*Photo by Egor Vikhrev on Unsplash*

**Wildfires, smoke and floods**

Readers of this newsletter are well aware of the causes of hundreds of wildfires that have been devastating communities across the country. Indigenous communities have been hit particularly hard. Their stories of survival are hair raising. Drifting smoke from the wildfires made spending any time out of doors a hazard.

Our friends to the south are outraged and seem to think Canadians have mismanaged our forests, causing Americans to also suffer from the smoky air. Of course, they accept no responsiblity at all for the "root" cause. And we likely would manage better if we followed Indigenous practices of controlled burns and stopped spraying toxic chemicals across our forests.

In the meantime, have you signed a letter to your MP about wildfires?

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**Another (very important) Petition**

Initiated by Seniors for Climate, the petition is now open. Please sign and circulate widely. The summary argument:

We, the undersigned, citizens and residents of Canada, call upon the Government of Canadato honour and ensure Canada's 2030 and 2035 emissions targets and strengthen the policies that make them achievable for the love of our children and grandchildren.

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**And yet another**

We, the undersigned, residents of Canada, call upon the Government of Canada to stop fast-tracking environmentally catastrophic fossil fuel projects, protect the health and wellbeing of all those impacted by climate change, and invest in a worker, community and Indigenous-led green energy transition that benefits everyone in Canada. Please sign and circulate.

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**The fight for a moratorium on data centres in Hamilton**

There was some hope when Hamilton was on the verge of becoming the first city in the country to put a pause on new data centres. Sadly, the vote did not pass. It was the same in Vancouver, but it gives impetus to activists around the country to continue to push for a moratorium. For example, councillors in a rural municipality bordering Calgary have voted to pause new data centre proposals while the local government works to pin down the rules that would apply to such developments.

Hamilton opened the discussion. Let's make our voices heard.

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**One more task for you**

The National Strategy Respecting Environmental Racism and Environmental Justice Act requires the federal government to develop an official Strategy. You can participate in the consultation by reviewing the draft strategy here and sending your thoughts to EJ-JE@ec.gc.ca by August 10, 2026. Issues raised by other organizations include poorly promoted, very short consultations; lack of performance measures or accountability; not paying even Indigenous participants in the consultations; no consideration of health; and dealing only with hazards not opportunities like access to nature. This template letter might help you respond.

## What the chapters are up to

**London** chapter held a CRRC rally in mid-June in front of PC MP Kurt Holman's office. Seven chapter members and collaborators got many honks and waves from motorists.

At a Picnic in the Park (see photo above) they had a table in the shade, meeting passersby to discuss climate change and share snacks and water. Then they walked over to support the Fridays For Future weekly rally at City Hall.

They also staffed a table in mid-June at the Cherryhill Mall Seniors Expo with perhaps 40 good conversations about the climate crisis.

The chapter and allies had an "MP Crawl" at the end of June as part of the pan-Canadian Day of Action. First stop was Liberal MP Arielle Kayabaga's office Several copies of the People's MOU were given to the assistant. Second stop was at Liberal MP Peter Fragistos' corner in downtown London. He met with them, addressed their concerns and took a handful of MOUs back to his office. Last stop was PC MP Kurt Holman's office. His assistant took one copy. A record ten activists attended.

They went back to Liberal MP Arielle Kayabaga's office on a sultry day just before the wildfire smoke arrived. Six hardy stalwarts attended.

## Guelph

They enjoyed playing Toxic Trivia at their end of June meeting. The game was also played at Green Drinks-Guelph in July.

They presented the People's MOU to MP Dominique O'Rourke via her staff member on the June 25, 350.org Day of Action. Subsequently, they met with her (see photo above). O'Rourke sits on the Environment Caucus. They articulated their disappointment, frustration, and anger with the government's response to the climate crisis.

MP O'Rourke agreed to share their concerns in writing with members of the Liberal government, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Natural Resources and the Minister of the Environment.

She also agreed to connect climate to the economy in her future community economic updates. And she agreed to attend a chapter meeting. However, she refused to sign 350.org's People's Memorandum of Understanding.

They held their monthly RBC picket at the end of June; and the local Branch Supervisor offered to send their letter up the chain to RBC CEO, Dave McKay.

They took part in the Guelph Anti-Ford monthly rally June 27, with the Raging Grannies and many others.

Their "Beat the Heat" cards were distributed in electronic and print form, encouraging people to take precautions during heat waves. They were pleased to see the release of Guelph's new Energy Equity Action Plan. SCAN! Guelph supported all the recommended actions, but particularly the maximum indoor temperature by-laws and the expansion of retrofit programs.

## Toronto

Eight ridings continue to rally monthly outside MPs' offices as part of the Community Resilience and Resistance (CRR) campaign. Three locations held rallies calling for a People's MOU initiated by 350.org. What is interesting and encouraging is the collaboration with allied groups.

Toronto had good representation (22 members) at the June monthly anti-Ford rally at Queen's Park. (See photo above.) A member spoke to the crowd. The photo shows us in good company (OPSEU members and Ford himself, at least, his head.) Members attended the July rally and once again had a SCAN! Toronto spokesperson.

The chapter partnered with Artists for Real Climate Action (ARCA) and Toronto East Residents for Renewable Energy (TERRE) to demonstrate in front of Environment Minister Julie Dabrusin's office. This was a protest against the expansion of the Island airport to allow for jets. It was a colourful and loud event with plenty of enthusiastic honking from cars and trucks passing by. Global and cp24 came out to film.

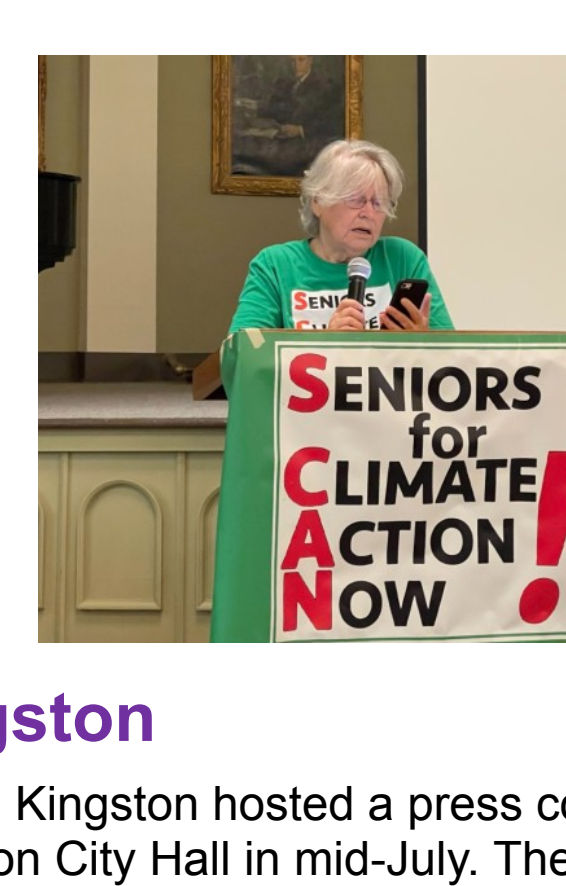
A celebration following the federal government's announcement brought out many local members, joining with the crowd of about 1,000 opponents to jets at the airport. The event was well covered in the media. Toronto residents remain vigilant.

## Ottawa

Their June activities were shaped by their commitment to Environment Week and Seniors for Climate's request to start climate conversations. As a result, they tabled at a number of different venues across the city in early June, including the Blackburn Hamlet Fun Fair, Britannia Park (with the Raging Grannies) and at the Green Fair, sponsored by one of their partners. People were lured to the table through some games, new props and wandering jesters, wearing green SCAN t-shirts.

They also met with some of their MPs through Citizens Climate Lobby and arranged meetings at an event to celebrate the New Horizons for Seniors grant program. They turned up at the 350.org rallies on June 25 at two of their MPs' offices.

They held a members' meeting over coffee and snacks in the delightful backyard of a co-housing project, where members greeted other members, old and new, played Toxic Trivia and brainstormed activities for the fall. Everyone was very enthusiastic and ready to chip in on future events.



SENIORS for CLIMATE ACTION NOW!

## Kingston

SCAN! Kingston hosted a press conference at Kingston City Hall in mid-July. The City supported SCAN's request to have July 15th proclaimed as "Extreme Heat Awareness Day".

The event took place as Kingston was under an Environment Canada heat warning and apocalyptic toxic wildfire smoke. It coincided with ACORN's Global Day of Action, "Beat the Heat", July 15th.

The Press Conference was moderated by a member of Kingston Climate Justice Coalition

Member Nancy Nicol was one of the speakers. It was covered here and here.

FARMERS' MARKET
France is on fire
Spain is on fire
Norway is on fire
Sicily is on fire
Ontario-BC is on fire
Scotland is on fire
Bolivia is on fire
Nigeria is on fire
England is on fire
AND FORD WANTS TO BUILD ANOTHER PIPELINE?

## Barrie

They are proud they managed to use two beautiful days with at least five SCAN! members each day to gather signatures for 350.org's MOU to the MPs of Simcoe County and beyond They took advantage of the action to give out SCAN! postcards. They delivered over 200 signed postcards, MOUs and names on a petition (based on SCAN! Kingston's petition) to their local MP at the end of June. They also mailed many postcards and MOUs to MPs outside of their riding.

They were very pleased and proud to see an excellent document to help the Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition create a booklet which will be given to prospective municipal politicians. This document will outline progressive climate actions carried out municipally around Ontario. It called for the set-up of a climate advisory committee at the municipal level in Simcoe County; and it researched what was happening around the province to demonstrate the efficacy of such a committee. SCAN!'s name will be included in the document. [*Bravo*]

## Kawartha

The municipal elections have been the focus of much of their recent discussion and planning. These activities will be a way to broaden SCAN!'s profile in their area, attract new members and build alliances.

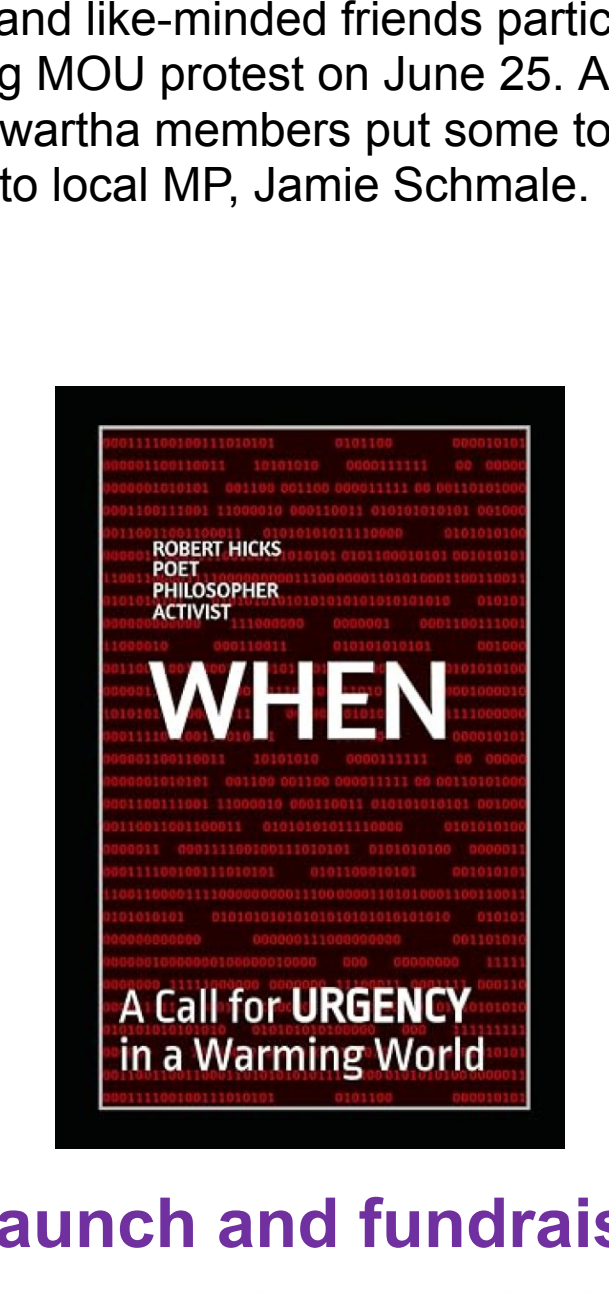
The Kawartha Lakes members have initiated a climate questionnaire that will be emailed to all the KL municipal candidates. The results will be presented at two climate cafes they plan to host at coffee shops in September in Lindsay and Bobcaygeon.

The Trent Lakes members are involved with the North Pigeon Lake Association. They held an Annual General Meeting in July with speakers and tables on environmental issues (including SCAN! Kawartha). Staff from both Trent Lakes and Kawartha Lakes presented information on local elections. Trent Lakes also had a climate questionnaire for their municipal candidates.

Several members met with ICLEI, Local Governments for Sustainability, which was contracted by the City of Kawartha Lakes to help advance its climate plan.

SCAN! Kawartha also participated in the Bobcaygeon 150 Celebration with an interactive booth. A collage will be made of the kids' artwork. They also participated in the Buckhorn Canada Day celebration.

Members and like-minded friends participated in the 350.org MOU protest on June 25. About 15 SCAN! Kawartha members put some tough questions to local MP, Jamie Schmale.



## Book launch and fundraiser

Robert Hicks is launching his new book, *WHEN: A Poetic and Philosophical Exploration of Time, Urgency, and Humanity's Response to the Climate Crisis.*

*WHEN* is a blend of poetry and reflection exploring the climate crisis, our shared responsibilities, and the choices that will shape the future.

To celebrate the book's release and to support the important work of our communities, Hicks will donate 100% of his profits to SCAN! from every sale of *WHEN* purchased up to and including Monday, August 31.

## Social media

SCAN!'s FB page gets a lot of traffic. Some chapters have started a FB group or page. 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.

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*Readers of this newsletter who are not yet members are welcome to join as members any time. Go to the website and click on Join us". Questions? email us: info@seniorsforclimateactionnow.org*