



Award winning musician and activist Sarah Harmer joins TEA campaigner Jamie Kirkpatrick to launch "Dig Conservation, Not Holes" in April 2009. Photo by Michael Stuparyk, Toronto Star

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tea leaves

the newsletter of the toronto environmental alliance

ISSUE 01, VOLUME 09



Victory at City Hall!

TORONTO FINALLY GETS THE RIGHT TO KNOW WHO IS POLLUTING

After almost 5 years of campaigning and thanks to massive community support, Torontonians now have the “right to know” who is polluting their neighbourhood.

On December 3rd, Toronto City Council voted for a precedent-setting toxics disclosure policy. With an overwhelming vote of 33-3, Toronto became the first city to require that businesses - including dry cleaners, funeral homes, and auto-body repair shops - reveal their discharges of 25 priority substances that pollute Toronto’s air.

Toronto residents should be proud: with your ongoing support we have paved the way for other cities across Canada to initiate and adopt similar bylaws – we all have a right to know! See page 2 for more information on how the bylaw will be implemented.

WITH YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT WE HAVE PAVED THE WAY FOR OTHER CITIES ACROSS CANADA TO INITIATE AND ADOPT SIMILAR BYLAWS

LOCAL FOOD NOW ON THE CITY’S MENU

In late October, Toronto became the first municipality in Canada to adopt a local food procurement policy with a target of purchasing 50% local food as soon as possible.

Once again, a massive outpouring of community support, this time through our "Avoid Jet-Lagged Food: Buy Local First" campaign, made the difference: over 2,000 Torontonians wrote their Councillors and the Mayor. Because of this, City Council unanimously adopted a policy that will dramatically increase the amount of local food the City buys for its day cares, shelters, and seniors' homes.

This policy is good news for a number of reasons: Torontonians will eat fresher and healthier food, it will reduce greenhouse gas and smog emissions by cutting back on imported foods, and we'll help our farming neighbours in the Greenbelt and surrounding countryside.

Thanks also to a large network of local food activists who planted the "local food" seed so many years ago and helped nurture it.

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“TEA” kids deliver local apples to Councillors
Photo by Andrew Serba

Campaign

REDUCING TOXIC POLLUTION IN TORONTO

Community Right to Know

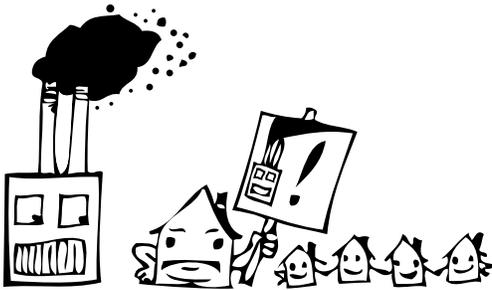
Congratulations Toronto! The Community Right to Know Bylaw is passed. Once implemented, it requires up to 7,000 polluters to track and disclose their releases of key toxic substances.

As a resident, you will be able to go onto the City's website and search any part of the city to see the sources and amounts of pollution released by local industries.

The program also gives reporting facilities resources and opportunities to prevent pollution and tell their story. Over the next few years, communities and businesses will be able to understand where local pollution is coming from and work together to reduce it.

Getting so many facilities to report is no small feat. The bylaw will be implemented over five years in three phases. By January 2012, pollution reports will be available for the first phase of industries, which include printing, chemical manufacturing, and food and beverage manufacturing. By June 2014 all industries will be reporting annually. Keep checking our website for updates and resources to find out more about pollution in your neighbourhood!

For Toronto Public Health's reports on the bylaw, go to: www.toronto.ca/health/hphe/enviro_info.htm.



Take Action!
Letter writing is at the heart of the campaign. Please go to our website for more information. Every letter counts. Your neighbours thank you!

GOOD NEIGHBOUR CAMPAIGN

TEA and Environmental Defence have joined together to launch an exciting new program, the Good Neighbour Initiative. With funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, community-based Good Neighbour Campaigns will be operating in three cities - Toronto, Hamilton, and Sarnia. A Good Neighbour Campaign focuses on empowering communities to encourage local industries to reduce and prevent pollution, independent of legal and regulatory routes. The goal is to make communities healthier and safer while catalyzing green leadership among industry.

In April 2009, Toronto's Good Neighbour Campaign was launched. Your neighbours in South Etobicoke and TEA are calling on Fleetwood Fine Furniture, a manufacturer of high-end hotel furniture, to be a Good Neighbour. Fleetwood is the highest emitter of toluene, xylene, and volatile organic compounds in the area. For years, there have been complaints by residents of paint/varnish type odours which make them 'nauseous', 'not able to open up their windows', and 'worried about what their children are inhaling'. These chemicals impact our children's development, make it hard to breathe, and could damage your liver, kidneys, and central nervous system.

The campaign, which relies on the power of community mobilization, aims to encourage Fleetwood to significantly reduce the pollutants and odours that they emit. We want to turn Fleetwood into a green manufacturer, not shut it down.

Updates

REDUCING WASTE IN TORONTO

We spent much of 2008 fighting waste on two fronts: improving the City's waste diversion programs and pushing the Province to have companies pay the full cost of the waste they produce.

The City is rolling out Blue Box and Green Bin programs in all high-rise buildings across the city and is tackling in-store packaging through fees, bans, and other measures. Introducing a 5-cent plastic bag fee captured the attention of consumers and companies nation-wide. Other single-use packaging such as take-out food containers and coffee cups have also received lots of attention and scrutiny. While TEA hoped to see a ban on the plastic bag altogether, the 5-cent bag fee is a step in the right direction and we hope to see similar progress on other forms of take-out packaging soon.

Not surprisingly, the City's efforts to cut packaging waste have come under attack by the companies responsible for all the garbage. Companies want taxpayers to keep footing the bill for the garbage. Under the current system, companies have no incentive to reduce the garbage they produce by eliminating it or by redesigning their products and packaging to be reusable or recyclable. TEA has made sure these waste producers are challenged, both in the media and at city hall, while we continue to support reducing wasteful packaging through bans and fees.

Unfortunately, municipalities have little control over the wasteful packaging and product choices companies make. In order for us to truly tackle the waste problems we face, companies will need to take full responsibility for their wasteful product and packaging decisions and learn to make better choices. What's needed are better provincial waste laws that require companies to clean up their act. So, it's very timely that the Waste Diversion Act and Blue Box Program are both under review this year. The reviews provide an opportunity to make important legislative changes to how waste is managed and paid for in Ontario. For instance, participating companies only pay 50% of the Blue Box Program costs, yet we have no choice in what packaging choices they make. TEA is fighting for product and packaging laws that will make producers responsible for the full financial and environmental costs of their products and packaging.

A big thanks goes out to all the TEA members who took action during the Waste Diversion Act review by sending your comments and suggestions to the Ministry of Environment. Your efforts make TEA's voice that much stronger!

Take Action! Every day you can reduce waste by buying in bulk and choosing reusable food and beverage containers and bags.



TEA IS FIGHTING FOR PRODUCT AND PACKAGING LAWS THAT WILL MAKE PRODUCERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FULL FINANCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS OF THEIR PRODUCTS AND PACKAGING.



Campaign Updates (continued)

SMOG AND CLIMATE CHANGE

TEA has been busy on many fronts ensuring comprehensive action on reducing smog and curbing climate change:

- We are continuing to monitor the City as it implements its groundbreaking smog and climate change action plan, adopted by City Council in Summer 2007. We published our annual smog report card as part of our Environmental Report Card (see article on page 5). It shows real action in 2008 on a number of fronts, but almost nothing on sustainable energy.
- We are continuing to ensure that large, renewable energy projects have a future in Toronto. We helped make sure all Torontonians had a voice in the consultation process regarding putting a wind measuring device in Lake Ontario.
- We're working with low income tenants in four private high-rise buildings in Toronto and Ottawa (and their landlords!) to help tenants develop and implement their own energy reduction plans. The need for this is overwhelming since almost all government energy reduction programs ignore low income Torontonians. So far, we've connected with over 1,000 Ontarians who are busy reducing their energy use.
- We're working with the City of Toronto's Live Green program to help Torontonians across the city develop innovative environmental programs. In partnership with ACORN Canada, TEA is acting as a resource to help low income Torontonians in the following neighbourhoods: Weston/Mt. Dennis, Jane/Finch, Greater Crescent Town, and Scarborough Centre.

Over the next year, TEA will focus on ensuring the City moves quickly on implementing its sustainable energy plans. For regular updates, go to www.torontoenvironment.org.

BREAKING GROUND ON NEW LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT IN TORONTO

In 2007, Toronto came forward with an innovative plan to build 122 kilometres of new light rail transit, namely streetcars with dedicated lanes. These lines will extend the TTC into transit-starved communities in Toronto's outer reaches, bringing 175 million new riders annually to the system. That is a lot of cars off the road!

Provincial and federal funding was recently announced for a new light rail Sheppard line, which will go from Don Mills Station to Malvern. Construction is due to start in 2009.



Photo by R.T. Lechow: www.flickr.com/rtlechow

Provincial funding also came through to build three other key lines through to 2016:

- Eglinton Crosstown LRT, running from Kennedy Station to Pearson Airport;
- Etobicoke-Finch West LRT, running from Don Mills to Humber College;
- Scarborough RT will be rebuilt and extended to Malvern Town Centre or Markham Road.

More good news, a crucial part of the City's 2009 budget was a commitment to freeze TTC fares while

continuing service improvements. We've been calling for stable fares for years, and it couldn't have come at a better time. It's exactly the support Torontonians need to weather the economic storm.

Sadly, the fare freeze has little chance of extending into 2010. The Province still refuses to pay an equal share of the operating costs for public transit, as was the norm for decades, and current transit expansion will mean much higher fares in the future to subsidize new lines while they develop ridership. It's time for the Province to not just help Toronto build transit, but match its commitment to maintaining it!

Take Action: *Do your part and get a home energy audit to find out how you can save money and the environment!*

Midterm Environmental Report Card Shows Toronto Council is Green

In 2006, TEA predicted that Toronto would elect the greenest City Council since amalgamation. And the evidence shows we were right! In March 2009, TEA released a midterm Environmental Report Card that shows Council's voting record over the last two years on key environmental policies. For the first time, we awarded a majority of Councillors "A" grades.

We looked at Council voting records on eight crucial environmental initiatives (Check out your Councillor's grade on page 9). All but one of these initiatives (new tax revenues) were supported by over 2/3rds of Council. This level of support is unsurprising for some initiatives, such as adoption of Change is in the Air (Toronto's new smog and climate change plan), which provides "support in principle" for recommendations with little direct action. Where we see a real difference with this Council is on votes on weightier or controversial initiatives – like the Community Right to Know bylaw, fees for plastic bags, and green bin pick up for apartment buildings – all of which would have faced much closer votes in past Councils.

This Council term also saw Mayor David Miller move the environmental agenda to centre stage, hoping to place Toronto at the head of a global push by municipalities to take significant action on smog and climate change. As a result, Change is in the Air contains at least 80 action items and the City has made progress on many of them, including:

- Promoting local green power through a new Renewable Energy Bylaw
- Conserving energy in high-rises through the Mayor's Tower Renewal Initiative
- Greening the City's fleets with bio-diesel and energy efficient vehicles
- Disclosing air pollution through the Community Right to Know Bylaw
- Supporting communities going green with Live Green Toronto
- Continuing loans for sustainable and renewable energy projects
- Adopting a local food procurement policy
- Scheduling Bike Plan Completion by 2012

Because of these actions, our report rewards the City a B+ for actions taken to reduce smog in 2008. This is only the second time the City has received such a good grade.

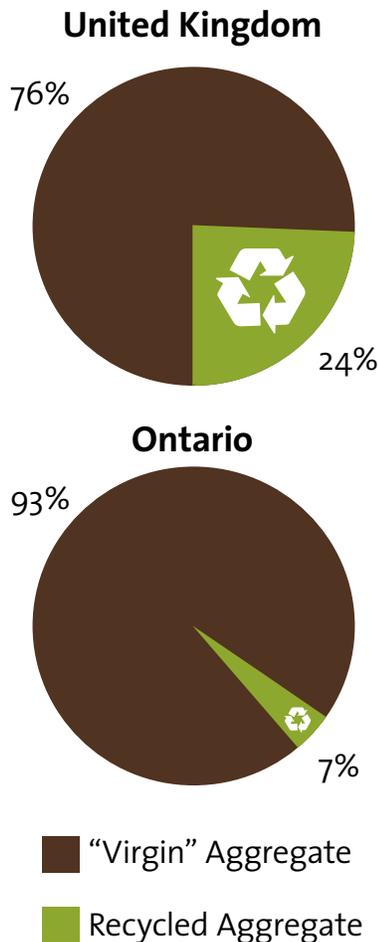
But not all the news is good. Too many recommendations in Change is in the Air are either significantly delayed or wallowing in inaction:

- **No plan for how city facilities will reach the 25% renewable power target.** In 2000, the City committed to obtain 25% of its electricity needs for city facilities from green sources. Change is in the Air directed the City Manager to report back on how this could be done starting in 2008. This report has yet to be presented.
- **No Implementation Plan for Sustainable Energy.** A report was to be tabled in November 2008 but was withdrawn at the last minute. This delay involves five recommendations in Change is in the Air, having a significant impact on the success of the overall plan. *Continued on page 8*



Dig Conservation, Not Holes

“VIRGIN” VS RECYCLED GRAVEL USE



The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) is literally built from the countryside around us. The stone, sand, and gravel (collectively known as aggregate) used to build GTA cities is mined from pits and quarries. Most of these big holes are found in some of the most precious ecological and agricultural land in Ontario, including the world-renowned Greenbelt. Incredibly, Canada’s largest aggregate quarry is in the middle of the Niagara Escarpment, designated by the United Nations as a World Biosphere Reserve.

Municipalities use huge amounts of aggregate to build and update urban infrastructure like roads, bridges, buildings, and sidewalks. Aggregate is also in the cement used for buildings and their foundations.

Since municipalities are the largest aggregate user, TEA spent the last half of 2008 and the first part of 2009 asking how local governments can minimize harm to precious agricultural and ecological land in the Greenbelt but still meet their infrastructure needs.

The news is both alarming and hopeful. We put our findings in a report called *“Dig Conservation, Not Holes: A Report on the GTA’s Thirst for Gravel and How to Meet It”* available at www.torontoenvironment.org/gravel.

“ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY ESTIMATES, THE GTA WILL USE 1.5 BILLION TONNES OF GRAVEL OVER THE NEXT 25 YEARS.”

FIRST, THE ALARMING NEWS:

- There is almost no public information available on how much aggregate we use to build the various types of urban infrastructure we rely on. Our governments do not require public disclosure of the sources or uses of aggregate.
- Aggregate mining harms the natural environment: it destroys natural vegetation; it leads to a loss of existing animal wildlife; it disrupts the movement of surface water and groundwater
- **According to industry estimates, the GTA will use about 1,500,000,000 (1.5 billion) tonnes of aggregate over the next 25 years!**
- **If we don’t change the path we are on, renewing and building the GTA’s infrastructure will destroy precious agricultural land and world-renowned natural spaces in the Greenbelt.**

To help get a sense of how much land will be needed to meet this anticipated gravel demand over the next 25 years, imagine a 60 foot deep (20 metre) hole from Toronto’s Bloor Street to the waterfront between Greenwood Avenue and the Kingsway.

TORONTO'S BIG PIT

Over the next 25 years the GTA will consume enough stone, sand and gravel to displace land equal to this 60 foot (20 metre) deep hole from Toronto's Bloor Street to the waterfront between Greenwood Ave and The Kingsway, about 35 km². This amount of land will be destroyed in the countryside surrounding the GTA if municipalities don't start practicing the 3Rs with gravel.



The GTA's projected gravel use over the next 25 years will require land equal to a 35 square km pit 60 feet deep.

NOW THE GOOD NEWS.

There is a simple way to reduce the need for sand, stone, and gravel mined from pits and quarries, also known as “virgin” aggregate. How? By practicing the 3Rs:

- **Reduce:** Most importantly, we need to reduce our reliance on virgin aggregate by changing building and design codes. For example, neighbourhood road designs can be changed back to a 6.5 metre road from the 8.5 metre road width of today’s sprawling local streets.
- **Reuse:** When we renew our existing urban infrastructure, we often create the raw materials we need for new construction. For example, the Ministry of Transportation uses a variety of reclamation methods that can reuse up to 100% of the asphalt surface of our major highways.
- **Recycle:** Crushed concrete and aggregates can be recycled in a variety of construction projects. But current Ontario standards don’t require this, which means no more than 7.2% of Ontario’s annual aggregate use is made up of recycled aggregate. In contrast, in the U.K. about 24% of aggregate used is recycled aggregate.

Take Action:

1. Ask your City Councillor to adopt the recommendations in our report. Tell them it’s time to curb your city’s thirst for aggregate mined from our protected areas.
2. We need your help to get this issue out into the public and in the thoughts of our political leaders. We’ve created an informative animated video and posted it on our website. Please share this with your friends, family, and political representatives.

WHAT WE'RE ASKING MUNICIPALITIES TO DO

The first step is to get municipalities to start practicing the 3Rs. That’s why we’re calling on all GTA municipalities to adopt the following recommendations:

1. Ensure that any new requests for proposals that include the use of aggregate require the successful bidder to demonstrate they will use the highest level of recycled content allowable under provincial standards.
2. Provide detailed information to the public on aggregate use within the municipality, specifically what it’s used for, where it comes from, and how much comes from recycled sources.
3. Investigate how other jurisdictions effectively reduce “virgin” aggregate use through the use of the 3Rs and report out to the appropriate council committee with recommendations on how the municipality can adopt similar strategies.
4. Urge the Ministry of Natural Resources to ensure the 3Rs are the cornerstone of any updated aggregate policy for the Province and that it investigates and implements the production of “sustainable” aggregate.

To learn more about aggregate use in the GTA, to see our short video explaining this issue, read our full report, and find out what you can do, visit www.torontoenvironment.org/gravel.

Council Report Card (continued)



Unfortunately, delays are common when the City implements environmental initiatives. Our research and tracking shows that environmental plans, programs, and policies passed by Council often falter once handed to city staff for implementation. In fact, almost one quarter (24%) of the Change is in the Air recommendations have been delayed by over six months and many by over a year. We fear there is a growing gap between Council's environmental commitment and the civil service's ability to get it done.

NOW THAT TORONTO IS AMONG THE WORLD LEADERS ON CLIMATE CHANGE, WE CAN NO LONGER ACCEPT DELAYS THAT TRADITIONALLY PLAGUE MANY ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES.

We reached this conclusion after interviewing a number of stakeholders, both inside and outside City Hall, about why programs get delayed. Almost every one of them highlighted lack of coordination and collaboration between departments as the biggest cause of delay.

Now that Toronto is among the world leaders on climate change, we can no longer accept delays that traditionally plague many environmental initiatives. The current structure for implementing Toronto's environmental agenda is flawed. It lacks interdepartmental coordination and commitment. If we want to be, as Mayor Miller promises, the greenest city in North America, we need to set a new standard for getting work done. It is not just about keeping Toronto in the environmental winner's circle; it is about ensuring that Toronto can meet its stated long-term commitments to clean up our air, land, and water, and make Toronto more prosperous in the process.

The Environmental Report Card provides recommendations to improve how City Council's environmental commitments are implemented. These recommendations are focused on three key areas:

- Getting two key programs, Toronto's Sustainable Energy Plan and the Green Economic Development Strategy, back on track.
- Improving coordination and engendering environmental commitment across City departments and agencies.
- Providing greater public transparency regarding when, how and to what effect environmental programs are implemented.

To see our full midterm report card, go to www.torontoenvironment.org/reportcard08

KEY VOTES TO COME

The next 20 months of Council will be filled with opportunities for Councillors to retain or improve their grades. TEA will be monitoring key votes that do the following:

- Buy and build green power.
- Ban two-stroke leaf blowers.
- Support a sustainable transportation agenda, such as implementing the Bike Plan & Transit City.

Most importantly, Council's voting record for the remainder of the term must reflect our need to stimulate Toronto's green economy. There is no better medicine for these tough economic times.

Toronto must pair its aggressive environmental agenda with the proper economic development strategies that ensure the money we spend - through purchasing green power and green products, building more transit, and reducing industrial air pollution - results in local jobs and sustainable industries.

The Grades:

Council Majority gets Top Marks

WARD	MAYOR/COUNCILLOR	MID TERM GRADE
	Miller, David	A+
Scarborough East	Ainslie, Paul	C+
Scarborough Southwest	Ashton, Brian	A
York Centre	Augimeri, Maria	A
Beaches East York	Bussin, Sandra	A+
Don Valley East	Carroll, Shelley	A+
Scarborough Rouge	Cho, Raymond	A+
Beaches East York	Davis, Janet	A+
Scarborough Centre	De Baeremaeker, Glenn	A+
Scarborough Agincourt	Del Grande, Mike	C+
York South Weston	Di Giorgio, Frank	A+
York Centre	Feldman, Michael	D
Willowdale	Filion, John	A+
Broadview Greenwood	Fletcher, Paula	A+
Etobicoke North	Ford, Rob	F
Davenport	Giambrone, Adam	A+
Etobicoke Lakeshore	Grimes, Mark	A+
Etobicoke North	Hall, Suzan	A
Scarborough Southwest	Heaps, Adrian	A+
Etobicoke Centre	Holyday, Doug	F
Don Valley West	Jenkins, Clifford	D-
Scarborough Agincourt	Kelly, Norman	A+
Scarborough Rouge	Lee, Chin	B
Etobicoke Centre	Lindsay-Luby, Gloria	B
York West	Mammoliti, Giorgio	C+
Toronto Centre Rosedale	McConnell, Pam	A+
St. Paul's	Mihevc, Joe	A+
Etobicoke Lakeshore	Milczyn, Peter	B
Don Valley East	Minnan-Wong, Denzil	F
Scarborough East	Moeser, Ron	A
Eglinton Lawrence	Moscoe, Howard	A+
York South Weston	Nunziata, Frances	D-
Broadview Greenwood	Ootes, Case	F
Davenport	Palacio, Cesar	C+
Trinity Spadina	Pantalone, Joe	A+
Don Valley West	Parker, John	F
Parkdale High Park	Perks, Gord	A+
York West	Peruzza, Anthony	B
Toronto Centre Rosedale	Rae, Kyle	A+
Parkdale High Park	Saundercook, Bill	B
Willowdale	Shiner, David	F
Eglinton Lawrence	Stintz, Karen	D
Scarborough Centre	Thompson, Michael	D
Trinity Spadina	Vaughan, Adam	A+
St. Paul's	Walker, Michael	C

key votes

- **Gardiner:** approval of Environmental Assessment to remove part of the Gardiner, July 2008
 - **New Taxes:** adoption of New Tax Revenues, October 2007
 - **Renew Energy:** adoption of Bylaw to allow Torontonians to generate Renewable Energy, March 2008
 - **70% WD Oppose Receipt:** approval of 70% Waste Diversion Plan, June 2007
 - **Tower Renewal:** approval of Mayor's Tower Renewal Initiative, September 2008
 - **Climate Change Plan:** adoption of "Change is in the Air" Smog and Climate Change Plan, July 2007
 - **CRTK Oppose Referral:** adoption of Community Right to Know Bylaw, December 2008
 - **Packaging:** adoption of Package Reduction Initiatives, December 2008
- For details on each vote, please visit www.torontoenvironment.org/reportcard08/councilvotes#keyvotes

THREE COUNCILLORS DESERVE SPECIAL ATTENTION FOR THEIR GRADES:

Frank Di Giorgio A+ Change of Heart!
In 2006 we gave Councillor Di Giorgio an F for his poor performance. His perfect attendance and voting record in the last two years makes his the most improved grade on Council. Congratulations Councillor Di Giorgio!

Case Ootes F Head in the Sand?
Councillor Ootes represents Toronto-Danforth, a community that clearly has green on its mind, yet he has received a failing grade from us almost every time. Ward 29 deserves better!

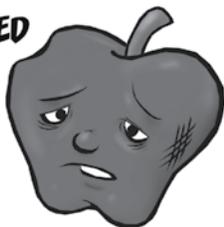
Giorgio Mammoliti C+ Truant!
Councillor Mammoliti votes green...when he's there. He missed over half of the votes we included!

Growing Support for the Greenbelt in Toronto

Over the past year, TEA raised awareness about the many environmental benefits our world-renowned 1.8 million acre Greenbelt provides for us. Protected waterways help safeguard our drinking water and natural spaces provide a home for diverse ecosystems.

Perhaps the Greenbelt's most obvious environmental benefits are its protected agricultural lands, which provide us with local food that helps the environment by reducing the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from transporting food from far away. Buying local food helps the local economy and local farmers; it preserves agricultural land; and you get fresher food!

AVOID JET-LAGGED FOOD...



BUY LOCAL FIRST!

TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP TORONTO'S GREENBELT, VISIT WWW.TORONTOENVIRONMENT.ORG



Possibility grows here.

The City of Toronto spends \$11 million annually on food for City day cares, shelters, and seniors homes. TEA felt one way to help the Greenbelt and the environment would be to ensure that when the City buys its food, they choose local food first. So, we launched a petition campaign asking the City to "Avoid Jet-Lagged Food and Buy Local First!"

In Summer 2008 we went to farmers' markets, restaurants, and festivals and collected more than 2,000 signatures from Torontonians. We used this support to encourage Councillors on the City's Government Management Committee to consider adopting a Local Food Procurement Policy.

In October we drove this message home by enlisting some of our youngest volunteers to get the message across that Torontonians wanted to see a local food policy passed. They delivered our petitions and postcards, along with more than 2,000 fresh local apples, donated by Charles Stevens of Wilmot Orchards, to Councillors at City Hall.

This apple delivery helped to shift attention from the technical details of the Local Food Procurement Policy to the faces of the people most affected by the decision. Two weeks later, Toronto adopted a landmark policy to progressively increase its purchase of local food beginning with the Children's Services division and develop a plan to buy 50% local food as soon as possible.

HELPING TORONTONIANS FIND "LOCALLY GROWN ETHNIC FOOD"

TEA has also been hard at work helping Torontonians find ethnic food grown locally. In 2008, TEA distributed 40,000 Chinese and South Asian food guides that identify farmers and retailers that sell locally grown ethnic foods. With the help of the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation, we will be releasing guides for the African/Caribbean and Middle Eastern communities by Summer 2009.

The guides acknowledge Toronto's diverse cultures and help connect people, particularly newcomers, with fresh, culturally-familiar food, while at the same time supporting local farmers and businesses and reducing greenhouse gas emissions caused by importing foods from far away.

NEXT STEPS: GROWING THE GREENBELT

Currently, the only part of the Greenbelt in Toronto is the Rouge River. We want to expand the Greenbelt to bring more of it into the city. Imagine Toronto's Canadian Heritage River – The Humber – given further recognition and protection through its inclusion in the Greenbelt. As a member of the Ontario Greenbelt Alliance, TEA helped with the development of a Greenbelt 2.0 map to show what the Greenbelt could and should look like. (The map can be seen at www.greenbeltalliance.ca). To find out how you can help Toronto's Greenbelt, visit www.torontoenvironment.org.

Thank you

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

While there is much to worry about these days, the news at TEA has been good. As this issue of TEA LEAVES shows, there has been much progress in greening our city. We have a new Community Right to Know Bylaw, a Local Food Procurement Policy, Transit City is being implemented, actions to reduce smog and climate change are taking off, and we have the greenest City Council ever! All of these victories came thanks to the hard work of individual Torontonians, our community allies, and our campaigners.

The momentum for greening Toronto is building. And the focus is now on how we can use good environmental policies to create good, green jobs. This won't just help us weather the current economic downturn, it will help us build a more sustainable and vibrant economy, in tune with the ecosystems we depend on.

As usual, our success is in your hands. To find out what you can do to help us green Toronto, visit our website at www.torontoenvironment.org and check out our latest campaign information.

Finally, none of this good work could happen without the dedicated TEA staff team, listed below. We continue "punching above our weight class" because our team does so much with so little. A special thanks to other key members of the TEA Team: Joe Smiley, Fundraiser; Elaine Whittaker, Book-keeper; Harry Pilfold and Shaine McLeod, Canvass Managers; Bernard McCarthy and David Findlay, Door Canvassers; and Marcia Peralta, Data Entry. And a very special thanks to Alex Stoutley and our other volunteers who have helped so much for nothing but smiles and gratitude from the rest of us!

Franz Hartmann

P.S. A special welcome and thanks to our new Youth Caucus Coordinators Yaneev Forman and Shu Yang Hu!



The TEA Staff Team: Franz Hartmann, Heather Marshall, Katrina Miller, Jamie Kirkpatrick, Michal Hay, Lina Cino

Funders

Thank You!

Every year over 5,000 Torontonians donate to TEA. These unrestricted public donations allow us to pursue our core mandate to promote a green Toronto. Because we are not a charity, we have the ability to advocate for environmental policies at city hall or Queen's Park until the job gets done. To all our members and donors, we say thank you!

A Special Thank You to our Deep Green Donors!

We want to say a special thank you to our Deep Green Donors who have contributed \$1,000 or more in 2008.

- Genuine Health
- Greenpeace Canada
- Franz Hartmann
- Steve Neil
- Susan and Joe Salek
- Top Drawer Creative
- United Steelworkers

A Special Thank You to the Organizations and Foundations that Supported Our Work in 2008!

Without you, our work wouldn't have been nearly as effective. Thank you!

- EJLB Foundation
- Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation
- George Cedric Charitable Metcalf Foundation
- Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation
- Ministry of Environment, Community Go Green Fund
- The Ontario Trillium Foundation, Future Fund

THE ONTARIO
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FOUNDATION



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