



2019 Annual Report



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Threats: Climate Change and now Covid-19

A Message from the President

With so much that has been happening in the world this year it takes a moment to recall the important events of 2019.

The Time "Person of the Year" was Greta Thunberg, highlighting the power of youth. In a little over a year she became a global figure. "Fridays for the Future" grew from her protest outside the Swedish parliament holding the sign "School Strike for the Climate". Numerous Fridays for the Future events occurred around the world with four main global events. Thunder Bay students along with members of Citizens United for a Sustainable Planet as Environment North as well as other community members participated.

Youth are key and in the section on Community Resilience you can read about a program involving the Probono Students Canada, the Canadian Environment Law Association, the Bora Laskin Law School and Environment North. See page 2 for more details. Environment North is participating in this program again for the 2020-2021 school year.

One of the purported solutions to climate change is nuclear energy. In 2019 more plans were released by the Federal Government to develop Small Modular Reactors. The advantage is that isolated northern communities and industrial developments such as mines or tar sands development can reduce their greenhouse gas

emissions by using nuclear energy. Environment North does not support nuclear energy. An acceptable solution for nuclear waste has not been found. Through the tireless work of Environment North board member Dodie Legassick, awareness of Environment North's concerns regarding geological disposal of high level nuclear waste is increasing. More details are in the nuclear waste section.

Members will recall the 2019 Environment North Annual General Meeting public presentation. Former Environmental Commissioner of Ontario Diane Saxe gave a sobering presentation titled "Climate Changes Everything". While this is true we are now only too aware of how COVID-19 changes everything too, and quickly.

The dual threats of climate change and COVID-19 have been discussed quite extensively in the media. The 2020 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Medicine theme was "Confronting Urgent Threats to Human Health & Society: COVID-19 and Climate Change" with a key note address "Crises: Fast and Slow" by Bill Gates.

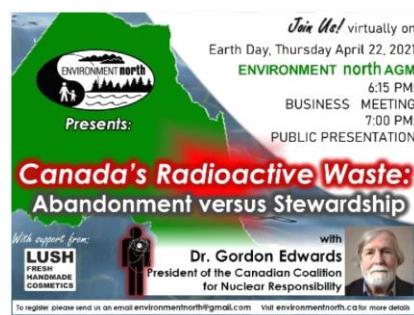
This increasing involvement of various societal sectors, such as the medical community, are good signs. Binding global regulations however remain elusive. We need them - quickly.

Graham Saunders

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**Join us on EARTH DAY,
April 22, 2021 for a virtual
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**6:15: Business Meeting
7:00: Public Presentation
TO REGISTER please send us an email
environmentnorth@gmail.com**



Forestry and Mining

Herbicide Use

"Should We Be Spraying Glyphosate On Our Forests?" is the title of the Chronicle Journal article written by Bruce Hyer. The debate on the safety of glyphosate continues in terms of human health and also forest health. Here are a few updates since the article. The area sprayed on provincial lands in Ontario was 52,614 hectares in 2015, 49,996 in 2016 and 33,960 hectares in 2017 and 2018. The 2019 article by Bruce Hyer reported on research in British Columbia, by Dr. Lisa Wood, which found that glyphosate can persist in some plants, unintended recipients of the herbicide that receive non-lethal doses.

Gravel Pits

Environment North has assisted in increasing awareness of concerns regarding the development of gravel pits on small lakes with camps and homes near Thunder Bay. In 2019 and early 2020 Environment North wrote letters of concern to project managers of the Milne Pit (Hawkeye Lake) and Kangas Pit (One Island Lake) proposals.

In June 2019, the Lakehead Rural Planning Board passed a Zoning By-law to rezone a property at Trout Lake from 'Rural' to 'Industrial Extractive' which would allow the development of a gravel pit. The Trout Lake Campers' Association, represented by the Canadian Environmental Law Association appealed this decision to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal stating that the Lakehead Rural Planning Board failed to consider the accompanying social and environmental impacts.

Environment North signed onto a letter addressed to the provincial government Planning Consultation Team regarding proposed changes to the "Provincial Policy Statement" which included concerns about when permission is given for aggregate extraction.

Nuclear Waste

In 2019 Hornepayne and Manitouwadge were no longer part of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's (NWMO) site selection process. In early 2020 Huron-

NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES (NWMO) IN IGNACE 2019

From the NWMO Website: "On Sept. 16, 2019, the NWMO finished drilling a second borehole in the Revell Batholith, an area located between Ignace and Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation. Drilling of a third borehole has also begun about 2.5 kilometres from the first and second borehole drilling sites.... On-site preparation for boreholes four to six began in October in the same area."

Kinloss was no longer considered as a potential host community. Only two communities are now being considered by the NWMO: Ignace in northern Ontario and South Bruce in southern Ontario.

Environment North Board member Dodie Legassick continues to lead Environment North's efforts to learn about and engage the public on the nuclear waste issue. She attended meetings in Kakabeka concerning truck transportation route options – which could eventually also involve trucks carrying nuclear waste. Dodie also met with Petronilla Ndebele, the NWMO regional representative. She has presented to two more municipal councils: Conmee and O'Connor Townships. Environment North had a presence at the Hymers Fall Fair with a number of people stopping by to speak with Dodie about the nuclear waste issue. T-shirts and bumper stickers were sold to support Environment North's efforts. She also had booths at local events: at a Vicker's Heights community yard sale, at Rural 60 and at the Heritage Building at the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition grounds.

Small Modular Reactors

Even though an acceptable solution for nuclear waste has not been found, the Canadian government with the support of some provincial governments is developing plans for Small Modular Reactors.

Environment North wrote a letter to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency which supported the submission of the Canadian Environment Law Association (CELA). The letter calls for the following to be subject to Impact Assessments: refurbishments of life extensions of existing nuclear generating stations, construction, operation or dismantling of SMR's, decommission or dismantling of nuclear

facilities and transporting nuclear waste (from Class 1A or 1B facilities).

Community Resilience

Community Support - Environment North made a donation to the Lakehead University radio station CILU. Members of the Environment North board have been interviewed about regional environmental issues by various hosts.

Building Capacity – In 2018/2019 Environment North participated in a program with Pro Bono Students, the Canadian Environment Law Association and the Bora Laskin Law School. The program involved two law students researching legal aspects of local environmental issues.

Adam de Luca researched regulatory legislation pertaining to nuclear waste disposal and transportation of nuclear waste. Primarily it is under federal jurisdiction though provincial environmental, water, and health and safety laws may apply. The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission is involved and international obligations must also be met. He also explored how environmental justice and the precautionary principle may apply. ([click here for details](#)).

Petri Bailey researched how the public might address the consequences of a train derailment in 2008 near Rossport. Nurdles, lentil sized plastic pellets that were swept into Lake Superior continue to wash up on shorelines. Rail spills in Lake Superior involve legislation governing railways and fisheries and federal and provincial environmental laws. Petri reviewed how the Ontario Environmental Protection Act, a civil claim, or community pressure on elected officials or companies might address ongoing problems. ([click here for details](#))

In March 2019, board members Karen Peterson and Graham Saunders wrote the article "*Public Participation*" for the Chronicle Journal regarding the recent unravelling of environmental protection by the Ford government. During a public comment period for Bill 66, overwhelming public opposition to Schedule 10 of Bill 66 resulted in the Schedule being pulled. Schedule 10 would have allowed exemptions from zoning regulations, laws, policies and many controls that safeguard environment, human health and safety if significant job creation could be demonstrated.

The Federal Government GHG emission commitments:

2030 target = 517 Megatonnes CO₂eq

2050 target = 148 Megatonnes CO₂eq

"....Government narratives have stated that reducing Canada's emissions and expanding oil and gas production go hand-in-hand," said Hughes, who is president of a consulting firm called Global Sustainability Research.

Unfortunately, no amount of wishful thinking can overcome the math on emissions, or the impacts on the land surface from the increased number of well-pads, roads, pipelines and other infrastructure that would come with increased production."

David Hughes, Earth Scientist
B.C.'s Carbon Conundrum: Why LNG Exports doom emissions-reduction targets and compromise Canada's long-term energy security

FAST FACTS

26%

of Canada's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2018 were from the Oil and Gas Industry, or 193 Megatonnes (Mt) out of a total of 729 Mt. A bit less, 25% was from Transportation.

37%

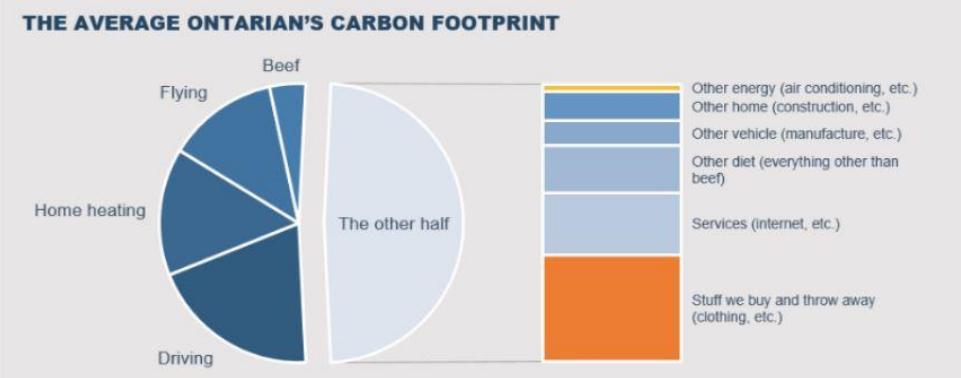
of Canada's GHG emissions in 2018 were from Alberta. (273 Mt are from Alberta, 165 Mt are from Ontario)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

[Canada's Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#)



White Admiral Butterfly among Fringed Aster



Source: Diane Saxe presentation at Environment North AGM 2019

Climate Change

One of Environment North's most notable public presentations was held last year at the 2019 AGM. The guest speaker was Dianne Saxe, former Environmental Commissioner of Ontario.

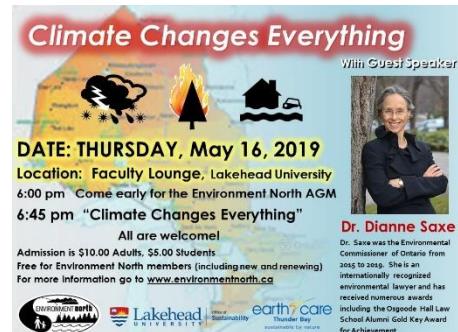
Members will recall that her position and entire office were eliminated in 2018 by the Ford government. Their role was in part taken over by the auditor's office however, with much reduced capacity.

"Accountability ensures government puts environment work ahead of games" was the title of a Chronicle Journal article written by Environment North president Graham Saunders. Without such accountability the government was able to cancel many renewable projects, Ontario's participation in the Climate Cap and Trade Program, and many other environmental safeguards and initiatives without putting a viable climate change plan in place.

Diane Saxe's presentation was sobering. She outlined what progress had been made in Ontario from 2003-2018: coal plant closures, a cap and trade program, the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Account (GGRA) and Action Plan and progress on adaptation. She then illustrated how it is being undone by the Ford government:

- All serious provincial programs cancelled, including cap and trade and renewable energy contracts
- Conservation slashed
- No meaningful replacements
- Weak targets, little action
- Little money for solutions

She stated that without dramatic efforts to control global greenhouse gas emissions the impacts will "overwhelm us".



Graham wrote a second Chronicle Journal article "Climate Sense and Sensibility" - a commentary on the Oxford Dictionary's choice of the 2019 Word of the year "Climate Emergency". Many levels of governments have declared climate emergencies. Increasing impacts are occurring around the world. There are many "words" and yet still not enough action or even worse, actions in the opposite direction. From the article:

"Canada did declare a national climate emergency in the House of Commons on June 17, 2019. Good talk but that pesky problem of real political will surfaced a few hours later when the Liberal Cabinet (a decree, not a vote in the House of Commons) approved the building of the Trans-Mountain pipeline."

On January 13, 2020 Thunder Bay officially declared a climate emergency.

During 2019, members continued to regularly receive the weather and climate e-newsletter *Weather Whys* by Graham Saunders, president of Environment North.

2019-2020 BOARD MEMBERS

2019 Financial Report

Receipts	2019	2018
Donations: Individual	\$ 80.00	\$ 20.00
Donations: Corporate	126.71	586.00
Project Fundraising	475.00	0
Grants/Project Funding	6000.00	0
Memberships	1115.00	380.00
Other (interest)	117.78	117.53
Total Receipts	\$7,914.49	\$1,103.53

Expenditures	2019	2018
Charitable programs	\$ 6,273.17	\$ 1,903.69
Meeting & Communication	261.03	1,804.76
Fundraising, Conferences	0	0
Salary & Benefits	0	0
Membership Fees Paid	0	0
Honorariums	0	0
Professional Fees	0	0
Banking Fees	66.54	59.50
Other disbursements	0	0
Total Disbursements	\$6,600.74	\$3,767.95

2019 Assets		2019 Liabilities	
Bay Credit Union General	\$ 606.61		
Nuclear Waste	175.00	Nuclear Waste	\$ 175.00
Lake Superior	392.11	Lake Superior	392.11
Climate Change	440.46	Climate Change	440.46
Food Account	186.60	Food Account	186.60
Lush Grant Remaining	1,103.55	Lush Grant	1,103.55
Bay Credit Union Term	10,000.00		
Profit Sharing Account	76.29	Enduring Property	10,682.90
Total	\$12,980.62	Total	\$12,980.62

Graham Saunders (president)
Karen Peterson (vice-president)
Lea Matyuska (treasurer)
Susan Grinstead (secretary)
Julee Boan
Scott Harris
Lucy Laframboise
Bruce Hyer
Dodie LeGassick

There was no change in the membership of the board from 2018-19 to 2019-2020. We take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of board members Dodie Legassick and Karen Peterson.

Dodie has devoted an incredible amount of time and energy into the nuclear waste disposal issue. She is passionate and dedicated and seemingly tireless. We would also like to acknowledge the assistance provided by Environment North member Wendy O'Connor primarily in the development the nuclear waste public presentations.

Karen Peterson is also the current president of the Trout Lake Campers Association. She has been instrumental increasing awareness about the detrimental impacts of gravel pit development on small lakes with cottages around Thunder Bay.

Are interested in becoming a board member?

Please contact us at:

environmentnorth@gmail.com



Acknowledgements

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

We would like to thank Lush for their generous support of our work on the issue of nuclear waste disposal.

We also appreciate the enhanced presence of CELA in northern Ontario. They have been very helpful in a number of areas.

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

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. (membership fees are charitable donations)

Included with your membership:

“Weather Whys”

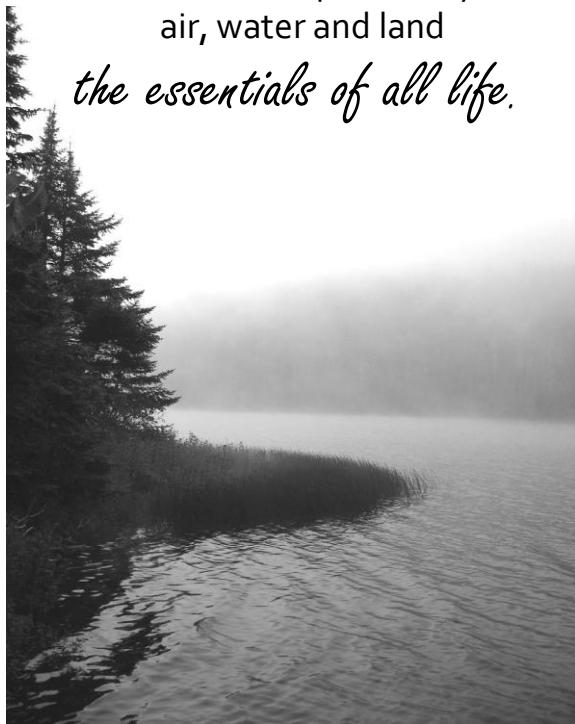
A regional weather, climate and environmental newsletter by Graham Saunders.

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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