, "Mission to Mars." Illustrating how we are going to "incredible lengths to alienate ourselves from nature."

They had a great turnout - 70 people of all ages (see photo above). They partnered with Waterwatchers, GPIRG and the Guelph Coalition for Social Justice (pure financial support).

The film's story weaves together the value of and threat to - our wetlands, with a funny, human, but sobering and strong climate message.

They had lots of positive feedback on the film and their panelists, one of whom was a SCAN! Guelph member.

Feedback from audience members going out the door was that it was an excellent film and event.

In late April, they held a Diversi from RBC action. Diversi is a "performance" that involves destroying fossil fuel, and among the worst in the world. They are encouraging divestment, applying pressure and raising awareness. This action joins with SCAN! protests across Canada.

They demonstrate the 4th Friday of each month, at visiting RBC Branch locations around the city. Hundreds of thousands of Guelph residents will get the message.

Globe Walk 2026

SCAN! Toronto was very lucky to participate in the 20th Globe Walk on April 26th. It was a dozen organizations and individuals planned and carried out a walk across the city, carrying a huge "Climate Action" banner (pictured above) and blows at the lake in the far eastern part of the city, passed through "recharging stations" along a main street to the far west end. They returned to the lake for a sunset ceremony (see photo below) with a drum circle, a dance by the indefatigable musicians and an Indigenous Elder. Each station had its own spectacle, music, dance and inspirational speaker. Many people gathered close to 500 signatures on a petition which was presented by an MPP at Queen's Park on Earth Day.

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, 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

Instagram: scan.canada

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 Join us". Questions? email us: info@seniorsforclimateactionnow.org