



Progress and Perseverance

A Message from the President

Last year Environment North celebrated its 50th anniversary. When looking back over the last five decades we found an overarching theme or issue emerged for each decade. It is too soon to assign a theme so early in our sixth decade but "perseverance" could be a candidate. Environment North was a part of the opposition to test-drilling for a potential nuclear waste disposal site near Atikokan in the late 70s. The waste issue would surface now and then, however, when the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) began their site selection process, nuclear waste disposal once again became top of mind. Dodie LeGassick (Board member of Environment North) began her public awareness campaign soon after. In 2020, Environment North joined with Northwatch and many others to create the alliance We The Nuclear Free North (WTNFN). The efforts of WTNFN members Dodie LeGassick, Brennain Lloyd (Northwatch), social media expert Wendy O'Connor and numerous others have been instrumental in creating awareness and rallying support from across the region and beyond. They have been crisscrossing Northwestern Ontario making presentations to councils and setting up information tables. Postcard and petition campaigns continue to be hugely encouraging. We try to employ all forms of media. The Peter Lang and Kerrie Atkinson family was joined by Wendy O'Connor and myself in performing and publishing the anti nuke-waste music video "[Ask the People How They Feel](#)".

Much of this work could not have occurred without financial support. Environment North received funding from Lush and Freshwater Futures as well as many individual donations. This has been instrumental in raising awareness of the risks associated with the transport and burial of nuclear waste, and countering the 10s of millions invested by the NWMO in pro Deep Geological Repository enticements.

We are very pleased to welcome back Dr. Gordon Edwards, our 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) guest speaker. Dr. Gordon Edwards, is no stranger to perseverance. He has been writing, consulting and speaking on nuclear issues since the 1970s.

Please read on for details on the AGM and nuclear waste opposition and also our efforts to protect caribou, report on the climate and more. It's been a busy year, but we are stronger than ever, and feel our involvement in many areas of environmental justice is bearing fruit.

Our 50th Anniversary AGM closed with a presentation by Maude Barlow. She included some of the themes of her recent book "Still Hopeful - Lessons from a Lifetime of Activism." Her message was inspiring.

We look forward to signs that will inspire even more hope such as declining greenhouse gas emissions and thriving woodland caribou.

Please join us at the AGM and meet the dedicated team!

Scott Harris

2022 Annual Report



2023 AGM

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Join us on EARTH DAY

Saturday, April 22, 2023

with guest speaker

Dr. Gordon Edwards

2022 in Brief

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Join us for:

RADIOACTIVE WASTES

The Questions Multiply


DR. GORDON EDWARDS
CANADIAN COALITION FOR NUCLEAR RESPONSIBILITY

In Thunder Bay, the final stop of his northern tour

Dr. Gordon Edwards is a retired professor of mathematics and science and serves as an expert advisor on nuclear issues. One of his many strengths is his ability to communicate with community members on the realities of radioactive risks, including the risks of nuclear waste transportation and burial. The Nuclear Waste Management Organization is studying an area between Ignace and Dryden as one of two candidate sites for the processing and burial of all of Canada's high-level nuclear waste.

www.WetheNuclearFreeNorth.ca
Visit the web site or call 1 855 225 8055 (toll free) for more information.

Will the storage canisters last 1,000 years? 100,000 years? Will water become contaminated? Will the site be accidentally uncovered? Can a transportation accident be safely managed? Could the waste be made useful or non-toxic in the future? Do we have other choices? Who should decide?...



AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

EARTH DAY
Saturday
April 22, 2023

Castlegreen Hall
213 Castlegreen Drive
Thunder Bay

Come early for the
Business Meeting at 3:30 pm
Or come later for the
Public Presentation at 4:30 pm

RADIOACTIVE WASTES
The Questions Multiply

Free!
No Registration required!
Everyone welcome!
www.environmentnorth.ca

Dr. Gordon Edwards is back!
And he is touring Northwestern Ontario with his final stop in Thunder Bay. Dr. Edwards is president of the Canadian Coalition of Nuclear Responsibility, a not-for-profit organization, dedicated to education and research on all issues related to nuclear energy. Dr. Edwards is no stranger to northern Ontario. He was involved in the late 70s and 80s when Atikokan was a potential radioactive waste disposal site and has been back several times including as a guest speaker at Environment North's 2010 and 2021 AGMs.

It is an important time to ask questions!
Canada's Nuclear Waste Management Organization is planning to select a disposal site in 2024!

Nuclear Waste

This year the focus was on the transportation of nuclear waste primarily from southern Ontario to northern Ontario with protection of Lake Superior top of mind.

Several thousand postcards highlighting the risks associated with the transportation of high-level nuclear waste were mailed out to communities east of Upsala and along the north shore of Lake Superior.

On September 12, 2022, Environment North board member and Nuclear Waste lead Dodie LeGassick made a deputation to Thunder Bay City Council regarding concerns with the Nuclear Waste Management's Organization to transport all of Canada's high-level nuclear fuel waste to Northwestern Ontario. A recording is available [HERE](#). She asked that Thunder Bay City Council request the Province of Ontario Legislature to adopt the Proximity Principle which states that waste be managed as close as possible to the point of generation as technically feasible.

Dodie also updated the record of traffic accidents along Ontario highways.

A number of new videos were posted on the [WTNFN YouTube channel](#) including interviews from concerned citizens in northwestern Ontario. Thank you to Beverly Bannon, Paul Filteau, Pauline Hyatt, Peter Lang and Wendy O'Connor!

Additional funding to support our nuclear waste awareness campaign was provided from both Lush and Freshwater Futures.

See the Community resiliency section to find out about law student Andrew Maddon's nuclear waste research project.

SAY NO!



**TO
NUCLEAR WASTE
IN
NORTHWESTERN
ONTARIO**

For details visit

"Nuclear Waste Oppostion"

ENVIRONMENT NORTH TOGETHER WITH THE WE THE NUCLEAR FREE NORTH ALLIANCE

- Almost 12,000 signatures so far on the [Change.org petition](#)
- "Nuke Puck" Release into watersheds – Spring 2022. Two hundred and eighty pucks were released – none reported found so far but the contest continues. For more info click [here](#)
- Thousands of Transportation Risk postcards distributed
- Participated in numerous community events
- Brennain Lloyd of WTNFN participated in the Dryden nuclear forum in September 2022 as an expert panel member.
- Sept 12 – Deputation to Thunder Bay City Council
- Started the Proximity Principle petition
- NEW VIDEO posted in November: Rodney Brown "Freight Train Derailed - 2022" – an updated version of his song from 1970s.
- Environment North is still distributing signs, bumper stickers and T-shirts

Forestry

Wabadowgong Noopming Forest, Roads and CLUPA 2616

BACKGROUND: The Crown Land Use Policy Atlas (CLUPA) was developed in the 1990s and emerged from the Lands for Life process and other initiatives. Environment North was involved in this process. CLUPA 2616 is an area located between Wabakimi Provincial Park and Lake Nipigon and provides critical habitat for caribou. The directions for land use in CLUPA 2616 state that forestry may occur but must defer to remote tourism, wildlife protection, and fisheries management.

Board member Bruce Hyer is on the Local Citizen's Committee for the Wabadowgong Noopming Forest as a representative for Environment North and has attempted to prevent road development that would be detrimental to caribou and tourism.

"At a minimum the proposed roads in CLUPA 2616 must be restricted to only temporary winter roads without gravel, and winter harvesting only!"

Bruce Hyer

Support sustainable forestry and adherence of the Wabadowgong Noopming Forest Management Plan to CLUPA 2616 which prioritizes commercial recreation and protection of caribou over industry interests.

For details visit

["Forests for Tomorrow"](#)

Black Bay Peninsula

Environment North supported the effort by Ontario Nature to increase [protection on the Black Bay Peninsula](#) and to prevent permanent road development.



Mining

The Marathon Palladium Mining Project gains Approval

"In accordance with the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*, paragraph 52(4)(a) of the Governor in Council decided that the significant adverse environmental effects that the Designated Project is likely to cause are justified in the circumstances."

IAAC

On November 22, 2022 the Marathon Palladium Mining project, located about 10 km from Marathon, was approved following an environmental assessment by a Joint Review Panel (JRP). Environment North submitted written comments in 2021 and presented in person at the public hearing in 2022 ([copies available HERE](#)). Environment North was represented by Kerrie Blaise and Dr. Karen Peterson. Legal counsel, Kerrie Blaise of the Canadian Environmental Law Association had prepared the climate impacts and Dr. Karen Peterson, who stepped down from the board of Environment North to participate in the review of this project,

presented the socio-economic impacts. Primarily they point out insufficient information on key points in the mining company's environmental impact assessment.

The recent [Marathon Project's approval](#) is subject to 269 legally binding conditions. These include a greenhouse gas management plan to reduce the project-related greenhouse gas emissions during each phase of the project and extensive consultation with Indigenous people in the area regarding potential health and socio-economic impacts and mitigation of these impacts.

Environment North has concerns about increased mining development, especially near Lake Superior. See the Community Resilience section for research by Probono student Katherine Orfali.



Community Resilience

CELEBRATION of 50 years!

Community spirit is no doubt enhanced by celebrating important milestones. In 2022 Environment North celebrated 50 years and the two speakers at our AGM captured the spirit of our celebration perfectly. Kerrie Blaise spoke about environmental justice and how it relates to nuclear waste disposal.

The principles of environmental justice are aligned with Environment North's mission statement which includes that Environment North's specific actions and activities revolve around respect and shared responsibility for air, water and land, the essentials of all life.

Join Environment North on **Earth Day, April 22**

For our virtual 2022 AGM and Public Presentation



Celebrating 50 years of Environmental Awareness, Advocacy and Action

With guest speakers:



Kerrie Blaise

Environmental Justice

Environmental justice and Indigenous rights lawyer, Kerrie is currently with the Canadian Environmental Law Association. She has expertise in energy, natural resource and international trade law.



Maude Barlow

Still Hopeful

Maude Barlow is a Canadian author and activist, whose latest book is *Still Hopeful, Lessons From a Lifetime of Activism*.

Northern Waterways

Groundwater, lakes, rivers, wetlands and Lake Superior at risk of contamination from nuclear waste.



In 1972, Environment North evolved from a small group of citizens known as "People to Clean Up Lake Superior", who were concerned over toxins such as asbestos and mercury being released into Lake Superior.

Today we are concerned about the proposal to transport **radioactive nuclear waste** through Thunder Bay and to bury the waste near Revell Lake in thousands of containers - containers that may not last. Revell Lake is located between Ignace and Dryden.

Start times 6:15 pm Business Meeting
7:00 pm Public Presentation

To receive the meeting link send us an email environmentnorth@gmail.com
For more details visit www.environmentnorth.ca



Join us in celebrating
Environment North @ 50 years!

The party is at **Roots to Harvest (450 FORT WILLIAM RD.)** on **September 10, 4:00 PM.**
RSVP by September 6 to Susan Grinstead phone 807-632-6736 email susanegrinstead@gmail.com
Please bring a chair...additional details at environmentnorth.ca ★ UPDATE on potential NUCLEAR WASTE disposal near Ignace ★

It's free!
Music, Munchies, & More!

1970s **1980s** **1990s** **2000s** **2010s**

Lake Superior **Nuclear Waste** **Lands for Life** **Climate Change** **Momentum**

The roots of Environment North began in 1972, as a small group of citizens known as "People to Clean Up Lake Superior" who were concerned about releases of asbestos and mercury.

Environment North was a key participant in the successful campaign to stop test-drilling for a nuclear waste disposal site near Atkinson and call for public hearings.

Environment North's participation in the Ontario government's Lands for Life process helped to increase the protected land in Northwestern Ontario to 14%.

Through meetings and media, Environment North enhanced awareness of climate change. We also ensured that Syntel's 2006 proposal be subjected to an environmental assessment, which was never completed.

Collaborations with other organizations helped to build momentum and save the Experimental Lakes Area and helped prevent the Energy East pipeline. **The Nuclear Waste issue is back.** Environment North and others are voicing concerns!

Maude Barlow's words instilled hope, as she relayed some of the messages from her latest book, *Still Hopeful, Lessons From a Lifetime of Activism*. Her message connected quite profoundly with many viewers. The 50th anniversary party in the summer was an opportunity to connect with many Environment North members. Reflecting on past successes and having the support of an environmental community encourages us all to continue advocating for a sustainable world.

Ontario Headwater Institute Campaign

Environment North endorsed the Ontario Headwaters Institute recommendations to the Ontario government for a strategic vision for watershed management.

Lakehead University Law Students Research Regional Environmental Issues

Environment North participated in the Pro Bono law student program for the fourth year! Andrew Paddon examined if environmental justice is reflected in Canada's Nuclear Fuel Waste Act and the Nuclear Safety and Control Act. Katherine Orfali is exploring the Rio Tinto proposal for a copper and nickel mine in the municipality of Neebing, located along the Pine River a few kilometers from Lake Superior. Environment North members may request a report of their research. Just send us an email if interested.



Climate Change

Weather Whys, by Board Member Graham Saunders, provided almost weekly reports on the weather, climate and climate policy for the region and beyond. In terms of climate change there was a focus on “Climate Normals”, severe weather complexities and government policy.

“Climate Normals” are typically 30-year averages for a particular climate variable. From *Weather Whys*,

“We are now in the third decade of the 21st century and it is baffling that Canada does not have current climate normals (1991-2020) ... Updating climate normals and extremes would illustrate and confirm the extent of climatic change.”

Weatherwhys also noted the complexities of weather/climate disasters which can include multiple weather events, multiple regions and long-term impacts. An example is the “heat dome”, forest fires and persistent flooding in British Columbia in 2021. There were the various impacts of smoke (short and long-term, local and long-distance), the immediate consequences severe heat and fire, which also resulted in a landscape more vulnerable to overland water flow. At the same time affected residents and emergency personnel were coping with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Governments around the world are challenged to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. While some have risen to the challenge, a look back at the response of the current progressive conservative government of Ontario shows that it has been inadequate and often counter-productive. Since coming to power in 2016, they have:

- cancelled energy conservation programs, green vehicle rebates, electric vehicle charging stations, a program to plant 50 million trees and Ontario’s participation in a cap-and-trade market and,
- fought the federal carbon pricing mechanism in court and with a

gasoline pump sticker campaign,

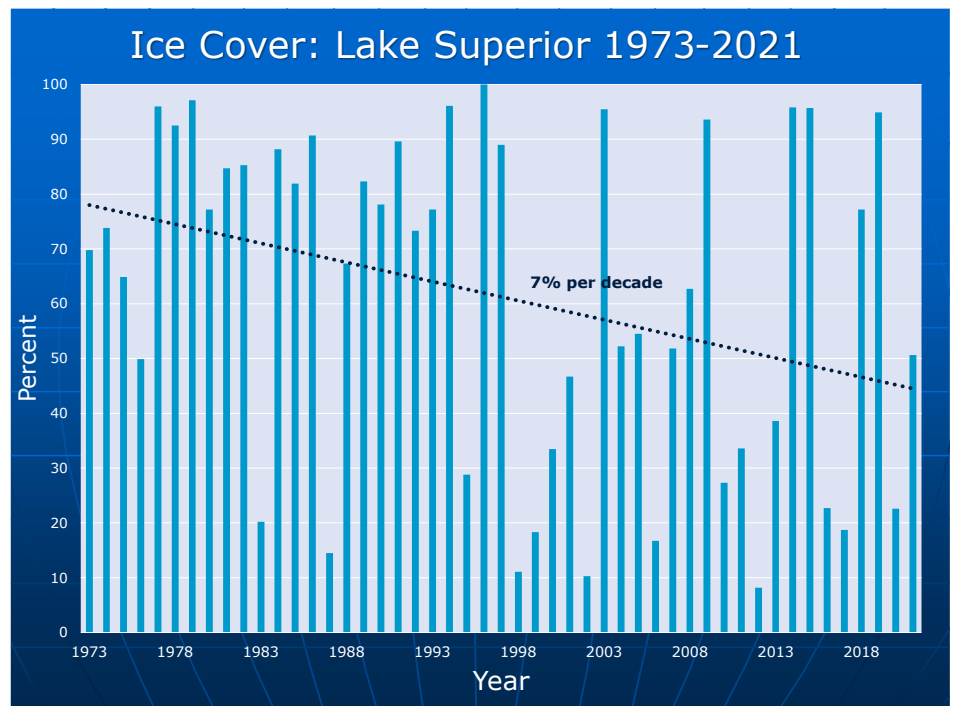
- eliminated the office of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario,
- reduced funding for forest fire fighting and flood management for conservation authorities.

Board members attended the virtual presentation entitled “Lessons Learned from Canada’s Record on Climate Change”. The Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development Jerry Demarco stated,

“Canada was once a leader in the fight against climate change. However, after a series of missed opportunities, it has become the worst performer of all Group of 7 nations since the landmark Paris Agreement on climate change was adopted in 2015 ... We can’t continue to go from failure to failure; we need action and results, not just more targets and plans.”

Environment North signed on to the new Ontario Climate Emergency Campaign and members took part in the *Friday for the Future* events.

In 2022, Graham Saunders examined the changes in climate variables of Lake Superior such as ice cover, illustrated in the graph above. Stay tuned for more climate news on Lake Superior soon.



2022 Financial Report

Receipts	2022	2021	2020
Donations and Memberships			
Individual	\$5,716.73	\$7,751.21	\$1,331.00
Canada Helps	4,707.51	1,668.85	
Corporate	15,531.50	338.00	373.57
Grants	6,352.24	25,643.36	0
Project Fundraising	1,166.62	1,724.20	868.60
Other (interest)	45.65	242.08	247.23
Total Receipts	\$33,520.25	\$37,367.70	\$2,820.40

Expenditures	2022	2021	2020
Charitable programs	\$18,930.86	\$25,895.06	\$2,275.78
Meeting & Communication	0	29.76	45.48
Fundraising, Conferences	0	200.01	0
Salary & Benefits	0	0	0
Membership Fees Paid	131.27	0	0
Honorariums	375.00	0	0
Professional Fees	1,026.00	0	0
Banking Fees	146.76	53.50	46.74
Other disbursements	0	0	0
Total Disbursements	\$20,609.89	\$26,178.33	\$2,368.00

Assets		Commitments	
Bay Credit Union General	\$27,414.19	Climate Change	\$440.46
Bay Credit Union Term	10,040.00	Lake Superior	392.11
Bay Credit Union Profit Sharing and Shares	78.97	Food	186.60
		Nuclear Waste Initiatives:	
		Lush	15,000.00
		Fresh Water Future	2,562.47
		Signage	4,730.00
		Sales and Donations	1,626.62
		Enduring Property	12,594.90
Total	\$37,533.16	Total	\$37,533.16

2022-2023 BOARD MEMBERS

Scott Harris (president)
 Graham Saunders (vice-president)
 Lea Matyuska (treasurer)
 Susan Grinstead (secretary)
 Jim Bishop
 Julee Boan
 Luke Giroux
 Bruce Hyer
 Dodie LeGassick

We welcome new members!

Or maybe its time to renew?

Visit: [Environment North Membership](#)

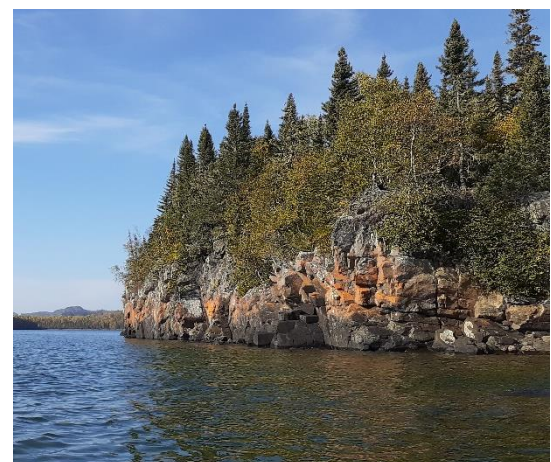
For members: *Weather Whys*, a regional weather, climate and environmental newsletter by board member, Graham Saunders is delivered right into your electronic mailbox!



Online payments are possible!

Considering a Donation?

Visit our [DONATIONS WEBPAGE](#)

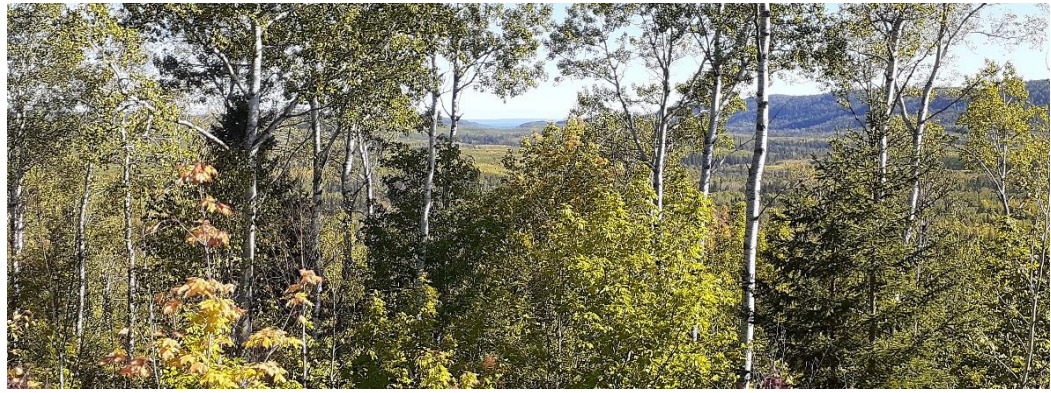


On Our Radar

We occasionally receive alerts or questions from members of the public.

Among the various topics were a potential data-mining centre on Mission Island and the development of an aquaculture enterprise on the north shore of Lake Superior. We keep these developments on our radar and respond as our capacity allows or circumstances require.

We appreciate the input!



Acknowledgements

Environment North's specific actions revolve around respect and shared responsibility for air, water and land
the essentials of all life.

There continues to be an incredible response to the campaign opposing a deep geological repository of high-level nuclear waste in the region. Environment North has received many donations from individuals dedicated to the nuclear waste issue. Environment North would like to thank [Lush](#) which awarded Environment North with another grant in 2022 to support this campaign. We also thank [Freshwater Futures](#) for providing us with a grant to support our work to protect Lake Superior from the risk of nuclear waste transportation.

We thank the organizations involved in the [ProBono](#) law student program ([Canadian Environmental Law Association](#) and Bora Laskin Law School at Lakehead University). The research conducted by the law students into regional environmental issues is of great value to Environment North.

We would like to acknowledge Kerrie Blaise and her contribution to Environment North as the Northern Services Legal Counsel at the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA). Although Kerrie is no longer with CELA we are still in touch and we wish her all the best in her new endeavours at the Canadian Environmental Network as well as her in new practice, Blaise Legal, which focuses on environmental rights and justice.

We also thank the Chronicle Journal for their support by publishing our articles on environmental issues.

Finally, we thank Environment North members for their support for over 50 years!

A regional non-government, charitable organization focused on environmental sustainability.

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