

GREN Minutes--March 25, 2010

St. John's Kitchen, Kitchener

- 1) Julie Van de Valk, co-chair of environment group at WCI, announced film *Petropolis-Aerial Perspectives on the Alberta Tar Sands*, to be shown at Waterloo Collegiate Institute, 300 Hazel St., on April 22, 7:30-8:30. Tickets \$10.00 at Princess Cinema or Old Goat Books (519-880-9595). WCI also hosting free e-waste collection April 24, 10-3. See WCI website for more information.
- 2) **Treasurer's report:** Of 22 members in 2009, only 3 paid-up members for 2010. Time to pay up! \$1,180.59 in the bank.
- 3) **GREN Elections:** Executives Carole Clinch and Randy McLean have stepped down. Greg Michalenko acclaimed as one of the 3 secretaries; Kevin Thomason acclaimed as Vice Chair. Thank you to Carole and Randy for your contributions, to Greg and Kevin for volunteering, and to Lulu Lanteigne, who offered to serve if needed.
- 4) **Guest Speakers from Transition K-W**, Stephen Wilson and Pauline Richards.
 - Stephen explained he had been inspired to start a "transition" movement in K-W after hearing a speaker at UW on the transition movement, which started in Totnes, England. The world-wide movement is inspired by Rob Hopkins' "Transition Handbook." Local meetings in K-W have attracted growing numbers of interested people.
 - Principles of the "transition" movement include learning to live with less carbon; grassroots gatherings at the neighborhood level to plan for resilience (food, water, energy); unleashing the creative genius in each community to raise awareness and a sense of community; using and following local skills and interests in designing path each group takes; working for social justice; not waiting for government to lead but building connections with gov't.
 - Transition K-W is participating in the Living Earth Festival (Kitchener, April 22-25)
 - We will put links to Transition K-W on the GREN website.
- 5) **Committee Reports**
 - Greenbelt/ROP - Kevin Thomason reported that the ROP approval is held up at the provincial level because the province does not like plans that extend beyond 25 years.
 - Waterloo Moraine Development – Lulu Lanteigne reported that the City of Waterloo is ignoring OMB rulings, and OMB says it has no enforcement powers. Lulu is seeking help from CELA and Ecojustice to see what can be done on enforcement.
 - Pipeline – Susan Bryant reports that the basic fact sheets on problems with a water pipeline have been written. Committee is editing them and preparing an info package. The anti-pipe campaign will be launched during Earth Week in June.
- 6) **New Business**
 - Yvonne Fernandes announced she will be running in the fall elections, Ward 4 Kitchener. Congratulations, Yvonne!
 - Noted complaints about too much GREN email. Remedies to be discussed at next meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 14 , 7 p.m. Location to be determined

- Small-group discussions of GREN role in issues raised at February meeting: air quality, idling, cycling/pedestrian safety, water quality, land use, city/township official plans, municipal election surveys