

Kawartha World Issues Centre

Spring Newsletter 2006

Spring Musings ~ Julie Cosgrove, Coordinator

I am sitting just outside the ERS/KWIC Resource Centre in a mini-ecological wonderland, attempting to jot down a few words so I can get this newsletter to the printer. But the ideas come lazily in the sultry heat of this unseasonably hot day; the honeysuckle beckons me to taste their sweetness and remember a childhood spent roaming fields and forests. Winter now seems a past lifetime barely recalled and the magic of spring has erupted suddenly into summer splendour.

In this delicious lethargy, a conversation abouthmm, let's say... climate change, the Harper government and Canada's 'commitment' to Kyoto, or the unknown risks of the unlabeled genetically modified food that is stealthily filling our local grocery store shelves disguised as soy oil, for example...seems undesirable and impossible in 300 words or less.

However, *Spring* and *food* - fresh, crisp, local produce are synonymous for some us food lovers ~ and the Peterborough area is a rich resource of seasonal organic and locally sourced vegetables and fruit, as well as grains and meat.

The Farmer's Market is back in full outdoor swing on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. The YWCA offers Fresh Produce and Food Boxes, and contacts for community garden plots so you can grow your own food! Just call 743-3526.

The Peterborough Gleaning project is also in operation. Local farmers invite community members to harvest produce fresh from the soil! To put your name on a list, call 749-9977.

And of course, there is Ecology Park ~ a one stop spot for all your gardening needs, and a beautiful space to spend a few hours.

Enjoy and have a wonderful summer!

Sustainable Trent Project

Since the fall of 2005, KWIC has hosted the Trent Sustainable Campus Project.



On April 6th Sustainable Trent held an Open House at KWIC. Following good conversation and snacks, a few participants happily posed in front of the Sustainable Trent sign.

See page 4 for more ~

KWIC's Mandate:

KWIC is a community-based, non-profit, charitable global education and resource centre, serving the Peterborough and surrounding communities.

KWIC promotes dialogue and understanding of world issues to enable people to engage in positive social and environmental change.

Board of Directors:

Hermione Rivison – Chair
Rick Lambert, Treasurer
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Sheila Nabigon-Howlett
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KWIC Office will be closed
June 22nd, 2006 to August
28th, 2006.

*A Sensational Summer
to Everyone!*

Check out KWIC's community calendar at www.trentu.ca/kwic and click on the revolving globe. Submit your community events to kwic@trentu.ca.

Global Youth Day 2006

Youth and the Fights Against HIV/AIDS



Over 100 area youth participated in Peterborough's 3rd annual Global Youth Day conference on April 28, 2006. This day-long event brought youth together to learn about global issues, develop new skills, and to connect with other youth who are making a difference locally and globally. Following keynote speakers and a variety of workshops, participants moved to Cinema 379 to attend free film screenings, which were also open to the public.



This year's theme was Youth and the Fight Against HIV/AIDS. Peterborough AIDS Resource Network provided the keynote introduction *HIV/AIDS: The Global Pandemic and the Canadian Reality* and the Youth Speakers Bureau of Positive Youth Outreach in Toronto offered a perspective on *Living as a Youth with HIV/AIDS*. C.A.R.E. Canada focused on *Engaging Youth in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS*. Youth also participated in skill and information-based workshops.

Peterborough's Global Youth Day conference fits under the umbrella of Global Youth Service Days (GYSD), an international celebration which seeks to mobilize youth to identify and address the needs of their community through service; to recruit the next

generation of volunteers; and to celebrate the role of youth as community leaders by highlighting the contributions youth make year-round. It is the world's largest youth-led volunteering event, with millions of people in over 117 countries taking part!



In concert with our local Global Youth Day, the *AIDS: Picture Change* exhibit, as shown at the recent G-8 Summit, was featured at Cinema 379 through-out the weekend. The exhibit documents the efforts of people fighting back against HIV/AIDS in Africa and Asia, with a focus on stories that embody day-to-day heroism – the stories that all too often go untold.



KWIC would like to thank the Global Youth Day Working Group and volunteers, the City of Peterborough, and the many downtown local sponsors who made this event possible.

Visit www.trentu.ca/kwic for more details and to see who sponsored Global Youth Day 2006! If you would like to be involved on next year's organizing committee, please contact KWIC!

Peterborough

Meeting:

Canada's Military Role in Afghanistan



On April 7th approximately seventy people gathered at the Peterborough Public Library to discuss Canada's Military Role in Afghanistan. Speakers included Joyce Barrett from Kawartha Ploughshares, Ernie Regehr, senior policy advisor for Project Ploughshares and Hassan Gardezi from Kawartha World Issues Centre. Following a lively discussion, a facilitated activity led by Linda Slavin indicated that the majority of local participants believed that Canada should not renew its military commitment to Afghanistan in February 2007, and that Canada should define our present role as providing security not fighting insurgency. Since the Peterborough meeting, the Canadian parliament has voted to extend Canada's presence in Afghanistan for two more years. It was noted also that the Prime Minister of Canada presently does not require a referendum to engage Canada in war. According to Global & Mail Updates (May 17, 06), Canada's role in Afghanistan has cost \$4.1 billion since September 11, 2001 – versus \$214 million devoted by Canada to United Nations peacekeeping missions.

Canadian Index of Wellbeing: Measuring What Matters ~ Sheila Howlett

To celebrate **International Development Week 2006**, activist and film maker, Pamela Adamson came to Peterborough to introduce her film, *Who's Counting? Marilyn Waring on Sex, Lies & Global Economics*. In the film, Waring discusses the development of Time Use calculations and how this is integral to a healthy economy. In the decade since the film was created, the concept of time use calculations is being applied innovatively in Canada.

The Canadian Index of Wellbeing (CIW) is being developed as a tool to measure more honestly changes in our human, social, economic and natural wealth through a new index that can best capture the full range of factors that determine wellbeing.

The problem has always been how and what we measure. Industrial societies have come to regard the gross domestic product as the major indicator of social progress, which it is not. The GDP is a purely economic statistic. It simply tallies up the value of all goods and

services that are exchanged for money. House fires, automobile production, crime, food harvests, war, lumber sales, pollution, the plumber's bill, tobacco smoking - good and bad alike, they all contribute to a rising GDP.

On the other side of the ledger, the things that truly make us happy - good health, a clean environment, a caring community, leisure time and stable families, living equitably in a safe world - literally count for nothing in the GDP.

Much of the work on CIW is centred in Atlantic Canada through the Genuine Progress Index Institute, in collaboration with universities, Statistics Canada and Environment Canada. Funded by Toronto's Atkinson Foundation, about 20 such research teams have formed a national working group. A report is due this year.

Roy Romanow, chair of the CIW working group, notes that of the *12 determinants of health* identified by Health Canada, nine are social factors such as income and social status, the physical environment, social support networks, education and working conditions. Improve any of these, and you will improve health as well.

The promotion of the CIW will shine a spotlight on how strategic allocation of economic resources 'upstream' will reduce the need for expensive health care and social services 'downstream'.

As well as the usual categories the CIW will include: **Time Allocation** (Balance between paid and unpaid work, free time, and the stress of overload); **Ecosystem Health**; **Community Vitality** (Safe communities, cohesion, equity, diversity, identity, culture, arts and recreation, and inclusion of all communities in our vision for a better world.); and **Civic Engagement**.

The first International Conference on Gross National Happiness was held in Bhutan. (CIW likes to quote the King of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, who declared 30 years ago that "gross national happiness is more important than gross national product.") The second conference was held in Nova Scotia last year. Perhaps Peterborough, Ontario could host a future Happiness conference?

Who's Counting can be borrowed from KWIC's free lending video library, located at Trent University.

Sustainable Trent cont'd.

The Sustainable Trent Project (STP) is part of a Canadian campus network created to address the broader issues of sustainability on campuses. The goal of Sustainable Trent is to benchmark where the institution is in terms of sustainability and then to develop action plans to address certain areas.

Sustainable Trent is encouraging Trent students to take the **Graduation Pledge** at the June Convocation:

"I pledge to explore and take into account the social and environmental consequences of my job I consider and try to improve these aspects of any organization for which I work." For more information, visit www.graduationpledge.org.

Congratulations and best wishes to all KWIC's Trent student volunteers who are graduating in June. Also, many thanks to our numerous volunteers and to our part-time student staff this year: Zahra Murad, the TIP/KWIC Community Liaison and Alexis McDonald, Resource Centre Coordinator, who have embarked on new journeys.

KWIC Needs You... To Bowl the World!

Please join us for a great afternoon of bowling, laughter and prizes at KWIC's 3rd annual **Bowl The World** fundraising bowl-a-thon on Saturday, October 28th @ Lakeview Bowl in the Market Plaza, from 1-3pm.

Please find a registration and pledge sheet enclosed in this newsletter! All proceeds support KWIC's global education programs and events for the year, with a focus on environmental issues in collaboration with local groups and organizations.



Thank you to City of Peterborough, Trent University ~ Environmental & Resource Studies & Trent International Programme, and students, Speak Volumes Bookstore, KWIC members and volunteers, and the numerous local and individual sponsors and businesses that continue to support KWIC's work.

Coming KWIC Events

KWIC Open House @ KWIC - September 14th
*Bowl the World Fundraiser - October 28th
*Annual General Meeting - November 14th at the Peterborough Public Library, 7-9pm

Be sure to visit the Community Calendar for current listings of upcoming community events. If your organization would like to post local events directly to the calendar, please contact KWIC.



KWIC volunteer, Josh Grant and Resource Centre Coordinator, Alexis O'Neil enjoy closing festivities at the Seasoned Spoon ~ Trent's locally sourced and organic cooperative café. The Seasoned Spoon is open to the public and will reopen September 6th. The café is located in Champlain College above the Great Hall.