

# REAL Update



For members and friends of the Rideau Environmental Action League

February 2004

## Phones for Phunds Reminder

Our Phones for Phunds project is off to a great start, with the donation of eight boxes of used cell phones from W.J. Ford Surplus Enterprises. The Waste Reduction Committee is collecting used cell phones as a fundraising project. The phones are shipped to a company in the U.S. that refurbishes the phones and sells them in developing nations. REAL receives a few dollars for each phone collected. Parts that cannot be used are disposed of in an environmentally safe manner.

The collection blitz, which started in January, is over at the end of February. Drop boxes are located in the Canadian Tire stores in Smiths Falls, Carleton Place and Perth, as well as these other Smiths Falls locations: SFDCI, Lockwood Sight and Sound, Dawn's Closet and the REAL Reuse Centre. Any deactivated hand-held cellular phone and its accessories are accepted. Two-way radios, pagers, walkie-talkies, bag-phones or cordless home phones cannot be accepted.



You can help by donating your used cell phones and suggesting your friends to do the same. If your place of work uses cell phones, perhaps you could inquire whether they have any old phones they would be willing to donate. For more information, contact Barb at 283-9966 or [dhicks11@cogeco.ca](mailto:dhicks11@cogeco.ca).

## Reuse Centre Donates Books for Northern Communities

Some school libraries in Northern Ontario will be receiving used books collected at the Reuse Centre.



The Centre was overflowing with books when organizers learned of an initiative of the Lt. Governor of Ontario, the Hon. James K Bartleman, to collect gently used books for school libraries in First Nations communities in Northern Ontario. The OPP have agreed to use their detachments as drop-off points for books donated by the Ontario public. REAL has donated about 140 kg. of books to the project. The first book shipments will take place in February to priority communities accessible by winter ice roads. *(continued inside)*

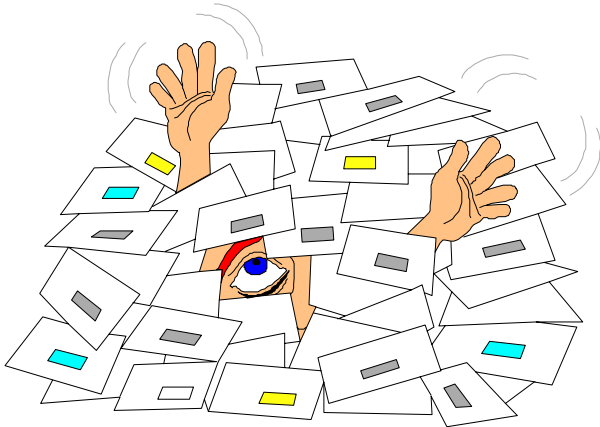
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If you are interested in donating books, contact the Eastern Regional Headquarters of the Ontario Provincial Police (on the Rideau Regional Centre site) at 284-4500 during business hours.

### ***Reducing Your Junk Mail***

Is your mail box overflowing with mail you'd rather not receive? Are you putting it all in the recycling without reading it? Here's a couple of ways of reducing that influx of paper.



To reduce addressed mail, the Canadian Marketing Association (CMA) offers a free Do Not Contact Service. The association will distribute the names of people who register for the service to their Association members and other business subscribers four times a year, who then must delete them from their mailing and phone lists. Names are maintained on the service for three years. The CMA members are happy to remove your name from their lists because they only want to present offers to consumers interested in their products and services.

The Association claims consumers will notice a reduction in addressed advertising mail and phone calls within three months. An 80% reduction in mail and telephone calls and a 50% reduction in faxes should be expected. Beware that you may put an end to some of the offers and catalogues you do like to see. And note that

this will only end advertising from CMA members, who represent 800 of the 1.4 million businesses in Canada. You will continue to receive mail and phone solicitations from many other sources. In these cases, CMA recommends that consumers write the mailer or caller directly to have their name removed from their lists.

To register for the Do Not Contact Service, complete the form at [cornerstonewebmedia.com/cma/submit.asp](http://cornerstonewebmedia.com/cma/submit.asp) or write to the Canadian Marketing Association, 1 Concorde Gate, Don Mills, Ontario M3C 3N6, specifying whether you want any or all of the following services: do not mail, do not call, or do not fax. Include any variations of names and spellings used on mailing labels addressed to you.

Unaddressed mail presents another problem. Since July 1997, Canada Post has been offering a program called "Consumer's Choice". Just put a self-produced note on your mailbox that you do not want to receive unaddressed materials. Canada Post will follow up with a sticker of their own to notify the carrier to discontinue delivery of unaddressed mail. Exemptions to this are materials from Elections Canada and provincial Chief Electoral Officers, House of Commons mailings, municipal electoral mailings and community newspapers. So far, only 2% of consumers have exercised this right, so either not many people know about it, or people like to get mail - regardless of its source!

### ***Reuse Centre 2003 Results***

Incoming: 2915 kg.  
Outgoing: 2738 kg.  
Visitors: 826



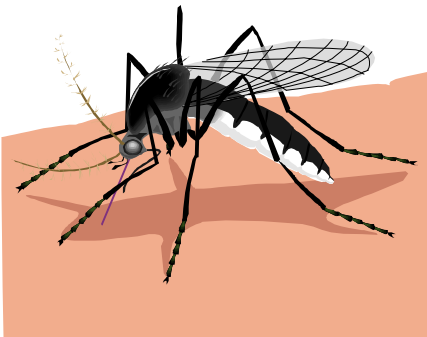
## ***Campaign Against West Nile Virus Continues***

The Leeds, Grenville, and Lanark Health Unit's WNV Advisory Committee will be repeating their 2003 program in 2004. This includes plans to:

- Larvicide 10,000 catch basins with Methoprene.(a growth regulator which is highly toxic to insects).
- Larvicide approximately 87 standing water sites with Bti (Bacillus thuringiensis, a bacterium which kills insect larvae).
- Provide weekly pre-treatment monitoring of the 87 standing water sites.
- Provide larvae monitoring of each standing water site at least every 48 hours post-treatment.
- Provide weekly larvae monitoring of 5% of catch basins post-treatment.

After questioning the selection of standing water sites, Stew Hamill joined with representatives of OMNR and Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority to prepare a decision-making tool which the larvicide company could use to determine how to deal with standing water. The Health Unit has agreed to include this decision tool in the plan for the coming year.

Thanks to Stew Hamill for representing the environmental sector at this most recent WNV Advisory Committee meeting held December 18, 2003.



## **Our Corporate Members**

REAL is very thankful for the continued financial support of our corporate members.

Best Western Colonel By Inn  
Canadian Tire, Smiths Falls  
Smiths Falls Chamber of Commerce  
Civitan Club  
Cogeco Cable Inc.

Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley  
The Garden Market  
Green Spaces Landscaping  
Healey Transportation Ltd.  
Hershey Canada Inc.

Dr. David Hicks  
Kinsmen Club  
Krown Rust Control Centre  
Lam's Garden Restaurant  
Man Ling Restaurant

Ontario East Rehabilitation  
Renewable Energy of Plum Hollow  
Rideau Regional Centre  
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority  
Rotary Club of Smiths Falls

Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 95  
Royal LePage Pauline Aunger Real Estate  
Scotia Bank  
Smiths Falls Lions Club  
Stanley Mechanics Tools

Dr. Wayne Steggle  
The Performance Group of Companies  
Tim Hortons of Smiths Falls  
Town of Smiths Falls  
Warring's Independent Grocer

## ***Great Lakes Opinion Poll***

The Ontario public recognizes that the Great Lakes are an important and valuable ecosystem resource but believes it is in trouble. These were just some of the interesting findings from Environment Canada's 2003 Great Lakes Opinion Poll Survey. The telephone survey was handled by Decima Research, and the results compared to similar surveys completed in 1993 and 1998.

- Thirty six percent of respondents picked air pollution as Canada's top environmental concern, while only 16% consider water quality or water pollution Canada's top environmental issue. Other concerns were climate change/global warming (12%), ozone layer depletion (6%) and garbage/waste management (5%). Water quality was the top environmental concern in the 1998 survey.
- Ontario residents do not believe the Great Lakes are in good condition, and increasingly hold the view that their condition is deteriorating. A total of 37% say the Great Lakes are in poor or very poor shape. Women, people who lived in the basin, and those who are environmentally active had the most negative perceptions.
- More than half of Ontario residents now express a great deal of concern about the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem. This proportion has increased significantly since 1998, but the concern is still largely for the effect of industrial effluents and toxic chemicals. The list of concerns, however, is growing to include problems such as zebra mussels, water levels and agricultural runoff, indicating a broadening awareness of the ecosystem.
- Eighty three percent of Ontario residents would like to see a boost of one third to current federal spending in order to protect and restore the Great Lakes.
- Protection of the Great Lakes continues to be given moderate priority relative to other areas of federal government spending: since 1998 it has lost significant ground to military

spending and science & technology.

- Most basin residents believe citizens can do something to help protect the great Lakes, either by limiting their waste, becoming more educated or getting actively involved in clean-up efforts.

To read the full report, e-mail Barb at [dhicks11@cogeco.a](mailto:dhicks11@cogeco.a) or the website [REALaction.ca](http://REALaction.ca) and we will send you the 29 page Adobe file.



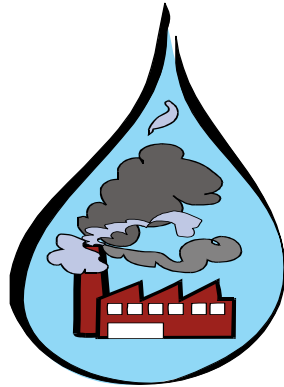
## ***Impact of New Water Legislation***

What are the implications of the three new pieces of Ontario legislation dealing with water? An address made by Carol Dillon to the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Tay Watershed (FoTW) Association gave an excellent summary of changes to the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Watershed Source Protection Act and the Nutrient Management Act. Each of these Acts has implications for the Tay Watershed, and all other Ontario watersheds, including the Rideau. Prevention of contamination of water at its source is the least costly way of ensuring a safe, sustainable water supply, and LL Green's Well Aware program is a great example of a source protection program. Dillon's full report will soon be available on our website, [REALaction.ca](http://REALaction.ca).

## ***Acid Rain Recovery Slow***

*From a story by Bob Burt, in The Record, Dec 6, 2003*

It appears that a lake's recovery from acid rain is much slower than expected. Despite a 60% reduction in industry sulphur emissions since the 1970's, acid levels in some Ontario Lakes are getting worse. Some University of Waterloo researchers have discovered that wetlands are storing the chemicals that cause acid rain, which are being flushed in the lakes later following a dry period.



About a third of Ontario lakes are showing improvement, more than half show no change, and 10 or 11 per cent are becoming more acidic. Since the sulphur accumulation in wetlands has been going on since the late 1800s, it is possible that the impact on lakes will be long term, and could get worse if hot dry summers become more common.

## ***Watch for More Well Aware Workshops***

LL Green will be continuing the popular Well Aware program throughout the spring. Four workshops will be held in Spencerville, Merrickville, Spring Valley and Perth, and more Well Aware booklets will be available. LLGreen will also be partnering with Friends of the Tay Watershed (FoTW) to offer an additional six workshops across the Tay watershed.

## ***Members Attend Volunteer Workshop***

Two REAL members, Bunny Haughton and Barb Hicks, attended an all day volunteer retention workshop on Saturday, January 17 at Lombardy Hall. The workshop, entitled "Enhancing and Rebuilding our Rural Ontario Volunteer Base", was offered by 4-H Ontario, the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies and Ontario Agri-Food Educators with the financial support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Topics covered included volunteer recruitment and retention, training, motivation, communication and team building. The 25 representatives from a variety of organizations discovered that they shared many of the same challenges in managing their volunteer base. The lessons learned and the printed resources will be very useful to REAL, as we aim to establish a Volunteer Coordinator who will maintain a list of volunteers that can be called upon to assist with our many projects.

## ***Gearing up for Pitch-In 2004***

We will soon be making plans for Pitch-In Smiths Falls, 2004. Pitch-In Canada Week is set for April 19-25, 2004. If you have any suggestions, or would like to be involved in this community litter cleanup, please contact Elva at 283-0309. We will soon be contacting the community groups approached in previous years; please give us a call if your group is not on our list. If you are part of a business that could contribute in some way, we would like to talk to you, too.



## ***Announcements***

Every Saturday, 9:30 - 12. **Reuse Centre**, end of Johnston St. Free exchange of household goods too good to throw away. Call Elva at 283-0309.

Reminder to Rideau Lakes residents using the **South Elmsley recycling depot** on Hwy. 15. New reduced **hours for 2004** are: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 :00 - 3.30, and Saturdays 9 - 1.

1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, 9 - 12. **Plastics (#2 through #7) Recycling Depot** open to Drummond-North Elmsley and Perth residents, at Town Yard, Perth.

Wed., Feb. 11, 7 pm. **Burn it Smart Workshop** at Perth Fire and Police Services, 1881 Rogers Road. Safe, efficient, less polluting use of wood stoves, furnaces and fireplaces. Sponsored by Wood Heat Organization, Inc.

Thurs., Feb. 12, 7 - 9 pm.. **Living with Renewable Energy** seminar with Bill Kemp in Perth Town Hall. Call ecoPerth at 267-1128 or see ecoPerth.on.ca.

**ecoPerth Tree Sale 2004.** Order now for May 1st pick-up. Price \$1.50 a tree or \$12.50 for a bundle of ten. Ten species available. Contact ecoPerth (see above).

**Toyota Earth Day scholarship program** for graduating high school students. Application deadline is Feb. 27, 2004. See [www.earthday.ca/scholarship](http://www.earthday.ca/scholarship) for details.

Fri., March 26, 9 - 5 at Sam Jakes Inn, Merrickville. **Conservation of Turtles in Eastern Ontario**, sponsored by Eastern Ontario Biodiversity Museum. Call 258-3415 or e-mail [admin@eobm.ca](mailto:admin@eobm.ca)

## ***Membership Rates***

Annual rates are: Individuals - \$15, Family - \$20, Partners in Future (schools) - \$15, Students - \$5, Corporate - \$50. Members are now being asked to renew their 2004 membership.

## ***Next Issue***

The next issue of the REAL Update will be in April 2004. Submissions, particularly those of a local nature or tips for environmentally friendly living, are welcome. Please send them to Barb at [dhicks11@cogeco.ca](mailto:dhicks11@cogeco.ca) by March 31 or call her at 283-9966.

## ***How to Contact REAL***

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