

Meet Tea Staff

Shelley Petrie

Executive Director and Water Campaigner

Shelley Petrie has worked on local environmental issues in Toronto for over 10 years, ranging from community education to public policy and governance issues. She currently represents the City of Toronto on the Toronto Region Conservation Authority.

Gord Perks

Senior Campaigner

Gord Perks has been involved in the environmental movement since 1986 and has been at TEA since 1997. His main campaign areas are waste reduction and public transit. Gord is currently a member of the Mayor's Roundtable on the Environment. Since 2003, he's been the environment columnist for "eye magazine" and in 2005 became Adjunct Professor at the University of Toronto in the Environmental Studies Department.

Keith Stewart, Ph.D.

Smog & Climate Change Campaigner

Keith Stewart became active at TEA in 1993 as a volunteer and board member, then joined the staff in 2000 following the completion his Ph.D. dissertation at York University on Environmental Policy in Ontario. He has taught undergraduate and graduate-level courses on environmental politics and public policy at York, Trent, Ryerson, and the University of Toronto. Keith currently sits on steering committees for the Low Income Energy Network and the Ontario Electricity Coalition.

Katrina Miller

Toxics Campaigner

Katrina Miller advocates for the reduction of environmental exposure to toxic chemicals. Currently, her work is focused on reducing chemical pesticides and promoting Community Right-to-Know in Toronto. She is also a member of the Mayor's Beautiful City Roundtable. In 2004, Katrina received the Robert Hunter Award for "Damn Fine Activist" for her work on getting a pesticide bylaw in Toronto.

Harry Pitfield

Canvass and Outreach Coordinator

Harry Pitfield has been a community and social activist for many years. His work with TEA started in 2000 when he moved to Toronto and began working as an outreach canvasser. He eventually became Canvass and Outreach Coordinator in 2002. Over time, Harry has taken on the roles of TEA's webmaster, computer troubleshooter, assistant bookkeeper and "TEA Lawyer's" production coordinator.



TEA Pushes for Toxic Disclosure in Toronto

There are literally hundreds of businesses – small, medium and large – releasing toxic chemicals and heavy metals into our neighbourhoods, workplaces and public spaces.

From PERC (perchloroethylene) used at your corner dry cleaner to chemical plants in Scarborough, in many cases pollution releases can be eliminated or drastically reduced by installing new technologies or controls, using cleaner materials to manufacture products or recycling toxic substances. But with little reason to do so, businesses are sticking to their outdated ways. We believe that if Toronto residents know what toxic substances are being used and released in their communities, they will have the knowledge and power to make change happen.

A new bylaw will help:

A new bylaw being pursued by the City will aid and accelerate toxic use reductions in businesses and neighbourhoods across Toronto.

The City has committed to developing a Community Right-To-Know (CRTK) bylaw that would require businesses and industries to publicly disclose the use and release of toxic chemicals. The recommendation was adopted in the City's Environment Plan, *Clean, Green & Healthy* in 2000. Similar disclosure programs have resulted in significant reductions in toxic use by companies in other North American cities and states.

TEA polled election candidates on their support for a bylaw during the 2003 municipal election. A majority of those elected confirmed their support.

What's going to happen

Throughout 2005, City Staff will be researching legislative and administrative options to provide CRTK in Toronto. By 2007, finding out which toxics are being used and released in the factory beside your child's school may be as simple as a few clicks on a website. Health impact data would also be supplied. Residents and workers will be able to use the information to push for local reductions. Toronto's industries could implement voluntary reductions to avoid the public's ire and even find savings through such measures. Our city will be a cleaner and safer place to live.

To ensure this happens, TEA and the Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition are working together to educate councillors and the community on the benefits of CRTK. We need your help to get your community on side.

Call Katrina Miller at (416) 596-0660 to get involved or stay informed by signing up for our CRTK Action list on our website: www.torontoenvironment.org/toxics

The history of right-to-know

The Union Carbide chemical spill in Bhopal, India 20 years ago awoke the world to the perils of living beside factories and facilities that use and release toxic chemicals, and triggered CRTK legislation throughout the world.

Canadian right-to-know programs include the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI) and the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS). But both programs leave huge gaps in public access to information. The Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition (TCPC) scanned Toronto's South Riverdale neighborhood for facilities that were highly likely to use and release key carcinogens. Out of 150 facilities, only 11 recorded releases on the NPRI.

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Quick Toxics Tip

Want to know what industries are reporting toxic releases in your neighborhood through Canada's National Pollutant Release Inventory? Go to www.PollutionWatch.org, a public service website provided by the Canadian Environmental Law Association and Environmental Defence.

TEA's 2003 election survey showed that Mayor Miller and 25 elected Councillors committed to passing a Community Right-To-Know bylaw in Toronto. Check to see if your Councillor is on record in support:

Maria Augimeri
Sandra Bussin
Shelley Carroll
Raymond Cho
Olivia Chow
Janet Davis
Glenn De Baeremaeker
Mike Del Grande
Frank Di Giorgio
John Filion
Paula Fletcher
Rob Ford
Adam Giambrome
Mark Grimes
Pam McConnell
Joe Mihevc
Peter Mlleczyzn
Howard Moscoe
Frances Nunziata
Joe Pantalone
Jane Pitfield
Kyle Rae
Karen Stintz
Michael Thompson
Michael Walker

Pesticide Bylaw Wins Court Challenge

Fines Start September 2005

In Spring 2005, the Ontario Court of Appeal upheld Toronto's Pesticide Bylaw and sunk industry attempts to stop other municipalities from adopting bylaws across Ontario. Action in other municipalities had stalled, while lawyers debated who had the authority to restrict pesticide use – City Councils or the provincial government. A unanimous decision by the judges deliberating in the appeal signals the beginning of the end in allowing the use of toxic pesticides for solely cosmetic purposes.

TEA intervened in the court case, represented by the Canadian Environmental Law Association. The decision brought a sigh of relief in our office and at the City, as the bylaw moves into its second phase of implementation.

Starting in September 2005, the City will levy fines on lawn-care companies, commercial properties and other licensed applicators who break the law. Health inspectors will provide warnings to homeowners who self-apply in preparation for homeowner fines in 2007.

What is illegal under the bylaw?

The bylaw makes it illegal to use non-exempted pesticides on outdoor properties in order to control nuisance weeds on turf, or to control any pest unless they pose a health hazard or qualify as an infestation that may result in significant loss or damage to property.

Health inspectors are hard at work responding to reports that are phoned in to their hotline. Inspectors visit the site and talk to the person in charge to inform them of the bylaw and evaluate whether the pesticide application is illegal. Spraying Killax to eradicate dandelions is a clear no-no under the bylaw. The bylaw allows certain products to be used that pose little if any risk, such as corn gluten, acetic acid and nematodes.

The sticky details

All properties are included under the bylaw including golf courses, naturalized areas and hydro corridors. However, unique issues may exist on these properties. Health inspectors began proactive inspections this spring to determine exceptions. TEA is watching closely to ensure that the bylaw is applied in its strictest terms to these properties.

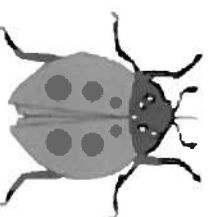
If you haven't already, please write your City Councillor and congratulate them for implementing the bylaw. It's important to tell them when they have done well.

Is spraying still happening on your street?

If you see pesticides being applied, call Toronto Health Connections to report it: (416) 338-7600. Your neighbours won't be fined but they will receive information about the bylaw and ways to take care of their lawns and gardens organically.

Go Organic!

- Looking for an organic lawn-care company? Call 1-866-824-7685 or visit: <http://www.organiclandscape.org/>
- Learn Do-it-Yourself organic lawn-care practices. Call TEA and order our Natural Lawn fact sheets or view them online at <http://www.torontoenvironment.org/healthylawn>

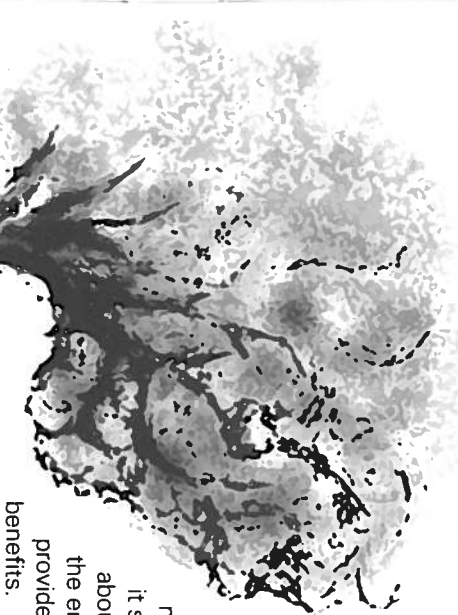


TEA Campaigner Publishes Book on Ontario Hydro

Wondering how we can keep the lights on without frying the planet? Then read "Hydro: The Decline and Fall of Ontario's Electric Empire" co-authored by TEA's smog and climate change campaigner, Keith Stewart and veteran journalist Jamie Swift. The book provides what McMaster University historian H.V. Nelles calls "...a vigorous, critical, often amusing, and above all historically authoritative account" of Hydro's populist beginnings in the early twentieth century, to the quagmire of botched privatization, pollution and looming blackouts a hundred years later. Available from a bookstore near you, or go to www.btlbooks.com.



New Bylaw Protects the Trees on your Street



The urban forest canopy – the trees on our front yards, sidewalks and parks – is a prime asset for cities wishing to avoid the concrete jungle moniker. Not only does it send a clear message about our commitment to the environment, it also provides social and economic benefits.

Hundreds of Toronto residents spoke at Community Councils and wrote letters to their councillors supporting a bylaw that would protect locally significant and mature trees growing on private property. The local Private Tree Protection Bylaw, a rarity in Canada, was championed by tree advocate and Deputy Mayor, Joe Pantalone. TEA joined Save Our Trees, a coalition of urban forest groups and experts, and held a press conference to rally public support for the bylaw.

Trees growing on private property have a higher urban forest canopy value than sidewalk trees. Sidewalk trees are more expensive to plant and are difficult to maintain due to the added physical stresses posed by small plots and concrete surroundings. Yard trees are healthier, grow larger and survive much longer.

The new bylaw will help Toronto reach its urban forest canopy goal of 35% coverage. Current coverage stands at 18% to 20%. **If you want to add to the 3 million yard and sidewalk trees already planted in Toronto, call Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) at (416) 413-9244 or visit www.leaftoronto.org**

Did you know?

- Planting trees is a cheap way to draw carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and reduce Toronto's greenhouse gas emissions. One tree absorbs 12 tonnes of carbon dioxide over its lifetime.
- Strategic tree planting (shade trees) can reduce fuel consumption. Deciduous trees planted on the south and west sides of homes can reduce air conditioning needs by up to 40%. Evergreens on the north side can break the wind and lower winter heating costs by up to 10%.
- Trees can increase property values by 30%.
- In 50 years, one tree can generate over \$30,000 of oxygen, recycle \$35,000 worth of water, and remove \$60,000 worth of air pollution.

Toxic Disclosure

(continued from page 3)

Check out these effective right-to-know programs:

The Massachusetts' Toxics Use Reduction Act, which requires facilities to track inputs and outputs of toxic substances and implement toxics use reduction plans, has resulted in a 42% decrease in use and 92% in release from 1990 levels.

<http://www.mass.gov/dep/bwp/dhmr/tura/tu-raover.htm>

<http://pubs.rsc.org/aj/gc/1999/GC990623.pdf>

New Jersey's Worker and Community Right-To-Know Act has been used by numerous citizen groups to push for tighter pollution prevention controls at many facilities.

<http://www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/rtkweb/>

Toxic use reduction leaders

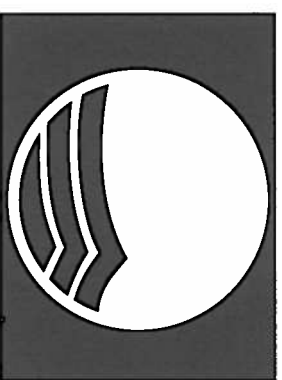
Most Toronto dry cleaners use PERC (perchloroethylene), a persistent, bio-accumulative chemical that is toxic to the environment. But customers can 'see, touch and smell the difference' at Eco-Cleaners. Toronto's first non-toxic dry cleaners. www.ecocleaners.ca

Earth Concerns Cleaning Services uses products that are environmentally-friendly and safer for workers to handle. Earth Concerns is TEA's choice! www.earthconcerns.com

A reminder of dangers posed by chemical use

The U.S.E. Hickson Products Ltd. plant in Scarborough that makes sealants and coatings, stores highly flammable chemicals onsite in a residential community and caught on fire in 2000. Many argue that better emergency preparedness plans are needed in plants located next to residential neighbourhoods.





New Blue Flags a Beacon for Toronto Beachgoers

Toronto's cleanest beaches will now be flying a Blue Flag. We're the first city in Canada to participate in the international Blue Flag program which recognizes beaches that have reached high standards in water quality and public safety.

Ontario has the highest recreational water standards in North America. These standards measure levels for bacteria like E coli and determine if the water is safe for swimming. Residents and tourists can be assured that Toronto beaches flying the Blue Flag meet these clean water standards for at least 80% of the season.

Those flags are welcome news for Torontonians who are used to hearing about pollution plaguing our beaches. While more than half our beaches will not immediately qualify for the Blue Flag, the move to clean up our beaches will bring residents, newcomers and tourists back to the lakeshore and raise expectations that all Toronto's beaches should be open every day.

To see which Toronto beaches are flying the flag this summer, visit www.blueflag.ca

Environmental Defence is the Canadian operator of the Blue Flag program.

Help fly the Blue Flag

Volunteer at your favourite city beach. A community-based effort can revitalize all our 10 beaches. Help monitor and report on the state of your community beach, educate others on how to improve beach water quality, and organize clean-ups, nature walks and other events.

Can all Toronto's beaches thrive?

Over 70% of our city is urbanized. Our concrete landscape leaves rain and snow with nowhere to go. Underground storm sewers take runoff to our rivers and lakeshore. This stormwater carries pollutants such as pet, bird and animal droppings which are potential sources of bacteria including E.coli. Roads and parking lots add heavy metals, oil, grease and toxic chemicals. This mix degrades our water and harms aquatic life. The problem is most severe in parts of the city where storm sewers are connected to sanitary sewers that carry household and business waste requiring treatment. During storms, too much runoff in the sewers can



push sewage straight out to our beaches where bacteria counts can rise above safe levels. At that point, beaches are closed.

It is expected that Blue Flags will fly on those beaches protected from sewage overflows such as Cherry Beach and Ward's Island Beach. However, flags will most likely be absent along our eastern and western shorelines, such as Marie Curtis Park Beach, Sunnyside Beach, Bluffer's Park and Rouge Beach which are exposed to sewage overflows and animal droppings.

The solution

Naturalize the urbanized. Major cities across North America are redesigning their cityscapes to allow for the natural drainage of rain and snow into the ground.

There are a number of simple actions you can take that will contribute to cleaner water and safer beaches:

- Disconnect your downspout
- Use a rain barrel
- Install a rain garden or grass swale
- Plant a tree
- Keep your lawn green, not paved
- Avoid using road salt.

There are a number of actions the City can take:

- Green city roofs
- Plant a continuous urban forest
- Change development rules to mandate natural drainage
- Green parking lots, sidewalks and other concrete spaces
- Minimize road salt use
- Avoid installing curbs and gutters
- Treat road and parking lot runoff naturally
- Develop the Waterfront to minimize water pollution and set an example for model clean water communities.

For more information on our beaches and what you can do call TEA at (416) 596-0660 or visit www.torontoenvironment.org/water

Toronto Needs a New SMOG PLAN

Toronto's air is getting worse and TEA needs your help to get a new Smog Plan for the City of Toronto in place by 2006.

Back in 1997, TEA members badgered, cajoled and convinced Toronto City Council into passing the first municipal Smog Plan in Ontario. Since then we have fought for effective action on smog at public meetings, through deputations to Council

committees, and through annual Toronto Smog Report Cards that evaluate City Council's actions on smog reduction. (For a list of actions the city has taken, the 2001 to 2004 Report Cards are available on the TEA website).

Smog: the good, the bad and the ugly

The good news is that most of the actions called for in the old Smog Plan have been followed through on. That's why TEA gave the City of Toronto a grade of B+ in the 2004 Smog Report Card – the City's highest grade to date.

The new Mayor and Council earned high marks for their \$35 million energy efficiency program, buying bio-fuels and hybrid vehicles, passing the tree bylaw, and decisive action on the Island Airport and St. Clair streetcar right-of-way.

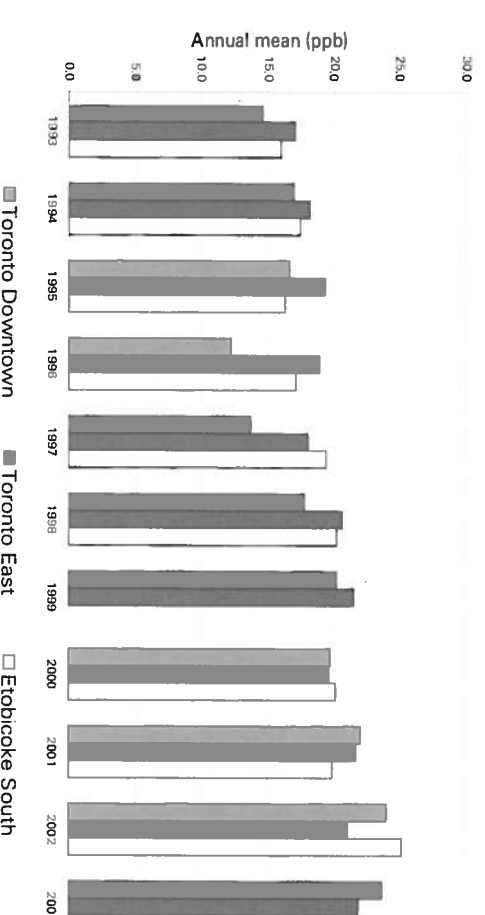
Toronto fell short of an A grade for delaying implementation of the TTC's Ridership Growth Strategy, which would attract tens of millions of new riders to transit through better service and lower fares. The City also failed to follow up on its commitment to buy green energy from renewable sources like wind and solar power.

The bad news is that Toronto's air continues to get worse. Average levels of ground level ozone – one of the principal components of smog – have been getting steadily worse in Ontario over the last 24 years. Toronto also has some of the highest fine particulate and nitrogen dioxide levels in the province.

The primary sources of smog – the burning of fossil fuels in our vehicles, factories, power plants and homes – are also the source of greenhouse gases that trap heat and are changing our climate.

The cost of inaction is enormous. Toronto Public Health estimates that air pollution causes 1,700 premature deaths a year in our city and hospitalizes another 6,000 Toronto residents every year. Toronto hospitals spend over \$128 million annually to treat the victims of air pollution, according to the Ontario Medical Association.

Ground-level Ozone Levels in Toronto 1993 – 2003



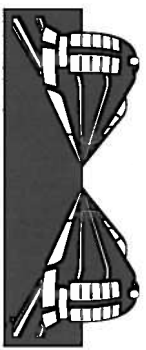
Taking action

We must make Toronto a leader in the fight against smog and climate change.

Cities are uniquely placed to influence corporate and individual behaviour by providing better public transit and through rules governing land use planning, street design, building codes, vehicle idling and parking. Municipal governments are also responsible for the direct emission of smog-causing and greenhouse gases as owners and operators of vehicle fleets, buildings, and water and sewage treatment facilities.

Our original Smog Plan was a good first step, but now we need a new Smog Plan that includes:

- Lower fares and faster, more frequent service on the TTC
- Expansion of the rapid transit network to make Toronto a Transit City
- Streets that are safe for cyclists and pedestrians
- The toughest energy efficiency rules in North America for new buildings and incentives for innovative 'green building' techniques
- Making city-owned Toronto Hydro a leader in renewable energy and conservation
- Planting more trees – and protecting existing ones – to provide shade and help filter the air
- Fixing up low-income housing so that it's more energy efficient and providing other support as necessary so that no one has to choose between eating, heating or paying the rent.



Build a Transit City

The future of the TTC is finally in the hands of Torontonians. After years of under-funding, the TTC may now have enough money to maintain and expand the transit system. Two critical transit plans – the Ridership Growth Strategy and Building a Transit City – have been endorsed by the TTC after years of pressure from TEA and other transit activists.

TEA's transit campaign resulted in real breakthroughs over the past two years. It's possible that for the first time in 15 years transit service might substantially improve. But there are serious challenges ahead of us. If we work together, we could get reduced fares, improved service and a new 200-kilometre network of high quality, high speed bus and streetcar lanes.

The decade from 1990 to 1999 was the worst decade in the TTC's history. Fares doubled, streetcar and bus services were cut by 15% and 10% respectively, and the system lost more than 40 million annual passenger trips.

TEA fought back. In 1997 we launched our Rocket Riders caucus and began campaigning against fare increases and service cuts. In our first three years we beat two planned fare increases.

In 2002 we published "Transit's Lost Decade" which detailed the problems transit riders faced. Because of that report, the TTC responded to our longstanding demand to develop a transit improvement program. Called the Ridership Growth Strategy (RGS), the TTC's plan was a sea-change in transit thinking in Toronto. It proposed a mix of fare reductions and service improvements as the best ways to attract new riders.

The problem with the RGS was finding the money to pay for it. Faced with a provincial government that had dramatically cut back its funding for public transit and a federal government that was alone among developed countries in refusing to fund public transit, City Council approved the RGS in principle but refused to put any money towards implementing it.

In order to fix this problem, TEA and hundreds of TEA volunteers made transit a big issue in the 2003 municipal election campaign. We sent out questionnaires to all candidates demanding they take action. We also held a debate

with the three leading mayoral candidates. At that debate all of them, including the eventual winner Mayor David Miller, committed to implementing the RGS.

The second big effort was to get funding from other levels of government to help the cash strapped City fund the RGS implementation. Together with the Labour Council of Toronto and York Region, and the Canadian Federation of Students, TEA launched Public Transit for the Public Good – a campaign designed to get funding from the federal and provincial governments. Close to 50,000 Torontonians joined our call for federal and provincial funding for transit. Almost immediately the federal, provincial and municipal governments announced a new joint funding program for transit on the 50th anniversary of the subway.

However, the funding was shy of what was needed to keep the transit system intact. Further announcements from the federal and provincial government came closer to filling in the huge funding gap facing the TTC. The NDP-Liberal amendments to the 2005 federal budget have brought us another step closer to implementing the RGS and Building A Transit City.

Missing is some provincial funding and buy-in, as well as a City Council approved implementation time-table. More than 20% of the members of Ontario's Provincial Parliament come from Toronto. Transit supporters need to make them commit to the RGS and Building A Transit City.

Next year, TEA will focus intensively on getting final funding and political commitments. To get involved visit www.torontoenvironment.org/transit/rocketriders

Other related links:
www.torontoenvironment.org/files/ggs.pdf
www.torontoenvironment.org/files/building_a_transit_city.pdf



ROCKETRIDERS

TEA Responds to Energy Poverty

Rising energy prices are forcing many low-income households to choose between eating, heating and paying the rent. Energy conservation is the cheapest and cleanest way to address high energy prices, but many of the up-front investments are out of reach

for the working poor, seniors on fixed incomes and those on social assistance.

That's why TEA has joined anti-poverty, affordable housing and other environmental groups to co-found the

Low-Income Energy Network (LIEN). LIEN's goal is to raise awareness of the issue and promote sustainable solutions to energy poverty. For more information, contact the TEA office or go to www.lowincomeenergy.ca

Incineration

(continued from page 1)

The second problem comes from the fact that incinerators need a constant supply of fuel. If Toronto expands recycling programs, or new regulations reduce packaging, waste volumes would fall below the built capacity of the incinerator. In other words, the incinerator would need more garbage to operate. Typical responses to this problem are to burn recyclables, import waste, or drop diversion programs.

By contrast, landfills do not have a daily capacity but a fixed lifetime capacity. This creates the opposite pressure. In order to make the landfill last as long as possible, and avoid having to develop a new facility, municipalities typically expand waste diversion programs.

Are there cleaner new types of incinerators?

Incineration proponents often claim that there are superior new technologies for burning garbage, such as gasification. However, there is no proven experience burning mixed garbage uses these technologies. There is no reliable data on emissions from garbage gasification. The closest data comes from the Canadian plastics industry which, in 2003, burned plastics from Canadian municipalities in a small test gasifier in Sherbrooke. They found air emissions of dioxin, lead, cadmium, mercury, PCBs, chlorophenols, and chlorobenzene.

Is incineration widely used?

Incineration is a declining technology. In 1990 there were 186 incinerators in the U.S. In 2002 there were 112. The U.S. Department of Energy surveyed

incinerator use globally in 1997 and found that its use was falling in Europe and Japan. Between 1998 and 2002, 500 incinerators in Japan (about 1/3 of the total) were shut. In 2002, a select committee of the U.K. House of Commons studying waste argued that there would be no significant role for incinerators in the U.K. Public opposition to incinerators in Bavaria led to a petition signed by 1 million people. Greece has banned incinerators and Turkey is phasing them out. Incinerators are banned in the Philippines. The State of Sao Paulo, Brazil and many other South American states have banned incineration, and four U.S. states have laws that effectively ban their use.

Will Toronto also burn sewage sludge?

The City is also considering building new incinerators at the Ashbridges Bay Main Treatment Plant to burn sewage sludge, waste left over after treating wastewater from homes, businesses and industry. Located in the Portlands, this proposal took the community by surprise. Residents spent the last decade successfully campaigning to close the former incinerators at the plant, once referred to as the worst dioxin emitter in the Great Lakes Basin. A recent health study in the South Riverdale and Beaches communities

concluded that pollutants in the local environment may have contributed to poor health in the area, specifically higher rates of circulatory deaths and illness in South Riverdale and hospitalization in the Beaches, than comparable neighbourhoods in Toronto.

Although income and socio-economic factors are known to play a major role in determining health, the City is asking the province to change the way it licenses industrial facilities

by recommending that the cumulative impacts of emissions on nearby residential areas be taken into consideration before approvals are granted to a new or modified facility.

New incinerators would likely pollute less, however, similar 'modern' sewage incinerators operating in other cities show widely differing releases of mercury, cadmium, arsenic, and other heavy metals and toxic chemicals.

Read the health studies online at: www.city.toronto.on.ca/legdocs/2005/committees/hl/h1050509/f1009.pdf

Happy Birthday to the Kyoto Protocol

After a five year-long grassroots struggle that led to Canada ratifying the Kyoto Protocol in 2002, this international treaty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions finally came into legal force on February 15, 2005. Thanks to all TEA members for helping make this small but important first step on the path to stopping climate change. To find out more on how you can do your bit, go to the One Tonne Challenge section of TEA's website.



TEA members and friends celebrate the Kyoto Protocol coming into legal force on February 15, 2005.

What TEA Members are Saying

Thank you to the hundreds of TEA members who filled out our survey! It was terrific and rewarding to hear why you have chosen TEA as an organization to support and collaborate with to improve Toronto's environment and our city.

It's great to hear that you find *TEA Leaves* interesting, helpful and relevant, along with information we deliver through *Council Watch* (our monthly e-bulletin) and our website. It is even better that many of you told us you use this information to influence local decisions that affect our environment, by talking to your neighbours and City councillor. Most importantly, you shared your ideas about how TEA can better engage you on local issues.

What you can look forward to...

New online action centre

Titled *Act Locally*, this addition to our website will help you stay up-to-date on hot environmental topics being debated at City Hall. It will also contain information that is printable and suitable for use as handouts in the community. A tool kit will provide residents with tips on advocating for change, including talking to policy-makers and the media. Look for it this fall!

A shorter version of *Council Watch* will continue to be delivered free to subscribers each month with members having the option to sign up for more timely action alerts on specific topics of their choice. Your action alert will give you more notice than before for making phone calls, writing letters and talking to family, friends and colleagues.

More invitations

TEA special events will be highlighted on our homepage and advertised through *Council Watch* and our action alerts. Members will also receive invitations to our Annual General Meeting and yearly comedy-show, Ecobunk.

New members' page

This fall, also watch for our new *Members' Corner* on our website. Find out what other members are doing to green Toronto. We will also include information on TEA's finances and updates on new members services and donation programs.

Feedback from our 8,000 strong membership is invaluable. No need to wait until we ask, please contact TEA any time!

Thanks again and hope to see you at a TEA event in the near future.



Shelley Petrie
Executive Director



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Toxics Campaigner: **Katrina Miller**
Canvass & Outreach: **Harry Pitfold**

Why TEA is an environmental action group, not a charity

Registered charitable status gives a financial benefit to donors through a tax reduction. Since our organization cannot survive without public donations, why then is TEA not a charity?

Simply, federal regulations limit the advocacy work a charity is allowed to do, restrictions that would prevent TEA from being an effective force for environmental change in Toronto. Unrestricted public donations allow us to pursue our core mandate to promote a greener Toronto and speak out on issues that shape our local environment and take our campaigns to residents and City Hall. Your generosity has brought about a Pesticide Bylaw in Toronto, along with the Green Bin program and various city actions to reduce smog. While there is much work to be done, the City of Toronto has a solid environmental record because TEA can spend time talking to Councillors and engage residents in public policy debates. It's you that makes this happen.

How you've helped over the past year

Besides what you've already read in *TEA Leaves*, we also had success with the following issues:

- City Council encouraged the federal government to ratify the Kyoto Protocol to fight climate change.
- A majority of Councillors rejected making cuts to transit service, but we lost the vote on opposing a fare hike.
- The City's Budget Advisory Group increased Toronto's tree planting and maintenance budget.
- The City switched to buying cleaner, low-sulfur diesel fuel for its vehicles.
- An organics pick-up program is being tested in 50 apartment buildings.
- Toronto Community Housing Corporation contracted TEA to develop a Green Plan for tenant buildings and an environmental management strategy for the head office.

Get ready for...

The City of Toronto will begin developing a new Environment Plan in early 2006. Call TEA to share your ideas on how to green-up our City!

Help make Toronto green!

You can contribute to TEA's work and the environment by making a donation. Help us fight smog, clean up our beaches and rivers, stop incineration, expand the green bin program to apartment buildings and get a community right-to-know bylaw! TEA will keep you up to date on our accomplishments through **TEA LEAVES**, our E-bulletin **Council Watch**, and our publications.

TEA does not have charitable status, therefore we cannot issue you a tax-deductible receipt. **Please check your donation below.**



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Toronto Environmental Alliance



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**TEA campaigns
for real waste
diversion, like
the green bin.
We oppose dirty
"quick fixes" like
incineration.**

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