

WORSHIP WITHOUT YOUR CAR

What a delight to hear from participants of the 'Worship Without your Car Challenge' that took place the weekend of July 17th.

Greening Sacred Spaces Hamilton invited members of the Hamilton area faith community to leave the car at home, and walk, bike, cycle, take transit or car pool to worship instead.

"Some of the older folks made comments like, 'we always used to walk to church. It was like when we were younger'," reported one faith group representative.

"People took the challenge seriously but also seemed to enjoy it. Of course it helped that the weather was good."

It also helps that Hamilton has a yearly tradition called the Commuter Challenge that encourages people to get to work without the car. It was not a big leap then, to think about other places people might also get to *sans* auto.

Meadowlands Christian Reformed Church was the winner of the event with 141 of the 192 people who attended participating in the event. They walked, cycled and carpooled. Taking transit was not an option unless you combine taking the bus to the nearest drop off spot and then cycling or walking the rest of the way. There is no direct bus service to the church.

The Church of the Resurrection came second with 99 out of 161 participating.

In all the cases over half of the people attending service participated and we are thrilled with this news.

First Unitarian Church had the most walkers while the Meadowlands had the

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**BUS
PASSPORT
SECOND YEAR**

see page 3



BAD PLANNING BADLY DONE

Environment Hamilton is appealing to the Ontario Municipal Board to overturn the city's approval of a new power retail centre on industrial employment lands adjacent to the QEW on Centennial Parkway.

The 15 hectare big box complex will relocate the Eastgate Square Wal-Mart to a much larger facility that includes groceries and that is inaccessible to pedestrians, unsafe for cyclists and only served by the HSR two months of the year. It may also include an additional 200,000 square feet of retail boxes, a hotel and some office space.

There are no sidewalks within a kilometre of the site and the CN rail underpass between these lands and Barton Street makes their installation impossible (see photo) as emphasized by EH executive director Lynda Lukasik in her presentation to councillors.

The Smart Centres application was effectively approved a year before the public had an opportunity to participate in the process. It is particularly bad news for the thousands of low-income residents living in the city's highest density neighbourhood just east of Centennial who don't have cars.

And it could seriously damage the already overly abundant retail facilities at and near Eastgate - an HSR transit hub and the eastern terminus of the proposed light rail system.

A provincial government review of the proposal drew attention to its "built form comprising free-standing single-storey buildings with extensive surface parking" and suggested "the site could be utilized much more intensively."

"The site is well removed from any
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OCT 24
←350
because the world
needs to know!

BAD PLANNING from page one



No room for pedestrians at Centennial underpass

concentration of residential development, and yet the primary commercial use proposed is a 200,000 square foot department store," the review noted. "It is not clear how locating this proposed use on lands currently within an employment area comprising industrial uses of various forms meets the city's [Provincial] Growth Plan's objectives of enhancing pedestrian and transit accessibility and more compact built form."

"Further, in keeping with the City's own stated objectives in its draft Urban Structure Plan, uses such as offices and hotels should be directed to nodes and corridors in the City to assist in increasing transit

accessibility and ridership, and to create synergies with other uses in these nodes and corridors."

The 15 hectare site includes the former Fluke Transport, Fox 40 Whistle and Waxman Recycling facilities.

A major concern of both EH and the provincial officials is City Council's cavalier decision to redesignate the lands in June of last year despite a major shortage of industrial employment lands, especially fully serviced areas.

Warnings fell on deaf ears that every acre of employment lands lost would mean more farmland paved over for the aerotropolis.

The change was also done 'on the fly' by rejecting the conclusions of a major land use study as well as planning staff advice. Councillors went on to order their staff to move forward with a \$2.2 million environmental cleanup grant subsequently approved last November.

All of this made the approval a foregone conclusion long before the public got their right to speak at a June 16 meeting required by the provincial Planning Act.

And because of the council's pre-emptive June 2008 conversion decision, their planning staff didn't examine the proposal thoroughly, giving no consideration to alternatives and not requiring completion of peer reviews of

the developers' studies.

City council repeatedly bemoans the shortage of shovel-ready industrial land and used it as justification of the city's poor economic performance and the main reason for endorsing the aerotropolis scheme.

The Centennial lands are ideally located on the QEW next to the CN mainline for industrial employment rather than the minimum wage part-time retail jobs offered by Wal-Mart - most or all of which will replace existing retail positions at Eastgate and other competing businesses.

Council supporters pointed to the new taxes and development fees, and the promise of more jobs, in a classic example of the desperation planning that so frequently characterizes Hamilton.

They seem unable to understand that more big boxes will simply close more existing smaller businesses. And the problems with car-dependent development, peak oil and climate change get barely a mention.

This is bad planning, badly done. Please contact EH at 905-549-0900 if you are able to help us with this battle. We will need a wide variety of volunteer skills.

EAT LOCAL FUNDING

EH has been provided with a year of funding from the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation (total of \$50,000) to continue work related to promoting local food procurement in area schools.



Our efforts will focus on the public and separate school boards here in Hamilton, including working to ensure school breakfast and snack programs include healthy, locally grown fruits and vegetables.

WORK FOR EH

EH is looking for a Good Neighbour Campaign Coordinator. Good Neighbour Campaigns aim to reduce local pollution and build working relationships between industries and their neighbouring community.

As a result of our new collaboration with Toronto Environmental Alliance and Environmental Defence Canada, EH is hiring a full-time coordinator for a Good Neighbour Campaign right here in Hamilton. Visit our website for the full job advertisement (www.environmenthamilton.org). The deadline for applications is August 28th. For more information on good neighbour campaigns, visit the website of Ohio Citizen Action at www.ohiocitizen.org.



PASSPORT TO HAMILTON – STAYCATION IN 2009

After a successful first year, Environment Hamilton's *Passport to Hamilton* project is back for a second year better than ever! Now with over 140 locations offering a discount to HSR Day Pass users, families and groups can save even more on adventures in Hamilton.

The new 2009 map includes bowling alleys, art studios, shops, historical sites, tourist attractions, recreation centres, accommodations, and many more eateries! And we're adding more every week.

We celebrated the first anniversary of the project on Friday, June 19th with the launch of the 2009 map. Festivities took place in the heart of our city at Gore Park and well over 200 guests enjoyed the party!

We had a beautiful, sunny day, birthday cake (supplied by one of our participants), balloons, free energy-saving kits, participant representatives, free bus tours to some of our participants, and the first copies of the 2009 Passport to Hamilton map!

Many people spoke at the launch, praising Passport to Hamilton and what it has meant to individual communities. We heard from Brenda Johnson (Passport to Hamilton manager), Sharon Charters (Hamilton Community Foundation, Funder), Duane Dahl (Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club, Day Pass vendor), John Vanduzer (WISHART, 2009 Passport to Hamilton Map designer), Gerry Palmalter (Keith Neighbourhood), and Don Hull (Manager, HSR).

Tourism Hamilton graciously donated a team of Ambassadors to help with set-up and clean up; Union Gas supplied free energy-savings kits; Public Works (Kelly Anderson) lent their sound system; the City planning and economic department provided bags for people to collect their goodies; and Hamilton Waterfront Trust (Werner Plessl) had canopies on hold in case the weather didn't cooperate.

We also had representatives from Horizon Utilities, as well as some of our participants including: Simply Divine Bakery, Sherwood Bowling Centre, City of Hamilton Rec Centres, Workers Arts & Heritage Centre, and Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club! Over 200 members of the Hamilton community also came to Gore Park to join the festivities!

The HSR was a good sport for our launch, allowing us to fully decorate our "Party HSR bus" with balloons and streamers for its



tours, as well as sending a representative to hand out information and treats from the HSR.

The Passport to Hamilton concept hasn't changed. When you buy an \$8 HSR Day Pass, six people – up to 2 adults and up to 4 children, 1 adult and up to 5 children, up to six children (under 19) – can ride any bus in the city all day with just the one pass. You can buy the pass any time then get it validated when the bus driver punches the date out on it when you first board the bus on your day of travel. It is then valid for the whole calendar day it has been punched.

That pass is now your ticket to discounts on that day at any of the participating locations. The participating locations, as well as the discounts being offered are listed in our 2009 map, and more can be found on our website. Most deals are 10-20% off or two for one.

After the Passport was introduced last year there was a 55% increase in day pass sales. Passport to Hamilton was also nominated for three Tourism Hamilton Awards: Green Award, Rookie of the Year, and Brochure/Promotional Piece, as well as a Canadian Urban Transit Award.

If you have any questions regarding the project or would like further information, call EH at 905-549-0900 or e-mail us at passporttohamilton@environmenthamilton.org.

This summer, save your money and your environment. Let's have a Stay-Cation this year!

Join Us!



1130 Barton East
Suite 207
Hamilton L8H 7P9

[contactus@
environment
hamilton.org](mailto:contactus@environmenthamilton.org)

905 549-0900
[www.environment
hamilton.org](http://www.environmenthamilton.org)

Memberships
\$25 per year
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WALKABILITY PROJECT CLIMBS THE MOUNTAIN

This summer, as part of the Neighbourhood Walkability Project, Environment Hamilton is holding *Concession Street Walks*, a project meant to encourage residents to reduce their carbon footprint and to increase the number of people using sustainable transportation (walking, biking, and public transit).

The project, which began last year in the Kirkendall Neighbourhood, is now taking place in the Concession Street area.

Work has been done over the past few weeks to promote Concession Street Walks at various public events and through the local BIA.

There are a number of ways to engage in the project, making it easy for residents to get involved. People are encouraged to come out to our special events and take part in the Walk There Challenge.

The Walk There Challenge is for anybody who wants to help the environment and enjoy the benefits of getting active at the same time. Prizes will be given out to those to those who commit to the challenge, and there will be a grand prize draw to win a bicycle at the end of the summer. To participate in the Walk There Challenge:

- Visit www.environmenthamilton.org/walkthere and check out the great places within walking/biking distance of your place of departure

McMASTER BIOLOGY SOCIETY RAISES DOLLARS FOR EH!

Back in the fall of 2008, EH was contacted by representatives of the McMaster Biology Society – the on-campus organization representing McMaster University Biology and Life Sciences students. The group had identified EH as the organization it wanted to raise funds for during the 2008/09 academic year.

Through raffles, bake sales, and other fundraising efforts both on campus and as part of their annual dinner dance, the Society raised an impressive \$1,400 to support our work!

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the group for all of their hard work on our behalf. We will put these dollars to good use to continue our environmental work in the community.



environmenthamilton.org/walkthere

- Commit and take the *Walk There Challenge*
- Walk or bike to destinations within at least 2km of your starting point, and enjoy a healthier lifestyle while reducing your carbon footprint!

The *Walk There* web-based tool can be used to locate places within walking distance of your point of departure, and is a great way to explore your neighbourhood.

In addition to the *Walk There Challenge*, special events like walking tours, historical tours, and biking tours will be held throughout the summer. The first of these special events was a bike hike along the Escarpment Rail Trail to Albion and Buttermilk Falls on Saturday, July 4th, and our next two scheduled events are the Mountain Brow Hikes with Bruce Trail leader Richard Reble. We will be meeting at the top of the Wentworth Stairs at 7pm on Thursday, July 23rd and August, July 13th for a beautiful sunset hike along the mountain brow. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact the project coordinator, Alessandra Gage (contact info listed below). For an up to date list of special events and goings on of the *Concession Street Walks* project, please visit:

For any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Alessandra Gage at concessionwalks@environmenthamilton.org, or 905-549-0900.

There is now a blog for Environment Hamilton's *Concession Street Walks* project: www.concessionstreetwalks.blogspot.com



BLUE TO GREEN COLLAR JOBS

Environment Hamilton's effort to promote green jobs and green economic development is now officially underway with the start of our 'Blue to Green Collar Transformation' project.

Over the next three years, the project will engage Hamiltonians in discussions about green economics, what a green job looks like, and how we can work across sectors to promote and attract green economic development here in our city. Watch for our first public forum later this year.

The notion of transforming the economy so that it is greener and more sustainable is a hot topic these days. Other community stakeholders talking about this idea. EH representatives have already had an opportunity to participate in a stakeholder session organized through the offices of Minister Ted McMeekin and MPP Sophia Aggelonitis. The meeting came after the official introduction of the Green Energy Act (Bill 150) which aims to make Ontario a global leader in the development of renewable energy, clean distributed energy and conservation.

Stakeholders in attendance included Minister McMeekin and several staff from his constituency office, MPP Aggelonitis and staff from her constituency office, Mayor Fred Eisenberger, the Hamilton District Labour Council, City of Hamilton's economic development staff, McMaster University, Mohawk College, the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, the Jobs Prosperity Collaborative, and Environment Hamilton.

The session consisted mainly of a roundtable discussion, where each stakeholder took a turn presenting their contributions and objectives.

Some noteworthy topics included: building code requirements, retrofitting, the waste diversion program, and educational opportunities, as well as barriers and restrictions to overcome in order to support green business. Another meeting is being organized for the fall.

Linking With Outside Groups

We are also tapping into provincial and national efforts on the green jobs/ green economy front. A powerful alliance has been established between the United Steelworkers of America and Environmental Defense Canada.

Dubbed the Blue Green Canada, the effort

is committee to advocate for working people and the environment:

- In key areas of global trade;
- The use of toxic chemicals in commercial activity;
- The creation of green manufacturing jobs; and
- In the development of strategies to address climate change.

Visit www.bluegreencanada.ca for more information. Blue Green Canada will establish a full-time staff person here in Hamilton as part of its efforts and we are communicating with project staff in order to ensure that we build on each others efforts in the Hamilton area.

For more information about EH's Blue to Green Collar Transformation, please contact Lynda at 905-549-0900 or at greenecon@environmenthamilton.org.



SUMMER STUDENTS

EH was very successful with Human Resources and Services Development Canada grant applications for summer student interns this year. We have a terrific team of six summer interns helping us with our project work this year. They include:

Jordan Bowman, who is working on our Good Neighbour Campaign in neighbourhoods near the industrial core.

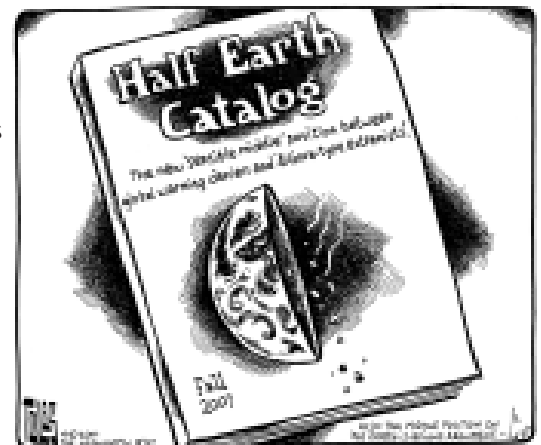
Alessandra Gage, who is developing and implementing another walkability project, this time in Hamilton's Concession Street neighbourhood.

Alexandra Miculan, who is working on our Passport to Hamilton sustainable transportation initiative.

Semyon Chaymann, who is helping the Dundas Valley TreeKeepers to implement their Heritage Tree Hunt.

Sarah Kam, who is helping with our Eat Local work, and,

Bilal Mohammed, who is working on our green jobs/ green economic development initiative.



JOIN THE HUNT FOR THE BEST HERITAGE TREE

Nominate your favourite tree, and you could win a prize! The Dundas Valley Tree Keepers and Environment Hamilton are excited to launch the city's first ever Heritage Tree Hunt. The contest aims to identify important trees in and around the Dundas Valley – as well as to get residents looking more closely at their urban forest.

Anyone can nominate his or her favourite tree! It's an exciting opportunity to get you and your kids involved in a free and fun event this summer. Whether the trees are on your property, a friend or a family member's property or even a public park - all trees will be considered. There's no limit to the number of

nominations per individual and there are no age restrictions either to enter this free contest. You can photograph your tree or write a story about what makes it so special

to you or your loved ones. Children's stories and pictures are always welcome!

The contest categories are: Native Tree; Rare Tree; Large Tree (wide or tall); Tree with distinct form; Group of trees (pair, row, grove or collection of trees); Flowering tree; Tree with outstanding fall colour; Historical landmark; Tree with a story (related to you, your family, the neighbourhood or local history); and, Kid friendly tree (a tree that is good to play in, under or around)

A panel of experts will judge each entry and prizes will be awarded for the best trees in each category as well as an overall winner. With deadline for the contest (September 15th) fast approaching, get your nominations in soon! The winning trees will be recognized at a public celebration in October 2009.

Printed nomination forms are available for pick-up and drop-off at: Carnegie Gallery (10 King St. West, Dundas); Dundas Museum (139 Park St. W., Dundas); Dundas Public Library (18 Ogilvie St, Dundas); Ancaster Community Center and Ancaster Public Library (300 Wilson St. E., Ancaster); and Christie Lake Conservation Area gatehouse (1000 Dundas St. W., Dundas)

You can also get a form online at www.dundastrees.ca.

The DVTK Heritage Tree Hunt area includes Dundas and the Dundas Valley area including the surrounding Niagara Escarpment including Ancaster, West Hamilton and Flamborough.

Dundas Valley Tree Keepers provide opportunities for the public to learn and appreciate trees in urban and rural settings. Dundas Valley and the surrounding areas are rich with incredible biodiversity, Canadian culture and history. Our trees are a testament of time and are fundamental in supporting human life on Earth.

Heritage trees are important to our urban canopy because their large leaf area offers more shade in the summer, greater take-up of carbon dioxide and greater release of oxygen than younger trees. They also provide an ecological legacy and important genetic material.

Identification of these trees will help with location of potential native seed sources, and will ensure that native trees are grown and available for future planting. Heritage trees have survived for many years, withstood many obstacles and their genetic material is important for their further study.



I would argue that there is no safe limit to CO2. In my view we're already experiencing dangerous climate change by any reasonable definition of dangerous. ... From a scientific standpoint, 350 ppm is better than 450 ppm. The reason 450 ppm has become the mainstream view is that it is close to the best that we can do and, at the same time, maybe the worst we can tolerate. - John Holdren, science advisor to

6 Barack Obama

OCT 24 ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Mark your calendars now and plan to be part of the Saturday October 24 global day of action on climate change to let our elected representatives know that we want carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere reduced to a safe level of 350 parts per million.

Nearly 1300 actions in 89 countries are now being planned for the global day of action on climate change. Hamilton will have multiple workshops in the morning, a festival starting at 1 pm in Gore Park in downtown Hamilton and a walk to the Federal Building later in the afternoon.

DO-IT (Dundas Ontario In Transition) will hold a pre-event on the Friday evening, and a major student environmental conference is set for October 22 in Burlington as well as EH's climate champions conference earlier in the month.

Some actions already underway include a "Target 350" monthly newsletter established by the Eco-Churches of West Hamilton, and the collection of signatures on a large "Hamilton Supports 350" banner. There's lots more info at www.350.org.



CHAMPION STUDENT LEAVES A GREEN MARK

Brianne Fennema may have graduated from Redeemer University College, but she certainly left her mark. She majored in the 4-year Environmental Studies course and was instrumental in bringing Redeemer into our Climate Change Champions program.

As a Christian institution, Brianne says Redeemer already holds environmental stewardship in high regard, but she used her final course thesis as an opportunity to prepare her alma mater a strategic document that could easily be adopted as a model for other universities and colleges.

In the report, Brianne outlines Redeemer's environmental successes to date – as well as setting out goals for the future.

And she didn't stop there. Before she graduated this spring, Brianne created a legacy by founding a greening committee made up of faculty, board and students who will continue to work towards achieving more sustainable goals.

To date, the school cafeteria has already eliminated the use of Styrofoam, and promotes a "Lug-a-Mug" initiative to reduce the need for disposable cups. Brianne said she hoped that in future all fruits, vegetables and meat in the cafeteria will be sourced from local farmers.

Redeemer, in its beautiful setting of rural Ancaster, presents a transportation challenge for its students. So Brianne planned to implement a bicycle rental program and invest in electric golf carts for grounds maintenance.

On the day before she left, Brianne organized a tree planting in the grounds at Redeemer, and invited all her friends to dig in!

To see our other Champions, google climatechangehamilton.ca

-by Julia Kollek & Laura Szakacs



Brianne Fennema

CAR-FREE WORSHIP from page one most cyclists.

Congratulations to the winning groups who will be receiving rain barrels for their place of worship as well as prizes for the participants.

Getting to worship a greener way is not novel to some cities; in fact some faith communities like Holland, Michigan go even further and have regular blessing of the bikes to promote community and fellowship amongst riders (blessingofthebikes.com).

Walking being integral to worship is an idea as old as the hills; think of the pilgrims travelling far and wide to worship in their holiest places.

Thoreau wrote in his essay *Walking*, "I have met with but one or two persons in the course of my life who understood the art of Walking, that is of taking walks-who had a genius, so to speak for sauntering, which word is beautifully derived "from the idle people who roved about the country in the Middle Ages, and asked charity, under pretence of going a la Sainte Terre," to the Holy Land, till the children exclaimed, "There goes a Sainte-Terrer," a Saunterer, a Holy-Lander.

There were those who pretended to go to the Holy Land being "mere idlers and vagabond, but those who do go are saunterers in the good sense."

Thoreau continues, "He who sits still in a house all the time may be the greatest vagrant of all: but the saunterer, in the good sense, is no more vagrant than the meandering river, which is all the while sedulously seeking the shortest course to the sea."

It is still a common practice with many faiths to integrate walking as part of meditation and prayer.

Our hope is that we can begin our own Hamilton traditions of getting to worship in sustainable, earth honouring ways.

Thanks to all who participated. Thanks to Daryl Bender of Alternative Transportation at the City of Hamilton for his support. Stay tuned for more of these challenges!

Greening Sacred Spaces is a project of Environment Hamilton and Faith & the Common Good. It is funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.



THE FRUITS OF YOUR BACKYARD

Localicious Launch

A launch for our 10 day Localicious celebration of Hamilton-grown food and its downtown restaurants. This launch will feature Jeff Crump, Executive Chef of the Ancaster Old Mill and his new book "Earth to Table". Details can be found on localicious.info Wednesday, September 16 Time: 7-10 pm Lincoln Alexander Conference Centre in the Crowne Plaza Hotel

The June launch of the fifth year of EH's fruit tree project at Dundurn Castle was a success. We had a good turn out, people enjoyed apples and cider and live music from Mike Trebilcock, and were able to harvest red currants from the gardens.

The project uses volunteers to collect unused fruit from the backyard trees of willing residents and provides most of the resulting harvest to social service agencies.

Gleaning local organic and otherwise unwanted fruit is an idea that has won wide praise. Most recently our coordinator Juby Lee was interviewed for Rabble.ca that can also be accessed from our blog; and Green Living magazine has published a feature article that includes references to EH's project. The link is <http://www.greenlivingonline.com/article/fruitful->

thinking

Harvesting is underway and this year includes plum trees. A well-attended Sour Cherry jam making session was held in July at Jamesville Community Centre.

There was enough for everyone to take some jam home. If you have unpicked fruit trees or would like to volunteer to do some picking, contact Juby Lee at 905-549-0900 or visit our blog at <http://hamiltonfruittreeproject.blogspot.com/>



Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone#: _____ Email: _____

Annual membership \$25.00

Student/Unwaged \$15.00

Membership fee: _____

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TOTAL enclosed: _____

I would like to volunteer

Mail to: Environment Hamilton
1130 Barton Street East, Suite 207, Hamilton, ONT L8H 7P9

Please make cheques payable to Environment Hamilton

Website www.environmenthamilton.org

Email contactus@environmenthamilton.org Phone (905) 549-0900

