

May 2010 Newsletter

A Great Team Effort!

I would like express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported and participated in our many initiatives to Stop the Power Plant in the Mississauga Oakville Airshed.

We could fill this whole newsletter with our many accomplishments, but suffice it to say that we are extremely proud to be recognized by citizens and politicians at all levels as one of the best organized, professional citizens group that has ever taken on their government.

It has been a long, inter-

esting seven months since we launched C4CA and I am increasingly optimistic our government will ultimately do the right thing and stop this project.

There is now wide recognition that the plant was conceived without consideration for safety, health or the environment.

In light of this, and in view of materially changed energy supply considerations, I am hopeful that a much more reasonable alternative solution is within reach. In the meantime,

we need to keep up the pressure on the various proponents that we have targeted.

It is also important that each of us participate in the Town's planning workshops. We are awaiting the imminent release of TransCanada's final self assessment.

The proper thing for the Government to do now is to order an Individual Environmental Assessment (IEA).

Thank you all again for participating in an incredible team effort.

-Doug MacKenzie
President and CEO

Speak Your Mind Before June 3rd

We encourage all Ontarians to take the time to let Mr. McGuinty know how you feel about having a massive power plants imposed on bedroom communities, metres from schools and day-cares.

You can reach his office at **416-325-1941**. His fax is **416-325-3745**. The legislature will break for the summer on June 3rd, so make sure that you communicate your concerns as often as you can!

Continuing to promote our cause

We are requesting your assistance to profile your own organization and/or recruit other supporting organizations and profile them on the C4CA web site. Supporting organizations are those who provide awareness on behalf of C4CA at their place of business (or school, club, association, community group or other group) by posting signs, making flyers and buttons available, as well as providing ser-

vices 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

In turn we simply ask

that you provide visible awareness at your business / institution / association and/or contribute in some other manner whether through

volunteer support or a financial contribution. Thank you for your interest and willingness to make a difference.



WANTED:

Frustrated folks fearing fallout from **Power Plants** far too close to families – to join fellow friends & fervently focus on finding solutions for our future!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE – JOIN WALK TO FORD
www.c4ca.org Wednesday May 19, 2010 - 3:45pm

FUNdraising Bike Ride June 3rd

Have you seen the power plant that's just up 6th Line? (6th Line and Steeles to be exact). It's only 14km away so on June 3 we're doing a FUNdraising ride up there, having a catered lunch in the park across the road. Joining us will be Lawrence Zimmering - a power plant expert and C4CA board member.

We have group leaders for groups at every speed.

This won't be a huge ride so we will cut off the numbers at 60. We expect this ride to sell out quickly so please email carolyn@tectona.com ASAP if you'd like to come. The cost is only \$30 which includes a great lunch, a fun ride and a unique way to see what power plants are all about!

Run/Walk 4 Clean Air June 1

Come run through beautiful mature neighbourhoods in Oakville and see for yourself the proposed gas plant site. Win a draw for an iPod, plus prizes for top 3 male/female and U18 finishers. Best of all, the first 400 finishers will receive a free Flower Power Plant generously donated by Bulow F Garden Centre & Landscaping.

Bring your kids, friends and neighbours for a memorable sunset 5k run or 2k walk. Free T-shirts for first 300 registrants so don't be late! See C4CA.org site for more details.

Date: June 1, 2010

Time: 7 p.m. (register 6 p.m.)

Start: 1484 Cornwall Ave.

Citizens For Clean Air

Erin Brockovich to speak September 30th

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 that

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 in Oakville.

Tickets are \$150 each. Only 150 available. Reserve today by email to:

carolyn@tectona.com

March with us to Ford, Wed. May 19th 3:45 pm

Join us for a march to Ford on Wed. May 19th at 3:45 p.m.

Starting @ Kingsford Garden Plots (Kingsway/Sherwood Heights Drive).

This is a peaceful (but noisy) awareness event where we will walk To Ford and deliver a formal ASK to Ford, to "do the right thing" for our

community as well as their community of workers at the Ford Assembly Plant. Ford has been a valued community partner for 53 years.

We need Ford to stay the course with their commitment to our community but also their commitment to the environment and safety generally.

Help Wanted

Walk Marshalls for the march to Ford on Wed May 19th starting at 3:15 p.m.

We need your help in ensuring a safe and fun walk to Ford. Please email:

finance@c4ca.org

or call 905-510-1393

Volunteer of the month

C4CA would like to thank Robert Bell for his tremendous efforts working to establish C4CA since our start in 2009. Among his many accomplishments, he stands out for the incredible amount of work done on our C4CA newsletters and on making sure that our large signs figure prominently in local neighbourhoods and on busy roads. On behalf of all us C4CA, Thank You Bob Bell!!

Youth Activities Surrounding Earth Day

- Abbey Park High School. The Environment Club ran an Information Booth all week on the Oakville power plant. They wrote a letter to the Premier, and then obtained more than 100 student signatures.
- White Oaks SS. The Awareness and Activism Association held a school-wide Earth Day Assembly, that included their own flash mob scene (with gas masks and C4CA signs). They also gathered 250 signatures on their petition.
- Iroquois Ridge High School. The Environment Club invited C4CA to hold an information booth during the lunch break on Earth Day. There was much enthusiasm and support for C4CA here. This is one of the schools that sent a busload of students for the Queen's Park Rally.
- OTHS. The power plant was mentioned during their Earth Day events. They have already sent in their Petition with 350 signatures, and a letter. This high school sent 5 busloads of students to the Queen's Park Rally.

The Environmental Committee has explicitly added Safety to its mandate and is now known as The Environmental and Safety Committee

Members of our Committee studied the Draft Environmental Assessment pursuant to the Electricity EA regulation, issued by TransCanada Energy at the end of January 2010.

Our conclusions were that we found the assessment to be a quick, proponent driven assessment, done by hiring consultants and wholly inadequate for a massive 975MW plant proposed to be located in the heart of a residential community, with schools and houses within 320 and 400 meters, and adjacent to major roads and railway lines, and in a stressed (Clarkson) air shed.

We are particularly concerned because the proposed strip of land upon which the plant is proposed to be located is incredibly small for such a massive 975MW electricity plant-

only 13.5 acres.

Plants like these require significant buffer zones. Safety is a real issue. Having examined the material carefully, we believe that the process that led to the selection of the small Oakville site was deficient. It focused on cost, proximity to infrastructure and expediency, without proper regard for environmental and land use planning matters.

We feel strongly that the Minister of Environment should elevate the issue and call for an "Individual Environmental Assessment (IEA) pursuant to Part II of the Environmental Assessment Act. This terms of reference for this IEA should include the requirement to study alternatives for the proposed plant including the conversion of the existing coal fuelled units at Nanticoke into a

natural gas facility.

An IEA process is very different from the process being followed now. Alternatively, the Government could just cancel the plant.

Following the unfortunate explosion at the Kleen Energy plant in Connecticut in February, this committee began studying, in even more detail, the safety of the proposed plant.

This was so that we could make real recommendations supported by facts, to support the buffer zone concept. People make mistakes, equipment fails, accidents happen.

Distance provides protection, so buffers are critical. This work supports Bill 8, MPP Flynn's Bill on separation distances for gas fired power plants, anywhere in Ontario.

Finally, the Town issued a Draft Land Use Policy Study for Power Generation & Co-generation Facilities in March. The Environment Committee has been reviewing this study in preparation for workshops with the Town on May 18th and 20th.

This study is important as it fulfills the requirement of the Interim Control By-law, which is to determine the proper locations and land use policy for locating power plants. The interested public is encouraged to register for the workshops on the 18th and 20th.

Register with Manager of Long Range Planning Diane Childs with the Town of Oakville at: dchilds@oakville.ca, or by phone at: 905-845-6601, ext. 3986.

Health Committee promoting awareness of health issues in Halton/Peel

Key health issues include:

- The Clarkson airshed is already toxic and 14% more polluted than the Ontario average. Exposure to fine particulate matter pollution results in increased airway irritation, coughing, breathing difficulties, decreased lung function, development of chronic bronchitis, aggravated asthma, and cardiovascular events such as heart attacks and stroke.
- The health impacts of air pollution in our area are accelerating. The Ontario Medical Association attributed more than 1,000 premature deaths in Halton and Peel in 2008 to air pollution. Youth in Halton already have the highest incidence of asthma of any region in the province.

What are we doing about this?

- Sharing our Health Facts with everyone at community presentations and on the C4CA website.
 - Contacting physicians working in Halton, Peel, and the greater Toronto area informing them of the health issues associated with building a power plant close to homes and schools.
 - Collecting over 100 doctors signatures on a petition to ask for a moratorium on the development of all natural gas fired power plants until appropriate safety setbacks are legislated, legislation of regulatory standards for fine particulate matter and pollutants contributing to secondary formation of particulate matter, and a requirement that all natural gas fired power plants undergo an Individual Environmental Assessment. This petition has been presented to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario by Kevin Flynn.
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Focus is on Safety Risks

Our focus is on safety risks, the need for buffer zones and pressuring the McGuinty government to “do the right thing.”

Last September Premier McGuinty introduced his New Rules for Renewable Energy which establishes minimum setbacks of 550 meters for wind turbines. Set back requirements make sense, since we all know accidents happen and no risk management system or quality assurance system is perfect.

The Kleen Energy Plant explosion in Middletown, the recent derailment near the GO station in Pickering and the BP disaster in the Gulf of Mexico emphasize this point.

Under Mr. McGuinty’s new rules, any wind tur-

bine, even a small 50 kw wind turbine (almost 20,000 times smaller than the proposed gas power plant) would be prohibited on the Oakville site.

We believe Ontario should also have appropriate set back requirements for natural gas power plants – which are far more dangerous than wind turbines.

Kevin Flynn’s private members bill “The Separation Distances for Natural Gas Power Plants Act, 2010” would fix this regulatory deficiency, and the Bill’s second reading was passed by a margin of 28 votes to 1 with support of MPPs from all parties, including 15 Liberal MPPs.

It is possible, however, that some people could

argue that building a natural gas power plant on the Oakville site is still OK - because it is not a wind turbine, and Kevin Flynn’s Bill is not yet law.

If you want a greener and safer Ontario, and you are opposed to this type of lame, defective rationalization, then call, write or email the Premier, his ministers, and all MPPs right NOW – before the legislature rises in June.

Tell them to enact safety regulations requiring setback provisions for natural gas fired power plants NOW. Tell them to stop the building of all natural gas power plants until setback provisions are enacted NOW. Tell them it is the right thing to do.

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



NO POWER PLANTS NEAR HOMES AND SCHOOLS.

Letters of the Month:

We would like to recognize and congratulate Duncan Hannay, Damian O’Hara, and Brennan Howard for the distinction of having their letters published in the Toronto Star and The Globe & Mail last month.

This was a important achievement since it marked the first time that the human story element was considered in mainstream media coverage.

Quote of the Month from Kevin French:

“Power plants should not be in anyone’s backyard anywhere in Ontario. Children play in backyards - let’s keep them healthy and alive.”

Organize a “Lunch & Learn” at work

Want to let your work colleagues know more about the power plant issue and enjoy a pizza lunch at the same time? Organize a "Lunch and Learn" at your place of work. As long as you have 15 to 20 people, C4CA will send in representatives to highlight

the issues surrounding the power plant proposed for Oakville. Typically the employer provides the lunch, C4CA provides the speakers and the employees just sit back, learn about where we're at in our fight and enjoy the pizza. We have a 45

minute presentation specifically designed for a business audience.

Email Derek Johnston (derek@jrponline.com) for more information or to set up a Lunch and Learn at your place of work.