



ANNUAL REPORT

2009—2010

REAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FEB. 1, 2009—JAN. 31, 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2009 was a milestone in REAL's history, as we marked the 20th anniversary of our formation, And we certainly have lots to celebrate.

We are a well-respected environmental organization. We are on solid financial footing, with our revenue coming from a balanced mix of sources and we have seven skilled staff and about 50 dedicated volunteers to keep our organization functioning.

REAL contributes to the economic activity of the region, the REAL Deal Store continues to grow, and the Environment Centre is still moving forward.

And best of all we have been able to do what we set out to do in 1989: taking action on water, energy, and waste issues. This year we have continued Well Aware, ecoENERGY, Evergreen Avenue, Pitch-In Smiths Falls, waste reduction initiatives and public awareness activities, such as workshops, the newsletter and website. We also began the volunteer and storm water runoff programs.

Our challenge is to continue to recruit others to be actively engaged in our activities, keep our fundraising going in tough economic times, and edit the projects we undertake to what is

achievable and most relevant in our community today.

REAL appreciates the support of our members who are our volunteers, our donors, and our moral support for what we do. Please continue to participate in whatever capacity you can - the environment of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville needs concerned citizens like you more than ever!

Barb Hicks, President

BARB HICKS
PRESIDENT

PETER AU
PAST PRESIDENT

LARRY MANSON
VICE PRESIDENT

CAROLYN FRASER
TREASURER

KAREN SCHECTER
SECRETARY

CATHRYN DAVIDSON

CLAUDIA MOSHER

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

THE ONTARIO
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LA FONDATION
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Green 
Communities
CANADA



Cake in the Park to celebrate REAL's 20th anniversary.

New in 2009

REAL, in cooperation with the Rideau Canal Museum, received the first of two years of funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation for a **Volunteer Coordinator** to develop the Rideau Volunteers program.

REAL celebrated its **20th anniversary** in 2009 with: a media and municipal representative wine and cheese in March, birthday cupcakes and entertainment in the park in July, and a celebration local foods dinner in October. A granite stone will be placed on Evergreen Avenue as well.

Walk 'n Roll Week was organized for May by the Health Unit, Chamber of Commerce and REAL to encourage residents to walk or bike to school, work or for errands.

REAL is participating with other Green Communities members in a pilot program on **Urban Stormwater Runoff control**.

REAL was honoured to be chosen as one of the ten finalists for Earth Day Canada's Hometown Heroes award.

New developments in Ontario this year included **"Do What you Can"** for the return of hazardous materials, the **Ontario Electronic Stewardship program** for electronic waste disposal, an improved **used tire collection program** and a province wide **ban on cosmetic pesticides**.

Ongoing projects

REAL continues to develop its **REAL Deal Reuse Store**. Sales and donations are growing and we have regular clientele. Several promotions brought attention and new customers to the store. A new propane furnace was purchased by the Town of Smiths Falls in December. Thanks to a \$15,000 Ontario Trillium Foundation grant we have replaced the large store windows and have functioning utility and kitchen sinks. In the new year we will have a new customer entrance awning, new windows in the office area and safer flooring in the upper level.



The development of the **Environment Centre** hit a snag when Parks Canada announced the need to further investigate a potentially contaminated site on the property, and the presence of a species at risk, the Least bittern. However, we are confident we will eventually be able to proceed with most aspects of our plan for the three acre property. The native garden and demonstration garden are in place, and we continue to investigate the possibility of a community garden.

The **ecoENERGY** program is a continued success, with our energy auditor fully booked accommodating homeowners wanting to take advantage of the increased federal and provincial rebates before the March 2011 deadline.

We completed a third year of **Well Aware**, completing a full quota of Guided Self Assessments, several public presentations, and an Information Provider Workshop in November.

Pitch In Smiths Falls was another success, with 1100 volunteers participating. The **Evergreen Avenue** Committee maintained the pathway and native plantings at Victoria Park, and continues to replace paver lights with dedicated granite stones.

On the **climate change** front, REAL offered a solar hot water presentation in March, and a presentation by a leading ecoENERGY trainer in October, both in cooperation with the Rideau Canal Museum. Representatives attended workshops on active transportation.

Our application to Revenue Canada for **charitable status** is being reviewed. We continue to make presentations to **area municipal councils** to keep them informed and solicit support.

REAL was visible in the community through the annual Trivia Challenge, a curling bonspiel, the Art of Being Green and the Rideau Home Hardware Green Show. REAL commented on the proposed Turtle Island spillway, and considered carefully the implications of a water bottling plant in our community.

REAL **communicates details of** REAL events, environmental issues and the activities of similar organizations through our notices, newsletter, website and REAL Actions newspaper column.

Who made it happen

REAL is fortunate to have so many dedicated staff and volunteers to make this busy non-profit organization function. We sincerely appreciate everyone's contributions. Special thanks to Ken Graham, our liaison from the Town of Smiths Falls and Susan Brandum, our Environmental Projects Manager who looks after Well Aware, ecoEnergy and also oversees the REAL DEAL Store.



Presentation by Mayor Dennis Staples to Elva Corless, Peter Au and Barb Hicks at 20th Anniversary Dinner

Financial Summary Feb 1/09 to Jan31/10

REAL has structural and accounting controls to ensure that funds are appropriately allocated to projects. To this end, REAL operates through five bank accounts. REAL's fiscal year runs from February 1 of one year to January 31 of the next year. Our ability to deliver on our objectives is due to support from our members through membership fees and donations and support of fund raising activities. We acknowledge the generous contributions of our many funding partners .

General Bank Account - funds in this account are used for the administration of REAL. A Trillium grant was received in 2009 fund the Rideau Volunteers Project. Approx \$26,000 of these funds have been deferred to 2010 to allow completion of this project.

OpeningBal - \$4,575
Closing Bal - 34,836

The Rideau Environments Trust Account is a registered charity. .Donations to this account qualify for an income tax receipt. Funds are used for public education purposes such as the newsletter, Website, idle free and climate change projects as well as for the development of the Environment Centre.

Opening Bal - \$2449
Closing Bal - 2,899

Environmental Projects Account - In 2009, the projects managed through this account were Well Aware, and EcoEnergy, The major funder was Green Communities Canada.

Opening Bal. - \$ 6,531
Closing Bal. - 10,978

REAL DEAL Account - Funds in this account are used for the operation of the REAL DEAL Store. One major funder again this year was the Town of Smiths Falls. A Trillium grant of \$15,000 was received for renovations to the REAL DEAL store building. Approx \$10,000 of these funds have been deferred to 2010 to allow completion of these renovations.

Opening Bal. - \$18,957
Closing Bal. - 36,163

Evergreen Account - Funds in this account are used for the maintenance and improvement of the walkway through Victoria Park with trees and shrubs. Donations received are used for the purchase and installation of Memorial granite markers.

Opening Bal - \$ 8,308
Closing Bal. - 6,556

Funds at year end 2008 - \$40,820

Funds at year end 2009 - \$ 91,432

Net Change 2009 - \$50,612

Contact Info:

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Deal Store and Environment Centre

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REAL Deal: (613) 283-7999 [wwwREALaction.ca](http://www.REALaction.ca)