

Summer 2010 Newsletter

## As we head into summer...what's next?

As you all know we have made huge progress in developing awareness of the proposed power plant in Oakville/Mississauga as well as the issue about its possible negative ramifications on almost any community in Ontario. (See: "[Questions still persist about Oakville gas power plant.](#)")

After only 7 months of operations we are extremely proud to count over 2,000 families in Oakville plus another 21,000 families through residents associations from all over Ontario as our supporters, and this number is

growing exponentially. Our street captain program has been extremely effective in bringing awareness and passion to this cause. The number of corporate and other supporters is growing dramatically and now approaches 100 with a target of doubling that. Beyond our membership, we also have a reach of almost 100,000 through private groups and clubs, and this latter number is truly impressive as it connects us to every municipality of the province. Through the continuing efforts of the street captains and business

supporters, plus ongoing events in various communities, we are targeting a reach of over 200,000 Ontario residents. This will continue to ensure this issue is brought to the forefront in communities all across Ontario.

Many are asking: What's next? The answer to that will depend on external events.

•First there is the pending release of the Environmental Review Report by TransCanada. This will dictate some actions on our part and the Town's. As soon as it is released and digested, a joint

meeting with the Town is planned to determine appropriate actions.

•Secondly, numerous actions are being taken by TransCanada and Ford regarding the by-laws, severance of property etc. We are considering our own legal strategy on these issues. Timing on these is dictated by the courts and/or OMB and we will advise you as the events progress.

•Thirdly, the Air Quality Task Force report (Dr. D. Balsillie) will be released. I was a member of this advisory group and we are optimistic the recommendations will be helpful in protecting our airshed from further harm. The key will be the final recommendations of the task force and whether the Minister of Environment accepts them.

On the government relations and other fronts, work continues with meetings with key individuals. One example is possible Ministerial meetings surrounding the Meeting of Municipalities in mid August.

In summary, we have made great progress but, to be clear, the power plant is still coming. There has been no official word saying it will be stopped and your continued support is as critical as ever. So for the next few months we will continue on the basic plan we have been executing over the past months. During this period we will consider what the situation is and determine whether or not to alter our strategy and tactics. If at any time you have some questions that aren't answered on the web or email blasts feel free to contact me at [DGM@C4CA.org](mailto:DGM@C4CA.org)

Doug MacKenzie  
President & CEO of C4CA

## The power of one + one

Oakville is a vibrant community and we are most fortunate to raise our families here and share in the benefits of living in a town whose vision is "To be the most livable town in Canada". Citizen participation is at the core of a vibrant community – it does not happen by chance.

If you wish to have choices in this community, then you have a responsibility and an obligation to speak out when we are under threat. Siting a massive fossil-fueled power plant on a tiny slip of land in the midst of our community is a threat to our neighbourhoods, our families and our health and safety.

As Chair of C4CA's Government Relations Committee, I have seen many defining moments in this continuing fight. One of those moments came last week when we hosted Conservative Government House Leader, John Yakabuski. We visited the local Canada Post Office at Maple Grove Plaza. People were lined up to buy stamps and send parcels on a typical morning and as Shama finished helping her customers with her usual smile, she explained to us how this proposed huge power plant in sight of her

store would affect her livelihood. Her courage in speaking out encouraged others to step forward... Wendy, a Mom with two small boys, one of whom has severe asthma; and then a former executive of a local Hydro company. All decried the location as making no sense and clearly articulated their fears for their neighbourhood, their family's health and their safety.

The tsunami of protest against this particular site is building. One by one citizens and neighbours are speaking out against this wrong-headed government decision. And as they travel across Ontario this summer, they are carrying this message to campgrounds, cottages, festivals and families. If a location way too close to homes and schools could happen here, it could happen anywhere.

Have the courage to speak out on behalf of your family and your community!

As Jack Kemp, a former US legislator concludes... *"The power of one man or one woman doing the right thing for the right reason, and at the right time, is the greatest influence in our society."*

Susan Hyatt  
Founding Board Member C4CA

# Lessons to be learned from Black Swans

## Black Swans in Oakville

Proponents of the plant are confident it will be entirely safe and will not impact the communities surrounding it. But companies like TransCanada and BP ignore the phenomenon of the black swan at our peril.

To believe that nothing could ever go wrong in this facility is wishful thinking and a fallacy, especially considering the vast quantities of natural gas, ammonia and chlorine involved.

Unfortunately the 11,000 residents of the surrounding area will be the ones to pay the price for bad decision making.

Let's consider for a moment BP's role and that of its affiliated companies prior to the oil-rig explosion and subsequent environmental

disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. Management of these corporations believed that a catastrophic event was outside the realm of normal expectations.

The disastrous event has had a major and predictable negative impact. So why do our elected officials and their government appointees blithely ignore such lessons and continue down this dangerous path?

We are still waiting for an answer.

## Black Swans:

Originally a Latin expression, its oldest reference is in the poet Juvenal's expression that "a good person is as rare as a black swan."

It was originally presumed that all swans were white because that's how historical records portrayed them. It

was assumed that a black swan could not exist because there was no record of one.

In fact black swans were discovered in Western Australia in 1697, and the term later came to mean that a perceived impossibility may later be found to exist.

(Source: Wikipedia)

## Black Swans are Everywhere:

June 7, 2010: An underground natural gas pipeline exploded in rural Texas killing three people and leaving 10 others missing, and at least six injured.

Laura Harlin, who resides 8 miles away said that it shook her entire house.

Cleburne fire chief Clint Ishmael said the blaze was so intense firefighters could not get within 600 yards (548 metres) of the site.

Montana, June 1, 2010:

An accidental fire occurred at a power plant in Montana, which coincidentally was the first industrial site in Montana to receive a top federal safety award for its health and safety programs.

Abuja, Nigeria, May 30, 2010: Three hundred people, including schoolchildren, were rendered unconscious from inhaling chlorine gas as a result of an industrial accident.

Louisiana, May 2010: BP offshore oil rig mishap results in over 300 million barrels of oil spilling into the Gulf of Mexico and causes the worst environmental catastrophe in the history of the U.S. As of this date, the oil continues to flow into the Gulf unabated.

## Close to 1,000 residents march to Ford head office

On May 19<sup>th</sup> almost 1,000 people of all ages marched to the Ford headquarters to deliver a petition requesting Ford's assistance in raising the environmental review to an Individual Environmental Assessment.

An Individual Environmental Assessment would allow for a more thorough assessment of all safety and environmental issues surrounding the development of the generating station on Ford land and could present sound alternatives.

As Ford has chosen to sell the land to TransCanada, we believe that Ford can play a key role in standing up for their community, the very people

who drive their cars, live nearby and even work in their factory.

The day-care that is located on the Ford premises would be in very close proximity to the power plant.

C4CA believes that

Ford should do the right thing and support the 11,000 residents who live, work, and go to school close to the proposed plant.

We would like to set the record straight and confirm that Ford has never reached out to C4CA, and has yet

to reply to our request for their support, financial or otherwise.

CHCH TV, Global News, the News at Six, the Oakville Beaver, the Toronto Sun and USA Today covered the event.



## Letters of the Month

Congratulations to Moira French, whose letter was published in the Hamilton Spectator. As a result of letters like Moira's, residents in communities across Ontario are realizing that they are also at risk because of this terrible precedent-setting decision.

Another letter, written by Karen Koury and published in the Spectator, reminds us all that an election is coming and that voters have long memories. Keep those letters coming!

Prior to the summer break for Queen's Park representatives, we asked people to call Mr.

McGuinty and express their opinions about the power plant. We received a staggering number of e-mails from people across the province letting us know that they have been calling in and writing. Thanks for your support, everyone!

### Promote our campaign

We are requesting your assistance in profiling your own organization and/or recruiting other supporting organizations and profiling them on the C4CA web site. Supporting organizations are those who provide awareness on behalf of C4CA at their place of business, school, club, association, community group or other group, by posting signs, making flyers and buttons available, as well as providing services to the cause and/or financial contributions.

Please assist in this endeavour and provide us with your written consent to use your company logo, or that of your institution or association to demonstrate support for the fight against the Oakville Power Plant.

To do so, simply email your permission and company logo to: [supporters@c4ca.org](mailto:supporters@c4ca.org)

## Erin Brockovich coming to bolster our cause

Please join us on Thursday, September 30th at 7 pm for an intimate evening of cocktails, light dinner and a talk by Erin Brockovich!

The movie, *Erin Brockovich*, was the true life story of our guest speaker;

a file clerk who while organizing papers on a pro bono real estate case found medical records that would explode into the largest direct action lawsuit in US history. She has since become an advocate for

awareness, the truth and a person's right to know.

This C4CA fundraising event takes place at Appleby College.

Tickets are \$150, and only 32 tickets remain. Reserve today by email to: [carolyn@tectona.com](mailto:carolyn@tectona.com)

## Jam Martini Bar and O'Finn's Irish Temper sponsor fun fundraisers

On Tuesday June 8th, Manny Tsouvallas, owner of the Jam Martini Bar, hosted a fundraiser "Party for Clean Air." Jam featured a special drink — The Powertini — and provided appetizers. Knar Jewellery donated a beautiful watch as one of the raffle prizes. Guests enjoyed sampling the appetizers and martinis and learned how they can get involved in the C4CA campaign. We received many dona-

tions. Special thanks to the Jam Martini Bar and Knar Jewellery for being such generous sponsors.

On Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, a sold-out crowd of almost 200 people listened to the great music of Craig Murray at O'Finn's Irish Temper. Thanks and congratulations go out to C4CA volunteer Linda Hines who coordinated the memorable event.

Pub owner Kevin Yates, his lovely wife Adrienne

and the friendly staff of O'Finn's were on hand to greet the crowd and councillor Max Khan also came by to support the cause.

Attendees were given gift certificates and a few lucky guests received small shrubs, which we are calling "power plants," to take home. These are the only kind of power plants that should be placed near homes! Thanks to Kevin, Adrienne and the wonderful staff at O'Finn's.

## Volunteers of the month

**Alan Willis**—Our sincere thanks and heartfelt congratulations for Volunteer of the Month go out to Alan Willis. Alan has been a fervent supporter of C4CA since its inception and has worked tirelessly to create awareness and support in areas outside Oakville. Alan continues to be a significant contributor on multiple strategic initiatives. His letter was published in the Toronto Star (April 2010).

**Moira French**—A special mention goes to Moira French, who was instrumental in making the Fun Run a tremendous success, and to **Mary Lynn Borges**, who drove the pace car for the Run. Her little red Smart car was festooned with power plant signs and red balloons and will go down in Oakville history!

The time is now to get involved, get engaged, and make a donation.



NO POWER PLANTS NEAR HOMES AND SCHOOLS.

# Run For Clean Air a great success

On June 1, 2010, several hundred walkers and runners of all ages joined in for a historic walk/run for clean air. The event was more than just a run – it evidenced the banding together of several communities, united in a common goal.

The goal is to make the Ontario government aware that as citizens we strongly object to what we consider a reckless and dangerous decision, made without regard to the health and safety of community inhabitants. The location of the starting line was symbolic in that it represented the 320-metre mark from the proposed 975-megawatt natural gas power plant.

Communities around the province are just as concerned as Oakvillians are, because the proposed Oakville power plant sets a precedent for the placement of other enormous industrial facilities close to homes, schools and daycares in their communities.

All participants received a beautiful mini shrub, dubbed a “power plant,” as a token of appreciation and as a reminder of what kind of plants do belong near homes and schools.

The turnout was incredible, as running participants came from all over the province – from towns as widespread as Burlington, Mississauga, Barrie, Toronto, and Oakville, Milton, and

Etobicoke, to stand up for their communities.

It was a very moving scene to see over 40 volunteers as they marshalled the route, staffed the starting line and encouraged all the runners and walkers.

Many homeowners along the route generously turned on their garden hoses and sprinkled the athletes as they ran by, and local police and St. John Ambulance oversaw the action and became a part of the scene.

Mayor Rob Burton was there to get the race started and local councillor Keith Bird also supported the event. The emcee was the ever-gracious and effervescent Nancy Robertson, who has put her heart

and soul into standing up for her community and insisting on good governance on the part of our elected leaders.

Coincidentally, the run also took place on the same day that the C4CA held a press conference with Mayors Burton, McCallion and Trainer, as they called for the plant to be relocated in Nanticoke in a remote industrial park well away from homes and schools.

Many of the out-of-town participants have vowed to return to their neighbourhoods to act as ambassadors for our very worthy cause. Watch for our “Way Too Close” t-shirts coming soon to your neighbourhood!

## A Special Thanks to Our Sponsors!

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www.runningroom.com

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## Congratulations to the Winners:

Female		Time
40+	Jacqueline Schuller	22:40
18-39+	Erica Hollingdrake	20:46
1-17	Robin Sassi	25:24
Male		
40+	Brian Baird	18:02
18-39+	Paul MacKenzie	20:53
1-17	Cameron Kotulak	20:07