



Kawartha World Issues Centre

Spring & Summer Newsletter 2007

Climate Change: The Discussion is Heating Up! ~ Professor Chris Furgal, KWIC Board

This spring a number of key reports were released presenting the most recent information and understanding of climate change, the latest science around the issue and our understanding of the expected impacts it may cause around the world. The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, an international body of scientific experts convened by the United Nations and the World Meteorological Society, has produced its latest series of reports. They represent the Fourth Global Assessment conducted by the IPCC on the issue, with the last one being released in 2001.

“Its basic message tells us that the science on climate change is now unequivocal, and that humans are having an impact on the global climate system and thus are playing a significant role...”

The first of three reports in the series entitled ‘**The Physical Science Basis**’, focused on the **science of climate change**, and was released in Paris, France on February the 2nd. Its basic message tells us that the science on climate change is now unequivocal, and that humans are having an impact on the global climate system and thus are playing a significant role in the climate changes we see today, and that are projected for the future.

The second report, entitled ‘**Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability**’ was released in Brussels on April 6th and presents a very serious picture of the impacts that climate change is already causing today and expected to continue to cause in the future. It makes the point, that climate change is no longer an issue of the future, a ‘possibility’, ‘projected to occur several years or decades away’, but rather a reality of today. Warming appears to be occurring faster than originally projected and is creating impacts throughout the world, and in some cases on people and communities with limited ability to adapt or respond.

‘**Mitigation of Climate Change**’ will be released May 4th in Bangkok, and will speak to what can be done to reduce green house gas emissions and hopefully minimize the impacts on some of the poorest and most vulnerable populations on earth. All reports and press releases of the IPCC can be accessed at: www.ipcc.ch.

Later this fall, Natural Resources Canada and Health Canada will both be releasing their assessments of the situation in Canada and its importance for Canadians. Stay tuned for more information.

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.

Current Board of Directors:

Hermione Rivison, Chair
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For information about KWIC and to access the Community Events Calendar for local event listings, visit www.kwic.info.

KWIC
P.O. Box 895
Peterborough, ON K9J 7A2
705-748-1680 or kwic@trentu.ca

KWIC Office will be closed
June 21st to September 4th, 2007.

What Can an Ethical Person Do for a Better World?

~ Sheila Nabigon-Howlett, KWIC Director

The following briefly summarizes this KWIC board member's present personal worldview and plan of action:

To live simply that others may simply live I have to gradually scale down my consumption, while my surplus income commensurately supports progressive organizations, e.g Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Ontario Coalition for Social Justice, Suzuki Foundation, Oiko Credit (micro-loans interest free to developing countries) and of course KWIC!

To educate myself by analyzing structural causes: An Inconvenient Truth and George Monbiot's Heat for global warming, Deep Economy for the unsustainability of endless economic growth, Amnesty International and Physicians for Global Survival for human rights and confronting nuclear proliferation; very moderate doses of mainstream media and the best of alternative. Oh, there is so much education to be done...but...

To enjoy the simple cost-free pleasures of life – singing, dancing, friendships, play!

To pay close attention to my spending: Fair Trade when possible, locally grown food (the 100 mile diet); used clothing and goods which support low-income initiatives; entertainment which supports local artists; high-quality energy-efficient durables like appliances.

To walk, bike and car-pool more, drive less; air-travel bad, bring back the boats!

To lobby my politicians for the Well-Being Measurement Act, Proportional Representation, policies to reduce the rich-poor gap, full-cost accounting for industries, equitable tax systems which tax pollution, natural resource extraction and money speculation (the Tobin Tax), while lowering taxes on small business and low-income jobs.

To keep my spirits up by working with cheerful, progressive activists; and ground myself in my spiritual practice.

To cultivate the ethic of gratitude.

Great tips for local resources this summer:

Ecology Park/Peterborough Green-Up for resources, compost, plants, garden supplies and the Earth Adventures program for children ages 5-10yrs. More info at www.greenup.on.ca or call 745-3238

Peterborough Reuses www.peterboroughreuses.com features a Green Shopping Guide, Classifieds, and ReUse and Recycling Guide.

Also, check out the Wednesday (Charlotte & Water Streets) and Saturday (Lansdowne Street) Farmers Markets for fresh local produce, plants and more!



Balloons in the Air

~ Koji Tominaga, KWIC Staff

Early Earth Day 2007: On March 22nd, Trent students and the Peterborough community members found two-foot big balloons in Bata Library at Trent and in the Peterborough Public Library. But what were they for?

They were part of the student-run Early Earth Day celebration! Each balloon represented one kg of carbon dioxide, to visually represent how much carbon dioxide people emit directly or indirectly as a result of daily activities.

According to the David Suzuki Foundation, the average Canadian household emits 21 tonnes of greenhouse gas each year, and most of it is comprised of carbon dioxide--that would be more than 20,000 balloons. But this balloon display was just a part of this hands-on, popular-education event.

An **environmental tour** was a great opportunity to find out what kind of environmentally friendly practices Trent and organizations in Peterborough do. The participants visited, for example, the rooftop garden on top of the Environmental Sciences Building. **Hands on workshops** at the Public Library, titled "How to use Popular Education in Environmental Activism" and "Rags to Pads," attracted a lot of participants.

In addition to the balloon display, there were other displays on recycling and energy conservation, and an information table hosted by Sustainable Trent. Early Earth Day concluded with a free film screening of "**Who Killed the Electric Car?**" and followed by a discussion and presentation on **public transit issues**. Many of the displays and events were so popular that they have since been shared elsewhere in Peterborough.

Special thanks to the KWIC-ERS Resource Centre Coordinator, Rachel Gurofsky, and the KWIC Climate Change Working group volunteers, who helped make this event a success. Particularly many thanks to Rachel for her patience and excellent leadership.

Youth Living Sustainably

Mary Kapron, TIP/KWIC Community Liaison

Sunny April 20th proved to be the perfect day for KWIC's annual spring youth conference, **Global Youth Day**.

Hostesses, Jess McQuaig and Sophie O'Manique opened the conference with energy and enthusiasm that carried throughout the day. Sherri Ann Medema shared with us (acapella!) the song '**I Choose the Earth**'. Her beliefs that everyone can make a difference, and it is importance to treat every living thing with respect were inspiring, and relevant to this year's conference theme, **Youth Living Sustainably**. Tyler Roach then engaged us with **team building** games.

After grabbing a quick snack, everyone headed off to their first workshop. I participated in the **Eco Tourism** workshop presented by *Journey South* and enjoyed the interesting discussion about the environmental impacts of travel ~ plus we were treated to a slideshow of beautiful images from Costa Rica. At the other workshops youth learned tips for **reducing their environmental impact**, the **basics about food** and the logistics of **windmill building**.



For lunch delicious pizza from the Night Kitchen was served. Then it was time for **networking!** Many community groups were present to share information and materials about their work, and to establish post-conference connections. Chris Gooderham showed us his **coffee roasting technique**. A **chocolate making demonstration** by ChocoSol allowed youth to

ride their bicycle grinder and eat chocolate samples.

Sustainable Trent and TESS highlighted the **environmental work** of students in the community and the Trent International Program was popular with youth interested in **studying abroad**.



After lunch it was time for Christian Harvey's **amazing body percussion workshop**, and the second round of workshops.

I was lucky to participate in the **supermarket tour** with Yolanda Jones from OPIRG.

It was very interesting to learn about the tactics supermarkets use to manipulate shoppers. It was depressing too, learning about pesticides and the effect they have on your body. Remember to always wash your produce before you eat it!

Other youth made their own **zines**, learned **bicycle maintenance** and used **puppets for environmental education**.



The keynote address was given by Michael Sacco from **ChocoSol ~ Horizontal Traders and Chocolatiers**. Michael spoke about his personal experiences, and the creation and work of ChocoSol. Focusing on all aspects of the labour process

and the importance of community supported agriculture; Michael presented horizontal trading as an alternative to the fair trade model.

As the youth left Market Hall, each was filled with an abundance of new information, new friends and new contacts. Most importantly, we left feeling energized and inspired: knowing that the actions of one individual truly do have to power to make a difference.

Many thanks goes out to all our many sponsors (listed at www.kwic.info), facilitators, speakers and tablers who participated in Global Youth Day 2007, and especially to the GYD Youth Working Group for organizing such a fantastic conference.

Global Youth Day is part of Global Youth Service Days ~ the world's largest international celebration of youth volunteerism. If you would like to help organize the spring 2008 conference, please contact KWIC!

Trent Temagami Weekend at Camp Wanapitei ~ Professor Stephen Hill

Book your calendars now for Thursday, Sept. 20th to Sunday, Sept 23rd for the 35th annual Temagami Weekend.

Each fall, Trent students, staff and faculty and alumni join participants from other universities for this four day weekend at Camp Wanapitei to canoe, hike, eat good food and engage with new ideas.

The weekend's programme is designed to create dialogue across academic disciplines and across cultures and will appeal to those interested in Canadian and Indigenous studies, literature, and environmental and resource studies. The program will also be of great interest to international students studying at Canadian universities.

You will need to fill out a registration form and waiver. These forms and registration fee information can be found at <http://Wanapitei.net/trentweekend.asp>. The forms should be printed, filled out, dropped off at the KWIC office. Children are welcome!

Resource Spotlight ~

Rachel Gurofsky, KWIC/ERS Resource Centre Coordinator:



In the wake of Speak Volumes' recent closure, the Resource Centre has purchased several amazing reads. *I Am Woman* recounts Sto:loh writer Lee Maracle's personal struggles with womanhood, culture, traditional spiritual beliefs and political sovereignty.

In *Listening to the Land*, environmental activist Derrick Jensen has compiled a diverse anthology focusing on peaceful ways to live on Earth. Sherene Razack's *Race, Space, and the Law* is a collection of critical essays exposing the racial hierarchies that both emerge from and produce spatial arrangements. Finally, Afua Cooper demolishes the myth of Canada as a haven at the end of the Underground Railroad in *The Hanging of Angélique*, the story of a Portuguese-born Black woman tortured and hung after setting fire to Old Montréal. New DVD's include "Who Killed the Electric Car" and "An Inconvenient Truth". Stop by the Resource Centre to check out our many books, reports, journals, magazines, and videos, **all available for free two-week loan.**



KWIC needs you (and your friends)...to Bowl the World!
Please join us for a great afternoon of bowling, laughter and prizes
Saturday, October 13th
Lakeview Bowl in the Market Plaza, from 1-3pm.
Visit www.kwic.info or kwic@trentu.ca for registration and pledge forms. All proceeds directly support KWIC's social and environmental global education programs and events.

Did you know...?

The world spends more than \$1 trillion/year on militarism. That is \$2 million/minute or about \$200 per person /year. According to a study by the UN Development Program in 2001 (Knox and Marsden), using only 10% of this money annually would pay for the costs, for everyone in the poorer countries, of

- basic education
- water and sanitation
- basic health and nutrition
- education about birth control

The War in Iraq has cost about \$420 billion (or almost half a trillion dollars).

http://nationalpriorities.org/index.php?option=com_wrapper&Itemid=182

This is enough to accomplish all the above goals for about four years.

Professor Al Slavin, Kawartha Ploughshares, Day of Action ~ March 17th, 2007

Farewell ~ and thank you for bringing us new ways in which to see the world. We wish you all the best in your new endeavours! :

Stephanie & Garreth from Speak Volumes Bookstore; Professor Carole Roy, organizer of Peterborough's Traveling World Community Film Festival; Rabbi Jordan and Paula Baruck of The Orchard Spirituality Centre; Ricardo Tranjan, and S.K. Hussan, Trent University

KWIC gratefully accepts donations of current visual and print materials for our Global Education & Resource Centre. So, if you're ready to pass along that great book, subscription or DVD, please keep KWIC in mind!

KWIC would like to thank the City of Peterborough, Trent University, Trent International and Environmental Resource Studies Programs ~ and the numerous local businesses, community members and volunteers who generously offer us their continuing support.

KWIC Staff

September to June '07

KWIC Coordinator: Julie Cosgrove
Resource Centre: Rachel Gurofsky
Technical Assistant: Koji Tominaga
TIP-KWIC Community Liaison:
Sophia Ayala & Mary Kapron

Many thanks again to our fabulous community and Trent student volunteers who enrich KWIC with their skills, knowledge, and enthusiasm. And, congratulations to our graduating student volunteers!

Have a wonderful summer!