

Rideau Environmental Action League

Year in Review 2006

by Key Result Area

1. REAL's Capacity Built

Executive Committee

- reviewed and modified our five-year Business Plan
- established Budget
- tracked hours worked by volunteers and Board members
- organized Annual General Meeting in June and presented Environmental Awards
- initiated two new Board members
- special meeting with lawyer Linda Trantor to discuss role of Board members and other legal issues
- performed extensive overhaul of Real By-law
- special meeting of members held to approve new by-law and modify Letters Patent
- began process of applying for charitable status for the whole of REAL
- established policies for expense reimbursement, personnel and staff code of conduct
- full day work session organized in fall to break business plan into manageable tasks
- oak tree planted on Evergreen Avenue to mark the 15th anniversary of REAL in 2004/5 (*move?*)

Funding and Finance Committee

- 9th annual Central Band of the Canadian Forces concert sold out and raised \$8000
- attended an informative workshop on fundraising by Gerry Huddleston, former fundraising coordinator for the Smiths Falls and District Hospital Foundation
- had discussions with Chris Must re a possible major donor campaign
- successfully applied to JCP for position for Take it Back and Idle Free campaigns (not needed?)
- successfully applied to HRSDC for summer position environmental projects coordinator (not needed?)

Memberships

- maintained database of 75 individual, 30 corporate and 3 reciprocal members in REAL
- members of Rideau Roundtable (RR), Friends of the Tay Watershed (FoTW) and Green Communities Canada (GCC)
- REAL board members also Chair the RR, Chair the Managers Committee of GCC, and serve on Board of Friends fo the Tay Watershed (FoTW)
- represented on Steering Committee of the RVCA's Rural Clean Water Program

Attended Conferences and Workshops

- covering Your Assets full day workshop in Lanark
- Risk Management and insurance Coverage in the Voluntary Sector in Ottawa
- must be others.....

2. Municipalities have Integrated Environmental Stewardship into Their Plans

this one is really weak....

- delegations to Montague, Rideau Lakes and Drummond/North Elmsley councils to inform them of waste initiatives and solicit sustaining funding

3. Waste Reduced

The REAL DEAL Store and Environment Centre

- established the REAL DEAL Store and Environment Centre at 72 Lombard St., Smiths Falls
- hosted opening celebration February 25

- moved existing Reuse Centre materials to new location, furnished REAL DEAL, transferred REAL items previously stored at scattered locations, reorganized print materials
- set up computer system, financial and accounting procedures, working towards a bar code system
- REAL Deal General Manager, Halina Shannan, hired
- Marketing and Outreach Coordinator, Liz Brown, hired
- cottage and lake associations, realtors, contractors contacted
- Ontario Works Crew established to work in store two days a week
- other volunteers include Lanark County support services, (the other lady), the public, Katimavik youth, high school students looks for community service hours
- established procedures and pickup and delivery system
- assessed and addressed safety needs
- contracted design of new sign and logo for the centre
- native perennial garden planted and maintained at front entrance to REAL Deal
- held a very successful office furniture sale at former SFDCI which raised \$3,000 for the REAL Deal
- discussions on future development of Environment Centre
- hired Keely Maddock, a student, to organize summer environment centre activities and help in Store
- a series of Saturday workshops for the public on topics such as rain barrels, tire pressure, xxx and xxxxx
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Pitch-In Smiths Falls

- coordinated efforts of 20 community groups and 250 individuals to clean up Smiths Falls -150 bags
- organized a lunch and photo presentation for participants immediately after Saturday event

Shoreline Cleanup

- organized a diver cleanup of the Rideau between Beckwith St. Bridge and Chamber's Street as part of the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, with 25 participants

Other Waste Initiatives

- administered Rideau.Reuses.com, an online waste exchange service.
- continued to collect used cell phones to go to Phone Back Canada for recycling, and print cartridges to benefit the Canadian Diabetes Association
- made presentations on our waste reduction initiatives to nine municipalities neighbouring Smiths Falls
- continued to work towards a regional Take it Back Recyclopedica
- municipal waste options made available through website

4. Watersheds Protected

Well Aware

- Well Aware project extended by Ministry of the Environment, and REAL received subcontract from Green Communities to offer Well Aware visits in LL & G and Renfrew Counties, and two community forums in Renfrew and Westport - **60 visits completed**
- **examples of good shoreline management displayed on website**

5. Climate Change Reduced and Mitigated

Kill a Watt Meters

- facilitated rental of three Kill a Watt meters, courtesy of Renewable Energy of Plum Hollow, from the Smiths Falls Public Library

Idle Free and Tire Pressure Campaign

- continued campaign with two summer days of approaching motorists at lock crossings to educate them on the benefits of being idle free
- progress made on signage issue at locks and at public locations
- schools approached with information packages

Energy Programs

- Ross Elliot contracted to provide EnerGuide Home Energy Assessments in Lanark and North Leeds and Grenville
- coordinated efforts of local groups concerned with the Federal government's cancellation of some low income aspects of the EnerGuide program

- awarded contract by Ministry of energy to offer 8 workshops on electricity conservation and green power through Community Conservation Initiative to begin march 2007
- awarded contract for pilot low income retrofit proposal by Ontario power authority to begin February 2007

Seasonal Light Exchange Program

- accepted as partner in Hydro One's program to exchange old incandescent Christmas lights for energy efficient LED lights - 250 people recycled 900 strings of lights

Evergreen Avenue Committee

- maintained park in summer by mulching and watering
- continued to investigate means of reducing vandalism with alternatives to paver lights and video surveillance camera
- recognized volunteers with September BBQ
- planning to redo information kiosk

6. Public Educated

Public Education Committee

- wrote letter to editor cooperatively with ecoPerth, FoTW and Rideau Roundtable encouraging public to ask environmental questions of the their federal election candidates
- similar questions developed for municipal election candidates
- presented on home energy to Katimavik and the North Lanark Community Health Centre
- represented at The Art of Being Green (Lanark Village), presenting two workshops on wells and septic and ????.
- purchased several books for the Smiths Falls Public Library
- participated in SF Chocolate and Railway Festival with children's activities and recycling
- showed of "An Inconvenient Truth" in cooperation with ecoPerth and Film Night International at Port Elmsley Drive-in - 321 people attended

Communications Committee

- produced and distributed five Updates, REAL's newsletter
- began forwarding newsletter to local municipalities
- maintained and added content to website www.REALaction.ca
- maintained e-mail list to use for coming events, volunteer opportunities and news releases
- continued to supply REAL Actions column to EMC
- preliminary steps taken to creating a database
- steps taken to revamp the brochure

Letters of Concern and Endorsement

- to federal and provincial Ministers of Environment (copied to local MPs & MPPs) outlining the need for climate change policy
- others - need to check dec minutes

Networking

- presented student with award for her science fair project
- participated in Friends of the Library Trivia Challenge fundraiser in February
- participated in Climate Change Workshop held at TUC Jan. 25
- portion of raffle ticket sales from Chinese New Years celebration donated to REAL Deal
- considering ways of participating in Rideau Canals' 175th Anniversary celebrations
- receiving by-law change notifications from Town of Smiths Falls
- facilitated local notification of Ontario Doors Closed Campaign
- offer use of REAL Deal for Computers for Kids pickup point
- introduced Dr. Novakowski at FoTW annual implementation session on the Tay Watershed Plan
- attended Rideau Canal Museum season opening
- provide space at REAL Deal for Rideau Roundtable to store two voyageur canoes
- sponsor of mould workshop in Perth
- cosmetic pesticides
- participated in Treasures on Rideau voyageur canoe tour by RET sponsoring three young people
- complimentary voyaguer canoe tour offered to RD volunteers and staff

- three REAL members participate in fall appreciation canoe tour
- environmental forums planned at Rideau Canal Museum - climate change feb wetlands may????

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