



Juby Lee and guest speaker Judy Rebick at the recent Spirit of Red Hill Valley lecture. See page 6 for another reason Juby's smiling



NEW ENVIRONMENT MINISTER VISITING

Environment Hamilton has succeeded in getting Ontario's new Environment Minister, the Honourable John Wilkinson, to come to the city for a visit. The commitment was in response to a letter sent by EH's ED Lynda Lukasik, expressing concern about the fact that the province has yet to pass into law a series of proposed air standards that are particularly important for ensuring that Hamilton's airshed becomes healthier.

In her letter, Lukasik underscored the concerns that EH and area residents have regarding on-going government delays with passing key proposed air standards into law:

We do extensive work with residents in neighbourhoods near Hamilton's industrial core. And so, as you can well imagine, we have been waiting patiently to see the province finalize air standards for key contaminants such as benzene and benzo(a)pyrene – both cancer-causing substances that are released into the Hamilton airshed from the coke ovens operated by local steel producers. We are becoming more and more concerned that the finalization of these

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EH APPEALING THE AEROTROPOLIS

The massive urban boundary expansion approved at the last city council meeting before the elections is being appealed by Environment Hamilton to the Ontario Municipal Board. The creation of the Airport Employment Growth District (aka aerotropolis) is the largest agricultural land loss in the city's history, and is based on the assumption of very rapid population growth and virtually no re-use of existing industrial areas.

The aerotropolis proposal is the city's response to the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe legislated by the province in 2006. The guiding principles of the provincial Growth Plan envision "compact, vibrant and complete communities" that "protect, conserve, enhance and wisely use the valuable natural resources of land, air and water for current and future generations." It is a repudiation of sprawl development that contrasts dramatically with the aerotropolis proposal and sets out much different directions for where and how to grow.

"This Plan envisages increasing intensification of the existing built-up area, with a focus on urban growth centres, intensification corridors, major transit station areas, brownfield sites and greyfields. Concentrating new development in these areas also provides a focus for transit and infrastructure investments to support future growth."

And it goes on to emphasize using land is already available in most communities.

"In most communities there is enough land to accommodate projected growth based on the growth forecasts and intensification target and density targets of this Plan. It is important to optimize the use of the existing land supply to avoid over-designating new land for future urban development. This Plan's emphasis on intensification and optimizing the use of the existing land supply represents a new approach to city-building in the GGH, one which concentrates more on

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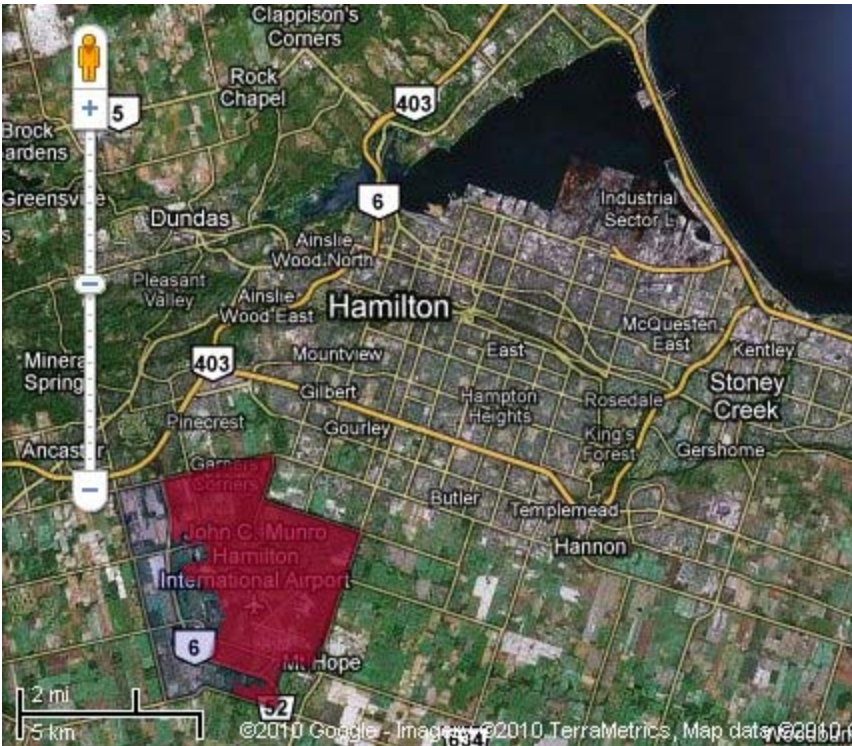
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Aerotropolis size (in red) compared to existing city. Courtesy aerotropoliscosts.ca



You can follow Environment Hamilton on Facebook and Twitter. Keep up to date on our latest activities and upcoming events by signing up as an EH follower today!



AEROTROPOLIS APPEAL continued from page 1

making better use of our existing infrastructure, and less on continuously expanding the urban area.”

Apparently Hamilton marches to the beat of a different drummer. While we already have over 1500 acres of vacant greenfield areas designated for industrial growth (17 years supply at the current 85 acres a year absorption rate), the aerotropolis plan more than doubles that amount, while assuming that only 47 acres will be re-developed or re-used.

At the same time, actual population growth is far below the projections on which the land “needs” are based. Hamilton’s population hit 504,000 in the 2006 census. The provincial plan projected it would be 6000 more than that FIVE YEARS EARLIER in 2001. The 2011 forecast is 540,000 climbing to a fanciful 660,000 by 2031.

These projections are clearly wrong, but the aerotropolis plan assumes they are carved in stone, and in the 2200 pages of studies they are not even questioned.

EH’s appeal will be expensive and require extensive community fundraising. Please consider making an initial donation now.

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standards has yet to occur. We would very much appreciate the opportunity to sit down with you sometime soon to talk about our concerns in more detail.

Lukasik also raised concerns about heavy lobbying from industry players who are bent on weakening some of the current requirements of the province’s updated air regulations:

I should also add that I have had the opportunity over the course of 2010 to co-chair an MOE multi-stakeholder consultation on some of the challenges associated with the implementation of the new air regulation, so I am very aware that industry has concerns about many of the new requirements under the regulation. We do not agree with industry regarding some of the concerns they have raised and the information they are using to justify these concerns. I have provided your office with some detailed information to ensure that you are aware of the concerns and the differing perspectives on these important issues. But I am optimistic that we will see continued openness and transparency amongst stakeholders as the Ministry works through these issues. I should also point out to you that, while stakeholders have their differences, there was clear consensus around the table that the proposed annual standards for the group of substances including benzene and PAHs were appropriate. Given this is the case, it’s time to move on implementation!

The Minister’s office has indicated that Minister Wilkinson plans to spend a day in Hamilton, learning more about air quality concerns and other key environmental issues. Staff at the Minister’s office have confirmed that his visit will take place before the end of this year. Minister Wilkinson’s predecessor John Gerretsen took the time to visit Hamilton while he was Environment Minister. He even stopped by the home of McAnulty Avenue resident Lorna Moreau to hear about her concerns over industrial emissions. By his own admission, Gerretsen said the visit was extremely valuable for him as it provided a first-hand sense of the environmental challenges facing the community.



John Wilkinson, Ontario's Minister of the Environment

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION IN DECEMBER

The Hamilton 350 Committee is planning local action on climate change in conjunction with the UN conference in Cancun, Mexico running from November 29 to December 10. The action will be in solidarity with the global peoples' movement on climate change, to commemorate the 2010 global victims of climate change, and to encourage Hamiltonians to provide climate change relief, both through financial relief to the victims, and relief for the planet by reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.



As of the end of October, 2010 was on track to be the hottest ever recorded. Record temperatures were set this year in an unprecedented seventeen countries – ranging from Finland to the Sudan, Pakistan to Russia. The climatic catastrophes were extreme in the latter two countries. The wheat crop was devastated and total deaths in Russia climbed 56,000 as the country endured temperatures a full 10 celsius degrees above normal. At least 2000 people also died in Pakistan in floods that affected 20 million and covered an area twice the size of Lake Superior. About 4 million remained homeless in early November.

There were also devastating rains and landslides in China that killed at least 3100 people by the end of August, and a drought in the Amazon judged to be the worst in over 100 years. Closer to Hamilton, the Atlantic hurricane season produced the second highest numbers on record, and the Great Lakes were deemed 'bathwater' with Lake Superior 8 degrees warmer than normal.

The 350 Committee, of which EH is a part, want to bring these facts and others to the public in Hamilton, and continue to demand that the Canadian government actually start dealing with climate change and stop playing a wrecking role at international conferences. To get involved in the committee or its December actions, please contact the EH office at (905) 549-0900 or send an email to contact@hamilton350.com.



The Hamilton 350 Committee recruited fifty people on Thanksgiving Sunday to plant garlic to protest the use of our limited foodland for the aerotropolis boundary expansion near Mt Hope.

MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS - PEG KELLY

Peg is a retired teacher who generously gives her time to be more active in her community.

With her interest in health and safety, Peg first got involved with Environment Hamilton through the Kirkendall neighbourhood's Walkability Project. The program focused on the stores and amenities within walking distance for residents in the community. After that, Peg got hooked, and we're happy to say she's been active in just about every EH program since!

When asked why she chose to volunteer with us, Peg said: "I'm interested in community issues like walkability and eating locally. Environment Hamilton is the one organization that's working on advocacy and raising awareness. I like the fact you're leading edge and have good programs, walks and talks.

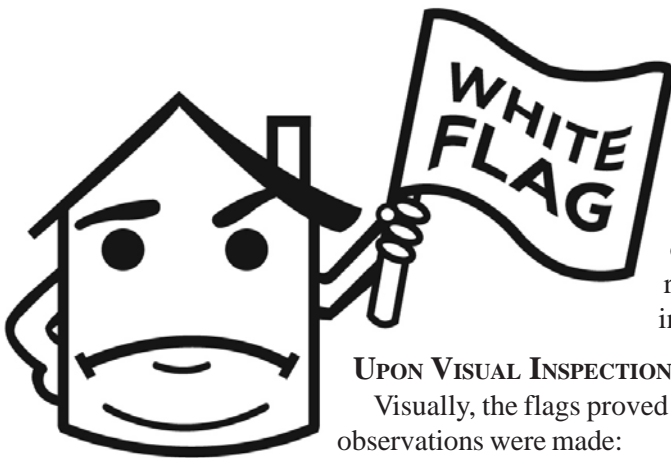


"It's really all about improving the environment and improving neighbourhoods. I like the community-building that goes on – bringing together people who otherwise might not have got together."

If you'd like to volunteer with us, contact Julia at 905.549.0900 or email volunteer@environmenthamilton.org

WHITE FLAG CAMPAIGN RESULTS

EH's Good Neighbour project successfully focused community attention on the unacceptable air pollution coming from Arcelor Mittal Dofasco and other bayfront industries by getting more than 300 homes to erect white flags. Here's a summary of the campaign.



OUR PROCESS

The flags, which are 100% cotton, were made available starting July 12th, 2010. On this date, 6 flag pick-up centers opened and volunteer canvassers began going door-to-door asking residents to host flags.

The official re-call for the flags began on September 13th, 2010, which meant that the average flag was hanging for a period of two months. Flags were collected via volunteer canvassers revisiting the previously visited neighbourhoods and through individuals returning the flags to their respected drop-off centres.

UPON VISUAL INSPECTION

Visually, the flags proved to be a good indicator of neighbourhood pollution. The following observations were made:

First, the flags placed in the North End and along the Beach Strip have a noticeably higher degree of discolouration than the flags placed in our comparison areas; which included Dundas and Ancaster. The flags placed in these rural locations still appear noticeably white while the flags placed in the North End did not.

The average North End flag appeared to have a yellowy-brown tinge, while some flags contained hues of orange, pink, and gray. Furthermore, creases on the flag were easily identifiable due to the distinctive yellow and white differences.

The McNulty area, which is directly north of Centre Mall and south of AM-Dofasco, seemed to have the highest degree of flag discolouration. In particular, the flags on Grenfell Street, which is on the back doorstep of ArcelorMittal-Dofasco, and on Cope Street, which is located north of Barton and east of Centre Mall, appeared to be the most impacted with almost all the flags containing a high degree of yellowy-brown discolouration.

Although the flags showed themes throughout the neighbourhoods, it also helped show there were no themes within the street sides. There were no distinct differences between North and South sides of residential streets. Rather pollution seemed sporadic and was found to affect various parts of residences to various degrees.

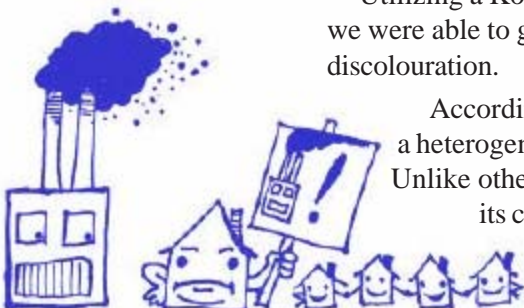
Although we have managed to collect several flags along the Beach strip, we have yet to receive the majority of them back. Given that the strip is quite long we are hesitant to draw conclusions for the full strip until we can analyze all the points along it. However, as previously stated, for the flags we have received, distinct colour changes are noticeable.

UPON CLOSER INSPECTION

Utilizing a Konus Crystal-45 binocular microscope with a Celestron digital camera attached, we were able to get a closer look at the particulate matter (PM) which is the source of the discolouration.

According to Clean Air Hamilton, "particulate matter is a general term used to describe a heterogeneous mixture of liquid and solid particles smaller than 45 mcm (micrometres). Unlike other air pollutants (NO₂, SO₂, CO, O₃), PM is qualified by its size rather than by its chemical composition.

The term "Total Suspended Particulate" (TSP) refers to all particles with mean diameters less than 45 mcm. 45 mcm is just about the smallest particles size we can observe with the naked eye" (2010). Currently ArcelorMittal Dofasco failed to meet the air emissions standard for TSP set by the Ministry of Environment. As such they just received an Alternative Standard for that pollutant which will give them an



WINTER OPEN HOUSE WAS A BIG SUCCESS



RevWear models made a fashion statement from recycled items

WHITE FLAG RESULTS continued from previous page

additional 5 years to meet the original standard.

Recent research suggest that the fine particulate fraction ($PM_{2.5}$) is more strongly associated with cardiovascular disease (Laumbach & Wood, 2010), and lower birth weights in newborns (HPHS, 2009), whereas PM_{10} is more closely associated with the risk of childhood asthma (Clark et al, 2010). Exposure to the courser fraction of PM_{10} (i.e., $PM_{10-2.5}$) can weaken natural immune responses, resulting in higher rates of respiratory infections (HPHS, 2009).

We selected a sample of flags for each area and, utilizing a magnification of 200x, viewed a small area on each flag to determine the number of particles. This magnification allowed us to view the fabric threads at a size of 200 mcm. On a Dundas flag there was one particle visible, while on a north end flag there were many more particles. In the case of 184 Grenfell Street, six large particles greater than or equal to 10 mcm and approximately 50 particles between 3.3 mcm and 6.7 mcm in size could be identified. Given our detection method preferentially shows larger particles, it becomes difficult to identify particles less than 5mcm in size. With that in mind, the flags could be saturated with $PM_{2.5}$ that we would not be able to identify.

Even without the identification of the $PM_{2.5}$ particles, these findings raise concern given the previously discussed health issues which follow from overexposure to TSP. PM can originate from dusts and soil particles, smoke, and pollen. Anthropogenic combustion is also a prime source in urban settings.

POLLUTION FACTORS INCLUDED...

As stated on CBC's "The National", air quality this summer was an improvement from last due to the decrease in smog days. However, many believe that this is due to industry's decrease in production— which would also explain residents' observations of less black fallout this summer compared to last. If this is the case, the flag readings this summer may not be an appropriate gauge of a traditional north end summer.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE FLAGS?

Thus far the flags have been used in a variety of awareness events aimed at educating the public on our findings. Continuing to work with the neighbours, we plan to continue our awareness activities into the fall/early winter.

Join Us!



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Memberships
\$25 per year
\$15/unwaged
& student



*Fruit and Veggies
and lots of enthusiasm*

RECORD HARVEST

EH's Fruit Tree Project has harvested a record-setting 13,639 pounds of fruit and vegetables in Hamilton and beyond, the bounty was shared between homeowners, volunteers and food banks. This is a great increase from last year's total of 5,300 lbs.

Fruit Tree Project Manager Juby Lee credits the dedicated volunteers, homeowners, and great growing season, plus Plan B Organic Farm who gave permission to harvest beans and carrots from their farm.

Harvesting from two farms this year is new to the project. Normally, volunteers are in backyards harvesting from one tree or vine. Going out to Plan B (Flamborough) and Jerry's Berries (Copetown) dramatically added to the final tally, and allowed us to engage a larger pool of volunteers.

"Within Hamilton, to harvest a tree or vine requires 3-5 people; out in the fields, we were able to partner with a number of organizations, groups and families and co-ordinate a larger pick. We are definitely looking into expanding that component of the project next year".

The list of fresh local produce that volunteers harvested includes: sour cherries, grapes, apples, pears, raspberries, peaches, plums, carrots, and beans. Once produce has been sorted, local food bank / social agencies pick up the bounty and it is available for consumption to their clientele. The fruit is available within hours of being picked, freshness at its best.

Canning workshops are another component of the Fruit Tree Project, including one on October 27 in partnership with Greening Sacred Spaces and the Unitarian Church, that preserved pear slices and green tomato relish. Some of the results were enjoyed by those attending EH's open house on November 12.

The Hamilton Fruit Tree Project started in 2005. It was the first in Ontario, now there similar projects in Guelph, Toronto and the beginnings of one in the Niagara Region.

Contact Juby Lee at 905-549-900 or email jlee.eatlocal@environmenthamilton.org



MEMBERS EXPLORE ERAMOSA KARST



We'd heard about the Karst, wondered where it was – and now we've been there! About 18 EH members – from kindergarteners and up – set out to explore the caves and marvel at the unusual water formations of the Eramosa Karst in Stoney Creek.

Our guide was Brad Gautreau, chair of the group that has worked hard to protect this unusual landscape from development. He taught us how to recognize sink holes (areas with underground water courses that can literally sink in heavy rain) and explained how dye was added to the streams to identify where they ran through the cave systems and back to the surface.

The hike was one of regular events planned for EH membership: this month members were invited to our Winter Open House Party on Friday November 12th from 6pm-8pm where they enjoyed live music, a Rev Wear fashion show, drinks and snacks. And if you're looking for a unique seasonal gift, consider giving EH membership gift cards - only \$25 for a full-year. Call the EH office at 905-549-0900 to buy them.

THE GOOD FOOD BOX — IN HAMILTON

Would you like a well-priced box of fresh local fruit and vegetables every month? Would you like a box that supports local farmers and local food and does not depend on veggies trucked in or flown in for thousands of miles? Environment Hamilton's Eat Local program aims to make this happen.

We are starting a program which we call "A Good Food Box" for Hamilton. This builds on a very successful program that has been operated by Food Share Toronto and replicated in over thirty communities in Ontario. Such a program is already operating in a small way in Hamilton, but the opportunity to expand fresh local food deliveries to many more members of the community is spurring us on.

We are reaching out to communities within Hamilton who will act as hubs to make this happen. The Good Food Box aims to make affordable fresh food available, particularly to those with limited incomes. Affordability comes through direct buying from local farmers and the work of volunteers to sort, pack and deliver the food. Making up the food boxes is a community activity – which can end with a shared meal and conversation.

How does it work? A local coordinator acts as a "drop off" point. He or she volunteers to collect orders and payment which they forward to the Food Box centre. At the centre, orders are counted and then all of the required fruit and vegetables ordered from local farms in season. (As required, supplementary food is ordered from a local distributor, who may buy the food at the Ontario Food Terminal). The food is delivered to the centre early on packing day, sorted and then packed into boxes by Food Box volunteers. Drivers then take the boxes to the various "drop off" points. Customers come and collect their fresh food there at a set time and the empty boxes cleaned, ready for return to the Food Box centre.

The benefits of this are many:

- Fresh, not processed, food is healthier
- Local food has not been picked early, travelled thousands of miles or chemically treated to make it ripen
- Local farmers are supported, making Hamilton's food sources more secure
- Affordable food, because of the contribution of volunteers and the possibility of subsidies to those in need
- Community gathering to prepare and deliver the boxes enriches the lives of the volunteers.

If your community would like to become involved in the Hamilton Good Food Box program, contact Karen Burson at Hamilton Eat Local: kburson.eatlocal@environmenthamilton.org.

HELPING HAMILTON GO SOLAR

Are you a homeowner, small business or institution interested in learning about how a solar installation can help you to do the right thing environmentally and generate some revenue at the same time? Join Environment Hamilton with partner Blue Green Canada for a free workshop that will provide you with the information you need to get started on a solar installation project.

Sunday, December 5th – 1pm – 4pm, McMaster Innovation Park, 176 Longwood Road South

This workshop will provide you with all of the information you need to get started, including:

An overview of solar technologies; Options available for financing solar systems; Information about government programs and incentives including Ontario's microFIT program.

Local vendors and installers will also be available to talk with you about solar systems and what works best for you. Call Lynda at the EH Office at (905) 549-0900 for more details. This event is made possible with the generous support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation



Join Us!



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CONGRATULATIONS TO BRENDA

Long-time EH staff member Brenda Johnson is now a city councillor. Along with Mayor Bratina, she was one only other candidate who defeated an incumbent on October 25.



Brenda took Ward 11 away from Dave Mitchell who had held the seat for 10 years and similar positions on the former Glanbrook council for even longer. Ward 11 is the city's second largest ward and encompasses Winona, Binbrook, Mount Hope and surrounding rural areas of Glanbrook and Stoney Creek.

Brenda has worked as an EH project manager since 2005, focusing particularly on bringing environmental justice to north Hamilton residents. Her many accomplishments with EH include:

- obtaining compensation for residents whose homes were damaged by demolition and construction activities related to a new factory on Oliver Street;
- forcing positive action by industry to reduce the plague of black fallouts afflicting north Hamilton residents;
- getting a new Wentworth 12 HSR route for the Keith neighbourhood;
- coordinating distribution of thousands of free energy kits, including over 3200 to north Hamilton homes in the summer of 2006;
- establishing the Passport to Hamilton transit program that rewards users of the HSR day pass with discounts and benefits from over 150 local destinations;
- helping Beach residents respond effectively to odours from an asphalt plant;
- negotiating odour and noise reductions at the Baressa Kitchens facility;
- greening a string of Hamilton schools, starting with Woodward Avenue elementary.

The former principal of Woodward, Joyce Munro, is delighted that the school's "green angel" is now in a position to address critical city-wide environmental issues.

"Brenda was instrumental in helping the staff and students at Woodward Avenue School to become Earth Keepers," recalls Joyce. "Largely due to her expertise, passion and unwavering support, we successfully reduced our weekly number of garbage bags from almost 100 to less than 10. Many other schools in our city continue to benefit from her dedication to helping children, teachers and parents understand the role they play as environmental stewards."

EH chair Sherry Revesz describes as Brenda as not only a doer but also a mentor.

"She was instrumental in the fight to save environmentally sensitive lands know as the Turtle Ponds in Stoney Creek from a poorly planned development. In the mentor role, she encouraged and guided the residents to understand the issues and gather support which made all parties - city, school boards and developers - back away from a environmentally disastrous proposal. All, of course, with that famous little smile."

In her role as leader of CADONE (Citizens Assessing Development on the Niagara Escarpment), Brenda won concessions from the developers of a Wal-Mart centred commercial complex on Fifty Road in Winona; and fought successfully to correct the urban boundary by removing the Winona 'blob'. In the latter, she took on one of the most successful developer lawyers in the area, and convinced an Environmental Review Tribunal to reject the housing proposal for the Blob lands.

Along the way, Brenda has developed a respectful but highly effective relationship with city officials at all levels including incumbent councillors. We're expecting – with a lot of reason – great things from Councillor Johnson.

Join/Renew On-line!
You can now join EH or renew membership on-line. Simply click on the 'Become a Member' link from our homepage, fill out the on-line application form, and continue on to secure payment of your membership fee via Paypal or with a credit card. For this and your best source for news about the environment in our city visit us at www.environmenthamilton.org.