



2016 Annual Report



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Reflecting on 45 years

A Message from the President

Sapphires are associated with 45 year anniversaries. These gemstones are a symbol of joy and prosperity and fulfillment of dreams.

Environment North dates back to 1972. The mission statement encompasses past successes and future dreams: **Environment North strives to improve and protect the ecological sustainability and socio-economic well-being of Northwestern Ontario.** Over the years, Environment North has been a key player in a number of campaigns such as helping prevent nuclear waste test drilling in the early 1980s, increasing protected areas in the 1990s and since 2006 has provided public education on regional and global impacts of climate change.

Currently Environment North is helping to protect the waterways of Northwestern Ontario. On a small scale a local community on Trout Lake is concerned about a potential adjacent gravel pit. On a national scale Environment North along with members of "the Coalition" are continuing their efforts to make the public aware of the risks of the Energy East pipeline proposal both to water and the climate (see page 3).

We hope you will join us for our AGM and public presentation on June 6. Environment North welcomes Angela Bischoff, outreach director of the Ontario Clean Air Alliance (OCAA). In recent years the OCAA led the campaign to end coal generation in this province. Now they have set their sights on phasing out nuclear generation in Ontario. Hydroelectric power from Quebec and energy efficiency can give Ontario cost-effective and nuclear-free electrical power.

Nuclear energy is far from green and far from cost-effective – there is the debt incurred with the construction of the Darlington Nuclear Power Station, the global adjustment fee, and the cost of future decommissioning and disposal of nuclear waste (with potential sites in Northern Ontario).

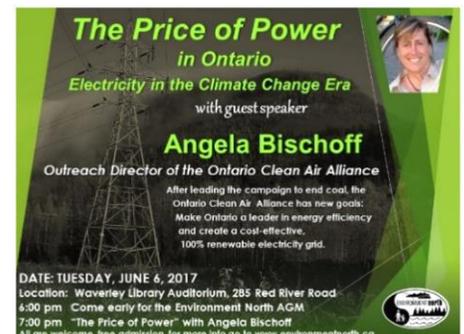
Ms. Bischoff will explain the quagmire of the current electricity pricing scheme and how the OCAA plan will control costs and be aligned with Ontario's climate change plan.

Next year, our 46th anniversary theme is poetry – we just may plan a contest and poetry reading!

Graham Saunders

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Join us on Tuesday June 6, 2017
6:00 pm Annual General Meeting
7:00 pm "The Price of Power"
at the Waverley Library Auditorium



Forestry and Mining

Forests for All, Forever

This was the title of an article by board member Dr. Julee Boan, which was published in the Chronicle Journal in April of 2016.

"In the past 20 years, FSC has become a well-trusted and established brand in markets around the world. But its effectiveness in tackling local community and environmental concerns relies on public participation."

There are opportunities to participate. Visit the FSC Canada newsroom for updates: <https://ca.fsc.org/en-ca/newsroom>



We are very proud to announce that Dr. Julee Boan joined the Board of Directors of FSC Canada in 2016.

Carbon Offset Credits

In December 2016, Environment North submitted comments to the Ontario Cap and Trade Program: Offsets Credits Regulatory Proposal.

"A carbon offset is a credit for greenhouse gas reductions achieved by one party that can be purchased and used to compensate (offset) the emissions of another party." (Source: the David Suzuki Foundation)

The Ontario government will allow up to 8% of their greenhouse gas reduction obligations under the Cap and Trade Program Regulation to be met by carbon offsets.

An offset credit represents one tonne of CO₂ reduced, avoided, or removed from the atmosphere.

Environment North expressed concerns that carbon offset programs have challenges in implementation and in transparency. Their validity is often in question and/or difficult to determine. This may be especially true when offsets involve forest management practices. Environment North reminded the government that there has been an exponential increase in severe weather

events in Canada in recent decades and real reductions in greenhouse gas emissions are needed now.

Environment North also signed on to a letter in response to the Ontario Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources forest carbon discussion paper and some of the main points are summarized below:

RESPONSE TO THE ONTARIO MINISTRY "OPPORTUNITIES TO ENHANCE CARBON STORAGE?" DISCUSSION PAPER.

1. Discussion paper ignores uncertainty associated with carbon storage and sequestration in forests in a changing climate.
2. Discussion paper ignores the importance managed Crown forests will play in supporting wildlife species facing significant pressures in a changing climate.
3. The Discussion paper focuses on an approach to "enhance carbon storage" (essentially a repackaging of "maximizing timber yield") that could take us 20 years back in terms of resource management.
4. The paper downplays uncertainty in how long carbon is stored in wood products...

Ring of Fire

Noront Resources Limited is the proponent for a nickel-copper-platinum mine, the Eagle's Nest project, in the Ring of Fire area. Environment North has participant funding in order to provide input on the project once it is posted on the Canadian Environment Assessment Registry. Their draft EIS and Terms of Reference are posted on the Noront website.

<http://norontresources.com/projects/permitting-technical-documents/>

Nuclear Waste

Environment North continues to monitor developments in the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's siting process. The same eight communities as last year remain engaged in the process: Ignace, Manitouwadge, White River, Hornepayne, Blind River/Elliott Lake and three in southern Ontario. It is expected that a site will be selected in 2023.

Ignace and the three communities in southern Ontario are currently planning for

potential sample borehole drilling. Boreholes would be drilled to a depth of 1 kilometre and require a worksite of 60 meters x 60 meters.

Research is being conducted at the Nuclear Waste Management Organization investigating the new used fuel container design which is a smaller copper coated steel container as opposed to a double layer container, a steel container within an outer copper shield.

Environment North remains opposed to the deep geological disposal of nuclear waste and to nuclear energy.

Community Resilience

Environment North is committed to community environmental education and advocacy. We financially supported the Environmental Film Festival in 2016. In September members also attended the David Suzuki Foundation Town Hall on the Federal Environmental Bill of Rights and meetings on changes to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act in December.

Education needs "good information". Environment North Board Member Scott Harris's timely article in the Chronicle Journal in October discussed the challenges finding "good information" on the Internet and the problems of "creating our own reality".

Scott Harris contributed another Chronicle Journal article titled, "Cool Clear Water". Communities depend on this valuable resource. Environment North is opposed to the Energy East Pipeline as the risk to the waterways is too great.

Environment North provided some assistance to a group in Terrace Bay concerned about air quality and the local pulp and fibre mill.

Scott Harris made a presentation to the Port Arthur Rotary Club on "Local Environmental Activism" which included past and current efforts of Environment North.

Environment North was part of a group invited to present to Professor Brian McLaren's Environmental Geography class on local efforts to address global warming.

The Federal Government 2030 GHG emission target and Paris commitment:

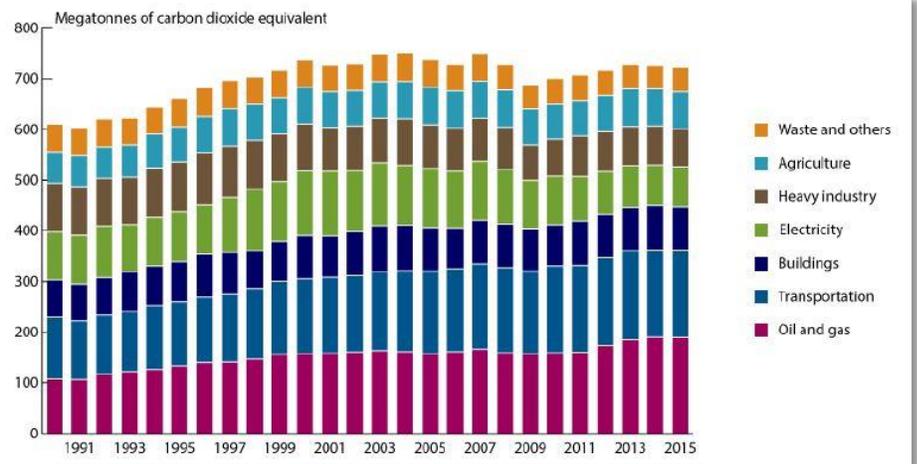
523 Mt

Earth scientist David Hughes states "...it is difficult to see how Canada could realistically meet its Paris commitments without rethinking its plans for oil and gas development." [Report by Dr. David Hughes](#)

Oil Change International's recent report "[Climate on the Line: Why new tar sands pipelines are incompatible with Paris goals.](#)" shows how Canada would be a significant contributor to a global failure to meet the Paris goals of a safe climate if pipelines are built and production of tar sands oil increases.

Greenhouse gas emissions by Canadian economic sector, Canada, 1990 to 2015

Source: Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, April 2017



FAST FACTS

26%

of Canada's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2015 were from the Oil and Gas Industry, or 192 Megatonnes (Mt) out of a total of 732 Mt. A bit less, 24% was from Transportation.

38%

of Canada's GHG emissions or 274 Mt are from Alberta, 166 Mt from Ontario and 80 Mt from Quebec.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

[Canada's Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#)



Upper Slate River

Climate Change and Energy East

Educating the public about the detrimental impacts of Trans Canada Pipeline's proposed Energy East pipeline is a major focus of Environment North.

The federal government supports the Paris agreement of limiting global temperature increase to 2 degrees and even striving for 1.5 degrees. However, the government has not been able to reconcile the fossil fuel industry with the national greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction plan as explained in a Chronicle Journal article by member Kerstin Muth in March 2016.

The 2016 Annual General Meeting featured guest speaker Gordon Laxer. His book AFTER THE SANDS outlines a strategy for Canadian energy and ecological security. Canada. Tar sands should be phased out, renewables expanded and deep conservation phased in. In the days before Dr. Laxer's talk, the country watched forest fires consume part of the town of Fort McMurray. The Chronicle Journal article by Graham Saunders discussed this climate impact of a warmer world. Canadians will remember the stories of bravery and kindness in Fort McMurray. We will also remember the words of Mike Flannigan, "the wildfire season now starts a month earlier than it used to and the average annual area burned has doubled since 1970." Dr. Flannigan is a research scientist based in Edmonton, originally from Thunder Bay.

Many of our activities related to Energy East are as part of "the Coalition". Members of this local coalition include Council of Canadians, Thunder Bay Chapter, CUSP (Citizens United for a Sustainable Planet),

and Ontario Nature – Thunder Bay, the Environmental Film Network and Fossil – Free Lakehead.

In 2016 members of the coalition voiced opinions against pipeline proposals, flaws in the beleaguered National Energy Board review process and insufficient federal government climate change commitments. To support the "People's Injunction" many gathered outside Member of Parliament Patty Hajdu's office.

Many members of the coalition attended the Climate Change town hall meetings in Thunder Bay in May 2016. Members of Parliament Patty Hajdu and Don Rusnak listened to the concerns and ideas regarding climate change. Environment North was disappointed however with the incomplete summary report by Hajdu and Rusnak .

Efforts continued to convince Thunder Bay City Council to reject the Energy East Pipeline Proposal. Unfortunately, conditional support was given in May 2017, in part because of concerns about rail traffic through the community. However, there has not been a guarantee of the elimination of oil by rail if the pipeline is constructed. These safety concerns will still need to be addressed.

Millions of barrels of oil transported east, whether by rail or pipeline, pose too great a risk to the meshwork of clean waterways in Northwestern Ontario. The greenhouse gas emissions resulting from expansion of oil production from the Alberta Tar Sands will not allow Canada to meet its global GHG reduction commitments.

2016 Financial Report

<i>Receipts</i>	2016	2015
Donations: Individual	\$ 58.00	\$ 48.00
Donations: Corporate	598.55	433.54
Project Fundraising	240.00	1075.00
Grants/Project Funding	0	0
Memberships	470.00	460.00
Other (interest)	142.90	171.08
Total Receipts	\$1509.45	\$2,187.62

<i>Expenditures</i>	2016	2015
Charitable programs	\$ 1,770.35	\$ 1,471.89
Meeting & Communication	1,109.93	361.60
Fundraising, Conferences	0	0
Salary & Benefits	0	0
Membership Fees Paid	0	0
Honorariums	0	0
Professional Fees	0	0
Banking Fees	12.50	11.50
Other disbursements	0	0
Total Disbursements	\$2,892.78	\$1,844.99

2016-2017 BOARD MEMBERS

Graham Saunders (president)
 Karen Peterson (vice-president)
 Lea Matyuska (treasurer)
 Susan Grinstead (secretary)
 Julee Boan
 Scott Harris
 Lucy Laframboise
 Kirsten Annis
 Roopa Rakshit

Roopa Rakshit will be stepping down from the Board of Environment North this year. Among other projects she will be focusing on her PhD in Natural Resources Management. Roopa has a passion for communicating science as is evident by her many published articles and by organizing the Environmental Knowledge Learning and Sharing Seminar Series, a joint partnership between Environment North and EarthCare Thunder Bay. We wish her all the best in her new endeavours!

Are you interested in becoming a Board member?

If you are interested in becoming a board member or have any other inquiries please contact us by email or connect with a board member.

environmentnorth@gmail.com

2016 Assets		2016 Liabilities	
Bay Credit Union PCA	\$ 4,636.55	Lake Superior Initiative	\$ 392.11
Bay Credit Union Term	10,838.86	Climate Initiative	440.46
Profit Sharing Account	119.48	Food Initiative	186.60
		Enduring Property	14,575.72
Total	<u>\$15,594.89</u>	Total	<u>\$15,594.89</u>



Acknowledgements

The board members of Environment North thank all of the members and donors for their continued interest and support!

We also thank the Chronicle Journal for publishing our monthly articles on environmental issues that affect Northwestern Ontario.

And again a big THANK YOU to all the members of the "Coalition" and your tireless efforts to protect the water and the climate.

We welcome new members!

If you are interested in becoming a member of Environment North please fill out the membership form available on our website (Note membership fees are charitable donations).

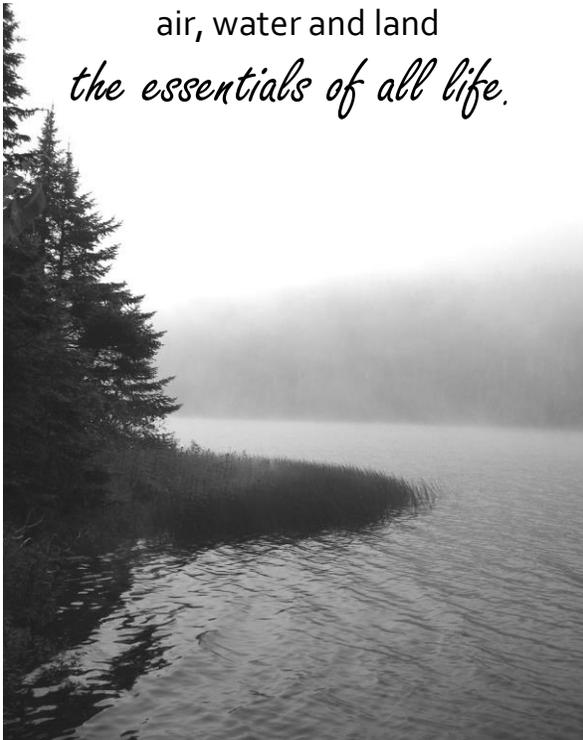
"Weather Whys"

A regional weather, climate and environmental newsletter by Graham Saunders is included with your membership in Environment North

Weather Whys is delivered right into your electronic mailbox.



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



A regional non-government charitable organization focused on environmental sustainability

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