

GREN meeting Thursday October 15, 2009

1. John introduced GREN
2. **NeighbourWoods Programme** – Toni Ellis

Urban tree group, started 2005

Heritage Tree Programme, has horticulturalist but not arborist/forester – to raise awareness and look after trees that were planted by the Hort. Society in the past.

Neighbourhood walk of trees – record height, identify species, width etc. 25 volunteers – going to U of Toronto to produce a study to decide what to plant - 6 blocks recorded

Fergus Auto Recyclers – gave \$10,000

YMCA has programmes to channel money from Federal government to pay for 2 – 12 month position for registered environmental charity. First come first served basis – check website. Will fund a forester intern for a year. They will pay \$14/hr. and they look after admin. Hope that municipality will recognize the need for a forester/arborist

To get past possible trespassing issue to do tree inventory - Peterborough used as example – they sent letter to ask permission and also gave them a sticker to post in window that would signal homeowner's approval to be inventoried

Other initiatives:

Green Drinks - have a summer student set up with Elora Mill, meet and drink and chat – one in Guelph – not political

Ecoenergy programme through ECEE (now Elora Environmental Centre – Tobermory to Sarnia – more home visits than any other charitable org'n. Very successful.

Well Aware

Answering environmental questions - got Trillium funding

Ecosacks – holds 50 pounds, made by Mennonites, \$10 each - \$2 goes to support Neighbourwoods, folds up into tiny size

Our Community Tree Guide

3. **Greenlands Centre Wellington** – Chris Hart

How to implement Smart Growth in community – work with township and county, official plan reviews every 5 years, 2010 plan review. Oversee development of natural heritage system to expand Greenland system – expand greenspace 200% to connect lakes and expand designated greenspace 100% - will go to policy in township.

Apply Region of Waterloo's EA assessment to Wellington to show continuous connection to Ontario greenbelt to connect Elmira Moraine and Waterloo Sandhills.

Metcalf Foundation funding to design guidelines with local landscape firm, township new municipal guidelines, adopt green infrastructure guidelines.

4. **Ontario Greenbelt Alliance** - Heather Harding

Over 80 different org's, individuals to larger groups like Ontario Nature – loose coalition to maintain greenbelt as a secure place not threatened by aggregate development etc. and to build loyalty to it

Growing the Greenbelt – building support, seeing local issues. Guelph currently has lots of activity - considering joining up with greenbelt

Staff report in Guelph to determine whether Greenbelt is best mechanism to protect greenspace, concern about having only 1 layer of protection, there are areas of special concern that aren't receiving enough protection – staff don't want to have to deal with inter-jurisdictional issues with different levels of government

What strategy to take? Election issue? Staff not doing what they should? Env'l commission critical of special acts such as Oakridge Moraine Act

Study commissioned to make public the funding of current municipal politicians by developers, need green councillors

Guelph Civic League tracks how every councillor voted on every issue

Nov. 26 Greenbelt alliance will have meeting to flesh out strategy – in Toronto

Although up for review in 2015, greenbelt legislation is stronger than municipal protection

Sidenote – Justin Trudeau working on youth vote – how do we mobilize youth to run younger candidates that they can relate to?

5. **Waterloo Protected Countryside Update** – Kevin

When first initiated in 2005, the provincial government admitted it was a little thin on west side – still opportunity for growth out to Waterloo, Toronto has movement as does Oakville – need upper tier government must be the level to request inclusion in greenbelt

Problem to get all the townships in Waterloo to agree to get on board

Last public meeting for ROPP was today

Sidenote - Grand River Bioregion network will forward their leftover money to GREN

6. **Hanlon Park Ad** – Norah (Matt not present)

AD in Guelph – it was on outside fold out over outside of paper and looked great

Sod-breaking event Oct. 29 – 5 p.m. by invitation only

7. **Bridgekeepers** – Lynne Hare

Re-scheduled pre-hearing, council got exemption, subwatershed study in, hasn't been done properly – started in May 2009. Was at MNR, no concessions, not enough aggregate unless they go below watertable. There are already 4 applications in area for aggregate operation – this is only one below watertable.

8. **Pipeline** – John Jackson

GRCA water conservation conference – becoming big issue around Great Lakes, will pull together committee with Carol Maas – why don't we do water audits of home? Can they be added to energy home audits – have done some water retrofits

Tree audit of municipality – trees hold water – big difference when trees are taken down Ontario Power Generation giving rebate if trees are planted

9. **Other Business/Updates/Approvals/Announcements**

Donation of \$500 to GREN from J. Jackson for Community Garden event

New Report – WWF issued report Canada's Rivers at Risk - on 10 rivers, including Grand River, Tony Maas was author

Approved: Santa Claus Parade –GREN will pay \$175 entry to bike in parade under GREN banner with handouts (Sidenote – Bridgekeepers were in Elmira parade and won award for their float)

Approved: Alternative Land Use Systems (ALUS) – GREN will support that ALUS become a provincial programme and will put link on website.

Not Approved: GREN-sponsored Mike Nickerson public talk

GREN Christmas party and book launch Wed. Dec. 9 7:00 p.m. potluck finger food, RSVP to Susan B shbryant@artsmail.uwaterloo.ca to gauge numbers

Maude Barlow in School of Social Work in Kitchener Monday Oct. 19 at 7:00 p.m. – water and impact of trade policies being decided behind closed doors, free Sponsored by CUPE and Council of Canadians

Victoria Glen Park in Elmira – trying to sell as surplus land – report coming in Nov. 3 council meeting

Susan B looking for expertise on MOE's **compatibility guidelines for developing industrial lands** – talk to CELA

Next GREN meeting: Wed. Nov. 18, at St. John's Kitchen, 2nd Floor, Kitchener