



Publications Mail Agreement No. 1702645

E-mail: tea@torontoenvironment.org

Tel: (416) 596-0660

Fax: (416) 596-0345

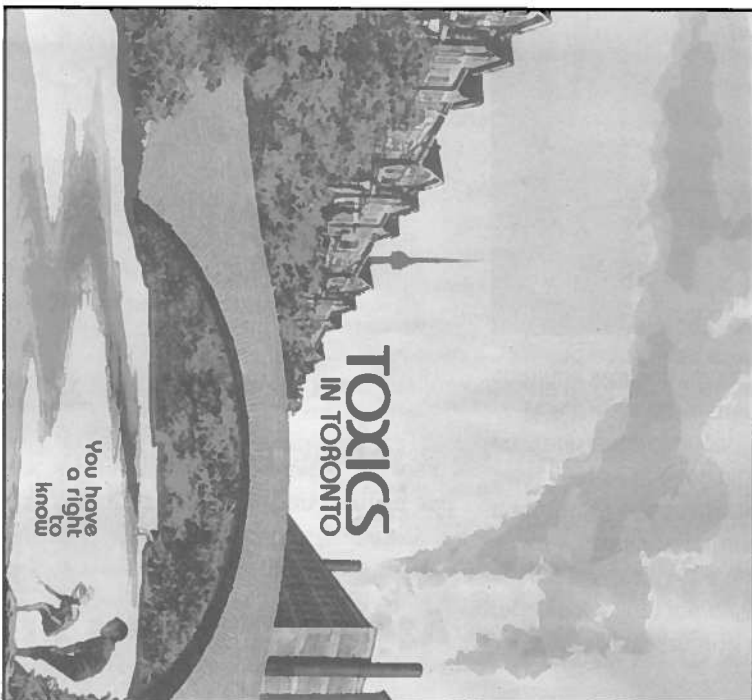
30 Duncan Street, Suite 201
Toronto, ON M5V 2C3

Toronto Environmental Alliance



tea leaves

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TORONTO ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE • ISSUE 1, VOLUME 6



INSIDE

- TEA Staff • No Incinerator! • Toronto Council • Transit Vision
- Smog Report • Toronto's Energy • Practical Energy Tips • Ecology and Art
- Bottle Return Victory • Pesticides • TEA Members

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TEA's Community Right To Know Campaign Gains Momentum

TEA's campaign for a Community Right to Know (CRTK) bylaw is a top priority because we believe that communities have a right to know about toxic chemicals affecting their workplaces and neighbourhoods. Access to information on the use, storage, and disposal of toxic chemicals is critical to understanding the health risks we all face.

In 2004, over 7,000 tonnes of toxic chemicals were released into Toronto's air, land and water. These chemical pollutants are toxic to humans – they cause cancer, damage our reproductive and respiratory systems, and disrupt hormone balance and development in children.

Right now, less than 3% of the over 40,000 polluters in Toronto have to report their toxic releases to the public, from the PERC (perchloroethylene) used at your corner dry cleaner to the chemical plants in Scarborough.

Adopting a CRTK in Toronto would set a precedent across Canada. Let's lead the way!

In many cases, these 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 But with little reason to do so, businesses are sticking to their outdated ways.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 knew what toxic substances are being used and released in their communities, they'd have the knowledge and power to make change happen.

A CRTK bylaw would mandate all companies, regardless of size, to report to the City what toxic chemicals they use, store and release. That way, the public would have easy access to this information.

The benefits of Community Right to Know

- gives the public a right to information about hazards that may affect their lives, and puts residents on an equal footing with industries that operate in their communities.



- encourages industry to clean up their acts by making them keep better track of toxic chemicals.
- improves planning for emergency situations. When accidents occur, emergency services know what they're dealing with and the community knows what the environmental and health risks are.
- helps workers improve the health and safety standards of their workplace.
- facilitates partnerships between industry and communities.

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Now, more than ever, Toronto needs TEA!

The year 2006 threw up plenty of challenges for TEA! The loss of key campaigners followed by financial struggles kept the TEA board and staff busy. But thanks to the dedicated efforts of many, we ended the year with TEA back in action and looking ahead with great passion.

The air we breathe, the city we live in – the environment remains a critical concern for the people of Toronto. And the Toronto Environmental Alliance, building on our legacy of progressive action, is once again taking up its role as an environmental champion.

Now, more than ever, Toronto needs TEA and I am pleased to report that TEA is growing stronger to meet the new challenges of the coming year.

Senior campaigners in transition

Three of our veterans have moved on: Shelley Petrie to the Greenbelt Foundation; Keith Stewart to the World Wildlife Fund; and Gord Perks was elected by the voters in Ward 14 to sit on Toronto City Council. Thanks to all three for their major contributions to TEA and Toronto over the past decade. We wish them well in their new work.

Katrina Miller took over as Interim Executive Director for five months before she left on maternity leave to welcome little Freya into the world. Katrina will be coming back into the TEA office over the coming months.

Stepping up to the plate

- Lina Cino left her job as a television producer to join TEA as our Community Right to Know campaigner.
- Dr. Franz Hartmann has taken on the energy/climate change file, building on years of effective work at City Hall and in Ottawa.



Lina Cino



Franz Hartmann



Beth Jones



Katrina Miller



Harry Pitfold

- Beth Jones has taken on transit for TEA after completing seven years as Research Manager on sustainable transport at Moving the Economy.
- Clarissa Morawski has volunteered to assist as TEA's Waste Adviser with a focus on bottle recycling.

TEA's Canvass has remained strong throughout the year under the direction of Harry Pitfold. Our six dedicated canvassers continue to carry our message door-to-door and they are performing the vital task of maintaining our core financial support.

Thanks to Bob Fugere

For the past six months, Bob Fugere has worked closely with TEA staff and the board to wrestle our finances and operations into shape. Bob deserves a huge vote of thanks for his exceptional leadership. The TEA board is especially grateful that Bob has agreed to stay on – as a volunteer – to assist with our ongoing financial development even after his contract expired.

New co-EDs

Franz Hartmann and Katrina Miller have been appointed by the TEA board as co-Executive Directors. They bring years of experience, a passionate commitment to the environment, and a strong dedication to the ongoing work of TEA.

TEA's reputation as a successful advocate for change in the community and at City Hall has carried us through this difficult year. It has also secured new financial support and the interest of seasoned campaigners.

I want to thank my colleagues on the board for rolling up their shirt sleeves and getting involved in the practical task of rebuilding Toronto's most effective environmental organization. All in all, a pretty exciting year and a good foundation for an even more successful 2007.

Michael Shappcott, Chair, TEA Board of Directors

Why TEA is Against Waste Incineration

If modern incineration were a green solution to Toronto's garbage problem, TEA would support it. However, despite improved technology for air pollution control, and catch-phrases like "thermal technology" and "waste to energy", incinerators create more toxic waste and therefore pose a threat to both our environment and our health. Claims made by proponents that incineration is "pollutionless" are backed by no independent data. Below are the main reasons why TEA opposes incineration.

Matter cannot be created or destroyed

Everything put into an incinerator is emitted somewhere. Burning garbage, even with "state-of-the-art" technology, emits hazardous pollutants. Approximately 75% of the material burned is emitted into the air. Pollutants released from incinerators include: sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, dioxin and furans, PCBs, lead, inorganic mercury, methyl mercury, cadmium, chromium and arsenic. The remaining 25% becomes ash, contaminated with heavy metals, unburned chemicals and new chemicals formed during the incineration process. These ashes go to landfill sites.

Incineration requires hazardous waste landfill sites

Incinerators with superior pollution control equipment trap some of the toxic metals in the fly ash, preventing their release into the air. Toxic compounds, including dioxin and furans are created on fly ash particles during post-combustion. Consequently, the better the air pollution control, the more toxic the ash. Because the ash is toxic, expensive hazardous landfill sites are required for disposal. All landfill sites eventually leak and the dioxins and heavy metals from the ash will leach out, contaminating ground water.

Incineration removes the incentive to recycle and reuse

Once an incinerator is built, it needs a stable supply of garbage to operate efficiently. The City of Toronto would have a contractual obligation to supply a certain tonnage of waste per year to the incinerator creating an incentive to maintain its garbage supply – or even import waste. Incineration undermines recycling and other waste diversion efforts by creating a demand for garbage. Modern incinerators are also extremely expensive; it costs two to three times as much to incinerate than it does to landfill.

Incineration is a major commitment and has the potential to discourage our government from investing in recycling, diversion methods and other more sustainable practices.

Incineration is harmful to the environment and human health

Incinerators emit a wide variety of toxic material. Dioxin and furans are created through incineration and have been identified by the World Health Organization as a human carcinogen. Dioxin also acts as an endocrine disrupter by mimicking or blocking hormones with adverse effects on reproduction, development and the immune system. The United Nations Environment Program estimates that 60% of the world's dioxin emissions are from incinerators.

They are also the world's third largest source of lead and mercury, which cause birth defects, immune system damage and nervous disorders. Cadmium, and arsenic are also released and according to the Environmental Protection Agency are probable human carcinogens and may cause liver and kidney damage. Other potentially hazardous heavy metals emitted include: chromium, selenium, and nickel. The sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides emitted from incinerators are toxic to plants and precursors to acid rain.

A dying technology

Incineration is a dying technology. In 1997 the U.S. Department of Energy surveyed global incineration use and found that it



was decreasing in Europe and Japan. In Japan between 1998 and 2002, 500 incinerators (approximately 1/3 of the total) were shut down. Greece has banned incineration and Turkey is phasing it out. In 1990 there were 186 incinerators in the U.S. and by 2002 only 112. The City of Toronto should seek a long-term solution to its waste problem and continue to invest in programs such as recycling, the green bin and other sustainable alternatives.

Solutions

- **Pre-cycling:** Ask questions about a product before purchasing it: Is it recyclable? Do I really need it? Is it environmentally friendly?
- **Increasing diversion programs:** TEA championed the successful green bin program, including in multi-dwelling homes. For 15 years we've pushed to make liquor and beer bottles returnable. As a result of these and other programs, single family dwellings now have a diversion rate of 49%. We need to keep up the effort!
- **Extended Producer Responsibility:** EPR is widely practiced in Europe. It requires all producers who manufacture goods that are not easily recycled to take them back and recycle the products themselves. As a result, manufacturing has changed, with producer-accountability built into waste management.

TORONTO'S NEW COUNCIL UP TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE?

In November 2006, Toronto elected a new council, and among the winners were seven new councillors. The composition of the new council marked a decided shift towards green issues. TEA's candidate report card shows that the Mayor and over half of the elected council received high marks on their candidate survey and/or their past environmental voting record. With TEA's own Gord Perks elected in Ward 14, we expect this City Council to pull no punches when it comes to protecting the environment.

Before the election, TEA surveyed candidates to gauge their commitment on major environmental issues facing Council during the next term. Here's an overview of those issues.

Industrial pollution and Community Right to Know

TEA's campaign for a Community Right to Know (CRTK) bylaw (see cover article) was one area of specific interest in our survey. TEA sees this campaign as the biggest environmental issue to engage City Council since the Pesticide Bylaw debate in 2003.

Our air and water quality suffer daily from industrial pollution, yet we have no right to know when our community is being polluted. The City could give us that right by adopting a CRTK bylaw to tackle pollution by mandating companies to create pollution prevention plans, and report on their use of dangerous toxics.

Council needs to deliver on its promise, made over six years ago, and make a push for this bylaw early in its new term in order to win our respect. If they do so, they will set a new precedent for pollution disclosure and prevention in Canada.

Expect the industry lobby to shake Council's resolve. Also expect TEA to stand firm in defence of the environment.

Smog

City Council must adopt the long awaited Air Quality Strategy to cut smog causing pollutants by 20% by 2012. The strategy, still being drafted, is five years late. In order to meet the 20% commitment, it's going to need some real teeth in terms of energy efficiency investment, green power purchasing and sustainable transportation.

Waste

The biggest difference City Council can make is to ensure apartment buildings are in the green bin program. Representing half of the residential waste stream, multi-unit dwellings are still far behind when it comes to diversion. Council needs to ensure that tenants have the same tools to divert their waste as those living in houses.

Transit

Last Council had a mixed record on transit (see article opposite page). We need this set of budgeters to make the TTC their top fiscal priority. Unfortunately, responses to our survey show that elected councillors still aren't willing to make sustainable transit their top budget priority. We need your help to show Council that Torontonians demand affordable, reliable, accessible transit.

Help us keep your new City Council accountable. Monitor your councillor's voting record through our Council Watch email bulletin. If you don't receive our email updates, and want to subscribe, email us at tea@torontoenvironment.org

MAYOR		Survey Grade	Incumbent Grade
Miller, David		A+	A

COUNCILLORS		Survey Grade	Incumbent Grade
1	Hall, Suzan	A+	F
2	Ford, Robert	F	F
3	Holyday, Doug	F	F
4	Lindsay Luby, Gloria	F	F
5	Milczyn, Peter	F	B
6	Grimes, Mark	F	F
7	Mammoliti, Giorgio	F	F
8	Perruzza, Anthony	F	B
9	Augimeri, Maria	F	B
10	Feldman, Michael	F	F
11	Nunziata, Frances	F	F
12	Di Giorgio, Frank	F	F
13	Saunderscook, Bill	F	A
14	Perks, Gord	A+	A
15	Moscoe, Howard	A+	A+
16	Stintz, Karen	C	C
17	Palacio, Cesar	A+	C
18	Giambrone, Adam	A+	A
19	Pantalone, Joe	A	A+
20	Vaughan, Adam	A+	A+
21	Milnevc, Joe	A+	A+
22	Walker, Michael	A+	B
23	Filion, John	D	A+
24	Shiner, David	F	F
25	Jenkins, Clifford	F	A+
26	Parker, John	F	A
27	Rae, Kyle	A	A
28	McConnell, Pam	A+	A+
29	Ootes, Case	A+	F
30	Fletcher, Paula	A+	A+
31	Davis, Janet	A	A+
32	Bussin, Sandra	A+	A+
33	Carroll, Shelly	A+	A
34	Minnan-Wong, Denizil	A+	F
35	Heaps, Adrian	F	D
36	Ashton, Brian	F	D
37	Thompson, Michael	D	D
38	De Baeremaeker, Glenn	A+	A
39	Del Grande, Mike	A	F
40	Kelly, Norman	A	F
41	Lee, Chin	C	F
42	Cho, Raymond	A+	A+
43	Ainslie, Paul	A	A
44	Moesser, Ron	A	A+

* Names in bold/italics indicate returning incumbents

Transit for the Whole City: A Vision for Toronto's Future

City gets a passing grade

For years transit riders and TEA have been pushing for cost effective improvements to Toronto's transit service. Our vision is of a "transit city" where TTC service is so reliable, affordable and fast that it's the favoured mode of transportation.

Fortunately, over the past 18 months we've begun to see some movement in this direction which is why TEA's 2006 Smog Report Card awarded the City a "B" grade for transit. Factors we considered in this assessment included:

- **Improved off-peak service on major routes:** Between 2004 and 2005, 118 service increases were made on 39 routes. On routes where counts have been taken since, the average increase in ridership has been 15%.
- **Peak service improvements on the way:** To allow for increased peak service on approximately 50 busy routes, 100 new buses have been ordered, with delivery scheduled for late 2007.
- **Projects to further increase transit capacity:** Upcoming streetcar rights-of-way on St. Clair Avenue and Fleet Street, the York University bus rapid transit route, and planned upgrades for the Scarborough RT will all increase capacity and reduce trip times.
- **Metropass improvements:** The TTC's popular new transferable seven day passes for adults and students/seniors were introduced in September 2005. Discounts on bulk purchases of passes by employers, schools, and other groups, introduced on a trial basis in 2003, were made permanent in 2005.

- **Fare hike makes transit less affordable:** Council approved fare hikes resulting in cash fares increasing by 50 cents in 2005/2006. These increases affect low-income users disproportionately.

Still waiting for full commitment

Thanks to ongoing pressure from TEA and other transit supporters, the improvements listed above were the first steps in implementation of the TTC's Ridership Growth Strategy, approved by Council in 2003, and their Building a Transit City report released in 2005. These first steps are encouraging, but much remains to be done for these plans to be fully implemented.

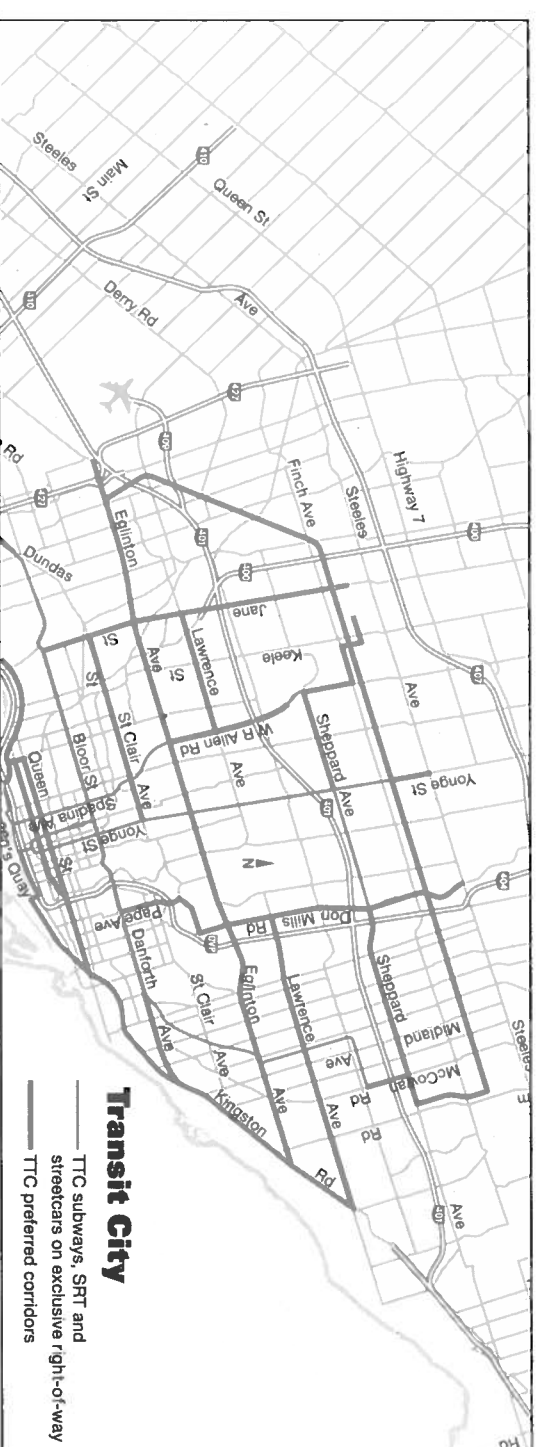
An extensive surface rapid transit network is at the core of Building a Transit City. Based on light rail and bus rapid transit, these routes are the right answer for lower density areas like North York, Etobicoke, and Scarborough because they offer levels of capacity appropriate to potential demand; ensure reliable service on congested roads; and provide cost-effective service (i.e. an entire rapid transit network could be built for the same \$2.1 billion projected for Spadina subway extension.)

With the Ridership Growth Strategy and Building a Transit City plans fully implemented, the TTC could attract up to 70 million new riders annually. Unfortunately, City Council has only approved the plans in principle: no timetable has been set and no long term funds have been allocated.

City Council needs to commit. Higher levels of government also need to buy-in which will only happen if they feel pressured. That's why TEA is working to engage the public in a "transit city" vision. In the coming months we'll be reaching out to Torontonians, and especially to residents in neighbourhoods currently underserved by transit. Our message will be: the TTC is ours, let's make it the transit service we need it to be!

To get involved, visit www.torontoenvironment.org/transit

Map courtesy of Graeme Parry c/o Spacing



SMOG REPORT

For the second year in a row, the City of Toronto got a C- in TEA's annual Smog Report Card. The report card, now in its ninth year, ranks the city on how well it has implemented its own goals to reduce smog.

The summer of 2006 was one of the best on record, with only 11 smog days in Toronto.

However, this can be attributed to Mother Nature assisting us with regular rain washing our air clean. Also, during the super-hot days of late July, the conservation efforts of Toronto's homes and businesses kept us from expected brown-outs. Yet the City government, while achieving excellence in a few areas, disappointed in others.

TEA reviewed Toronto's performance on smog in 6 key areas: smog, transit, air quality plan, walking and biking, fleets and fuel, and inter-government action. The City received high marks for greening its fleet of vehicles and pressing other levels of government for air quality action. However, the City fell behind in implementing a wide range of programs including: energy efficiency improvements, getting its own energy from green sources like wind and solar, better public transit, and making Toronto more bike and pedestrian friendly. The City has also been slow to fulfill a longstanding commitment to develop a comprehensive Air Quality Strategy.

Despite growing evidence of the negative health impacts of smog – especially on senior

citizens – the 2006 update on the Air Quality of Toronto settles for adding more pollution measuring stations. The City needs to tackle the real causes of pollution that are within their control – motor vehicle exhaust and toxic pollution.

Citizens' enthusiasm for Toronto Hydro's conservation measures demonstrates that we're ready to do something real to improve our air. But the City of Toronto needs a vision and real leadership to take on these key challenges.

The 2006 smog report card recommendations:

- **Smog:** The Council needs to dig deeper into the major causes of smog production and engage citizens and businesses more actively in the campaign.
- **Energy:** Drawing upon citizens' positive response in 2006 to Toronto Hydro's peaksaver program, City Council need to actively to implement its own Energy Plan.
- **Transit:** Continue building surface rapid transit throughout the City with its own right-of-way.
- **Air Quality:** Move beyond measuring smog. It's time to start taking action to improve the City's air.
- **Walking and Biking:** Establish a budget to implement the Pedestrian Charter.
- **Fleets and Fuel:** Keep up the good work with a renewed Green Fleet Transition Program.

The full Smog Report Card is available at:

www.torontoenvironment.org/files/TEASmogReport2006.pdf

Toronto's got the Energy for Change

It's taken over a decade, but Toronto is now moving toward tackling the root cause of smog and climate change. Torontonians are lowering their electricity use through conservation, and they're supporting groups like TEA as we push for more conservation and green power at City Hall and Queen's Park.

Hits

- On the hottest day in the summer of 2006, Toronto Hydro customers reduced their one-day peak usage by 5 megawatts while the rest of the province increased its usage by 845 megawatts! This happened thanks to Toronto Hydro's aggressive conservation campaigns such as Peaksaver AC and PowerWISE.

- In late September, Toronto Hydro and the City of Toronto each committed to further reduce electricity usage by 90 MW by 2010.

- Toronto leads the province in electricity conservation. While Toronto uses 20% of electricity generated in Ontario, Torontonians were responsible for 40% of the conservation since 2004.

- The City of Toronto will be developing an Energy Plan over the next year. Conservation will play a key role in the plan.

Misses

- In Spring 2006, the Ontario Government announced it would proceed with building a large natural gas power plant in the City's Portlands district. This decision ignored a report co-authored by TEA and supported by the City of Toronto that showed how a combination of aggressive energy conservation and a much smaller power plant could meet the energy demands of the City.
- A summer 2006 report by the Ontario Medical Association notes that over 1,500 Torontonians die prematurely every year because of smog. The report notes that smog is especially deadly for those over 65.

- The Ontario Government decided to invest more than \$40 billion in refurbishing old nuclear reactors and building new ones. The McGuinty government is poised to once again divert precious Ontario tax dollars to toxic and expensive nuclear power at the expense of affordable conservation and renewable power.

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Two things you can do to tackle climate change and smog

TEA will continue fighting on behalf of all Torontonians for clean air and action on climate change. But we need your help. Here's what you can do:

1. Write your Member of Provincial Parliament. Tell them you're against tax dollars being invested in polluting nuclear power and that you want the \$40 billion to go towards energy conservation and green power.
2. Get involved in the City of Toronto's Energy Plan. Call **416-392-1500** to find out how you can help guide the city towards conservation.

Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

PRACTICAL ENERGY-SAVING TIPS

To use energy wisely, here are some simple tips that can help you save energy, money and the environment.

Space heating and cooling

- limit the overuse of air conditioning or heating in your home
- keep your home at 26°C in the summer and down to 20°C in the winter
- programmable thermostats are a great way to reduce your energy consumption at night, or when you're not around
- regularly clean and replace filters in furnaces and air conditioners
- close your blinds and drapes during the day in the summer to keep heat out
- use ceiling and/or regular fans as an alternative to air conditioning

Water

- turn down your hot water heater
- turn off the water heater when you're on vacation
- install a low-flow showerhead that will allow you to shower for the same length of time while using less water
- check for leaking appliances, plumbing fixtures, toilets, faucets and pipes
- consider a solar hot water heater

Lighting

- replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescents
- dimmer switches can make the use of incandescent bulbs more efficient
- use motion sensor halogen lights for outdoor security

Appliances

- turn off electrical appliances when not in use (lights, computer monitors, etc.)
- do laundry at night, use cold water, air dry your clothes
- set refrigerator temperatures only for as cold as you need. Defrost freezers regularly to keep them working their best
- use an electric kettle to boil water – it's more energy efficient than using the stove. Generally, try and use smaller appliances than larger ones (toaster oven vs. oven)

Water

- turn down your hot water heater
- turn off the water heater when you're on vacation
- install a low-flow showerhead that will allow you to shower for the same length of time while using less water
- check for leaking appliances, plumbing fixtures, toilets, faucets and pipes
- consider a solar hot water heater

Smart choices

Support the implementation of renewable energy sources (wind, water, sunlight, heat from the ground or gas from organic waste). If you're a homeowner you can use 100% green power www.ourpower.ca/ and www.bullfrogpower.com/

For practical, money-saving tips, tenants can visit www.ontario tenants.ca/apartment_living/electricitysavings.phtml

Other great sites to visit:

- Powerwise: www.powerwise.ca/
- GreenOntario: www.greenontario.org
- WeConserve: www.weconserve.ca/
- Minister of Energy Conservation Tips: www.energy.gov.on.ca/english/pdf/conservation/Conservation%20Tips%20Brochure.pdf
- Smartliving: www.smartliving.ca/
- Federal Government, Office of Energy Efficiency: www.cee.nrcan.gc.ca/

Contact your elected officials. Let them know that energy efficiency is important to you. Ask them what they're doing to promote conservation and green power.

Ecology and Art

Although many things have changed at TEA over the past 12 years, one of the constants has been our bookkeeper, Elaine Whittaker. Elaine has weathered every storm and stood behind us in all our victories.

She has faithfully managed the practical and financial affairs of our non-profit group and worked with various executive directors and staff members to provide ongoing insight and experience. As well as being an enthusiastic environmentalist and dedicated TEA supporter, Elaine is also an accomplished visual artist. Last July, she mounted "Dreadful Visitation" at the Rod Hood Gallery on the thorns of microbes, disease and the environment. The show was critically acclaimed.

Over a year ago, Elaine combined her roles as environmentalist and artist to spearhead a very successful TEA event titled "Lakeside: Art looks at Toronto Beaches". She co-curated and coordinated 13 artists for the exhibit at Gallery 1313 on the theme of Toronto's waterfront and beaches. The show coincided with Toronto receiving four Blue Flag designations, a world class ranking for clean beaches. The show was very well attended



and received several excellent reviews. The exhibit was an invitation to discover some of Toronto's often neglected public beaches and to lobby politicians for an even cleaner lakeshore. One of the works featured cement water bottles reminding us that "plastic does last forever" as Elaine was quoted in the Globe & Mail.

The exhibit strongly evoked a sense of connection with our beaches, while also pointing out the degradation caused by urbanization and pollution. The event was an invitation to tackle inadequate sewer and storm drainage systems, channel run-off water into green spaces, and to filter water with trees, grass and wet lands. The exhibit successfully reflected both the joys and anxieties of our waterfront with insight, humour and poignancy. Our greatest resource at TEA is people. We celebrate the enthusiasm, ideas, interests, and dedication of so many TEA members who have contributed to our successes over the years. Elaine Whittaker is certainly one of those people.

Victory for Deposit Return!

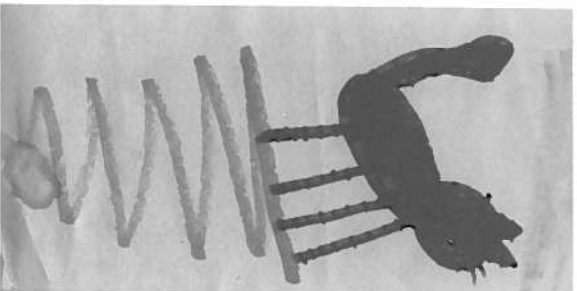
As of February 2007, all LCBO containers will be subject to a deposit-return system. TEA has campaigned actively for such a system since our inception, and we consider this a big victory.

Deposit-return is much more efficient than recycling. The Beer Store recovers about 98% of its packaging using such a system – far higher than the rates of recovery through the Blue Box. Furthermore, bottles recovered at the Beer Store are reused an average 11 times each which is much more environmentally sound and energy efficient than recycling.

As of December 2006, the plan is for Ontarians to return their LCBO bottles to Beer Stores where they will get their deposit refund. It's not a perfect system, but the McGuire government deserves credit for finally taking action on this issue.

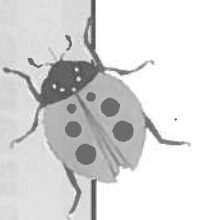
Here are some great activities for kids!

- **Government of Canada, Office of Energy Efficiency, Games for Kids:** www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca/calendarclub/games/fun-games.cfm?attr=0
- **Alliant Energy Kids' Page:** Make a solar oven, a wind turbine, an anemometer and more! www.powerhousekids.com/stellent2/groups/public/documents/pub/phk_fg_001535.ncsp
- **U.S. Energy Information Administration, Energy Kids' Page:** A great links page of facts, fun and games, and classroom activities. www.eia.doe.gov/kids/onlineresources.html



Pesticide Bylaw Enforcement

The Pesticide Bylaw for outdoor greenspace has been enforced now for over a year, and the City has fined at least one company for breaking the law. Very few signs "Poison – Pesticide in Use" are evident now in Toronto. In some cases these signs represent a legal use under the bylaw. Spraying chemical pesticides is permitted for certain infestations. Signs are also placed on lawns when exempt or organic pesticides, such as horticultural vinegar, are used. Occasionally there are still illegal pesticide applications. If you suspect illegal use or have questions about pesticides applied in your neighborhood, call Toronto Public Health (416-338-7600). They will clarify if the use is legal and investigate any alleged non-compliance. All you need is the date and location of the pesticide use and any information on the back of the sign – if there is one. If a professional company applies pesticides and does not put up a sign, they could be breaking provincial law as well as the city bylaw. If you need more information contact TEA or Public Health.



TEA's Community Right to Know Campaign

... continued from page 1

Toronto is falling behind

Some cities and states in the U.S. have adopted laws to give residents a greater right to know, allowing them to improve community safety and reduce the use and release of toxic chemicals.

- New York City's Community Right to Know law requires over 6,000 polluters, from dry cleaners to chemical factories, to disclose onsite inventory of toxic substances.
- Eugene, Oregon passed a Toxics Right to Know Charter Amendment requiring companies to publicly account for the fate of all toxic chemicals coming into, being used or produced, and leaving their facilities.
- Massachusetts (Toxic Use Reduction Act) and New Jersey (Worker and Community Right to Know Act) require public accounting similar to Eugene's and also require facilities to develop pollution prevention plans to reduce their use and release of toxic chemicals.

What Toronto is doing

City Council has, in principle, committed to adopting a CRTK bylaw that empowers residents to know the location, source and health effects of toxics in their community. In 2006, staff at Toronto Public Health initiated a CRTK pilot project at a local print shop. They also started a consultation process with key stakeholders and will be reporting their findings

CRTK Related Links

- Lists the industries reporting toxic releases in your neighbourhoods through Canada's National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI): www.pollutionwatch.org
- Lists the health hazards of each chemical: www.scorecard.org/chemical-profiles
- Comprehensive consumer product guide of toxic and non-toxic household items: www.lesstoxicguide.ca

in early 2007. By the end of 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. 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.

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.

Get involved!

Call us for a CRTK community workshop
Join TEA's Residents for Safer Communities
volunteer group

Stay informed by joining our CRTK Action List
Order your free "Toxics in Toronto" map and CRTK
Citizen's Guide

Start a Good Neighbour Campaign –
We can help you.

- Reports on toxic body burdens measured in Canadians: www.environmentaldefence.ca/toxication
- For more information on what you can do, contact Lina Cincio: 416-596-0660 or lina@torontoenvironment.org

To view reported releases in your neighbourhood see TEA's "Toxics in Toronto" map at: www.torontoenvironment.org/toxics

SUPPORT THE TORONTO ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE

TEA campaigns locally to find solutions to Toronto's urban environmental problems. Our mission is to promote a greener Toronto. We work with concerned individuals, community groups, professionals and workers to encourage people to get involved in local issues.

Formed in 1988, we speak on issues that shape our local environment and provide an activist voice on City issues. Our vision of a healthy community is based on equity, access, safety and a clean environment.

TEA has four major campaign areas: Smog and Climate Change, Public Transit, Toxics and Urban Pesticides and Waste Reduction. We undertake research, education and action to get real reforms in these areas on a local level.

We have a membership base of thousands who donate every year. These unrestricted public donations allow us to pursue our core mandate to promote a greener Toronto. We spend time talking to City councillors and engage residents in public policy debates.

Toronto: A centre for environmental change in Canada

Cities consume – be it fuel, water, natural resources or greenspace. Our ecological footprint extracts an enormous toll on the planet. The resulting smog, heat island effect, land and water contamination points to cities being unhealthy places to live and work. Given that 80% of Canadians now make their home in cities, environmentally-responsible changes in consumption and disposal practices will significantly affect Canada's environmental record.

Toronto is the country's largest city. That means actions taken here can set standards not just in Canada, but for cities around the world. A greener Toronto could potentially have a huge impact on the global environment.

TEA encourages environmental responsibility at the municipal level by investigating innovative, local solutions and encouraging cities to become advocates for the environment. No other environmental group tackles our four issues at the City level.

While we have always focussed on what Toronto can do to improve its environment, TEA also looks at ways higher levels of government can cooperate and assist Toronto (along with other cities) in reaching their goals.

Become a Deep Green Donor!

The TEA Canvass has connected us with a solid base of support in the community – well over 15,000 donors. Still, there's always the need to build on existing support to remain successful. We're hoping to find 30 "Deep Green Donors" who will contribute from \$1000 – \$10,000 to fund future successes.

Have a TEA Party!

Another great way to support us would be to throw a "TEA Party" for your neighbourhood. Invite your friends, neighbours and family to come over and hear about our exciting local work. TEA will provide speakers, including senior campaign staff and board members to help host your event and keep the discussion lively. Let your community know that together you can contribute to TEA's on-going success.

Contact us today!



KEEP IN TOUCH

30 Duncan Street
Suite 201

Toronto, ON

M5V 2C3

Phone: (416) 596-0660

Fax: (416) 596-0345

e-mail: tea@torontoenvironment.org

www.torontoenvironment.org

tea.leaves

is produced by the

Toronto Environmental Alliance

If you have any announcements, comments, or would like to submit an article, please contact us.

Design & Layout: **Suzanne Rodenkirchsen**

Logo & Masthead Design: **Shauna Rae**

Editor: **Anne Langdon**

Photos: **TEA Staff & Friends of TEA**

STAFF AT TEA

Co-Executive Director, Senior Campaigner:

Katrina Miller

Co-Executive Director, Energy Campaigner:

Franz Hartmann

Production Coordinator:

Harry Pitford

Waste Reduction Policy:

Clarissa Morawski

Toxics Campaign Coordinator:

Lina Cino

Transit Campaign:

Beth Jones

and the **TEA Canvass team!**

"TEA would like to give special thanks to student interns from University of Toronto nursing program. Over the last year, these interns have provided much of the supporting research and writing behind our new Community Right to Know Campaign, as well as helping out on Smog, Waste and Elect Environment projects. They are Sara Cohen, Tod Heuter, Carrie Plaskett and Melissa Moyrihan. We would also belatedly thank the many nursing interns from previous years. TEA couldn't do it all without you!"

Why TEA is not a Charity

TEA is asked all the time why we aren't a registered charity. In the minds of many people, charitable status confers legitimacy on a group – implying fiscal responsibility, good management and accountability. Additionally, registered charitable status provides tax benefits to donors through deductions.

Given these positive associations, why is TEA not a charity?

TEA holds fiscal responsibility, good management and accountability to be important values. As an organization that accomplishes so much in our city, TEA is often mistaken for a large group with high overhead. The reality is that TEA has a significantly lower overhead than other groups working on similar issues. Our staff work long hours to make our campaigns a success. We spend your contributions on action rather than bells and whistles which reflects our commitment to delivering the most effective environmental campaigns we can based on your support.

Money given to TEA is used to maximize its impact with a focus on getting real environmental reforms in our city. We are accountable to our members through our campaigns and advocacy work, and through our Annual General Meeting.

The reason we don't have charitable status is that federal regulations limit the political work, activism and advocacy a charity can do. These restrictions would prevent TEA from being an effective force for environmental change. Like Greenpeace, the Council of Canadians and other respected non-profits, we have chosen to keep all avenues open for us in our drive for environmental change.

TEA thanks all its members for their support, and promises to continue working for real environmental change.



Photo: Top Drawer Creative Inc.

TEA would like to thank *Top Drawer Creative* for their generous contribution to our local environmental work.

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.**



- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$300 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 | <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly _____ |
- (requires credit card or void cheque)

Name _____ Address _____

City & Province _____ Postal Code _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____ Area of Interest _____

Visa/MasterCard # _____ Expiry Date _____

Please mail your cheque to: TEA, 30 Duncan Street, Suite 201, Toronto, ON M5V 2C3 tel. (416) 596-0660

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT