

Chapter Action Updates



Peterborough-Kawarthas chapter helps defeat water diversion plan

In September 2009, Millbrook, Ontario residents found out that a proposed 12-kilometre water pipeline would take water from their community to a large new development. As concern grew amongst residents, the Council of Canadians' Peterborough-Kawarthas chapter supported community efforts to raise public awareness and stop the diversion.

In early August the water diversion plan was defeated by a 3-2 township council vote. A letter announcing the victory by key organizers of the fight noted "special recognition" to "Council of Canadians: Catherine Kaye, Roy Brady and Mark Calzavara. For all of the support, meetings, inclusion in Council of Canadians newsletters and agendas, right up to the letter of support from Maude Barlow."

Ontario chapters win awards

The Toronto chapter was recently awarded the North American Native Plant Society's 2010 Paul McGaw Memorial Conservation Award for raising awareness about water conservation and for organizing the 2010 Water Forum.

Peterborough-Kawarthas chapter activist and Council of Canadians board member Roy Brady has been awarded the 2010 Scholfield Award of Community Distinction. The award is given each year to someone who makes a significant contribution to a community need or issue. The award selection committee described Brady as a "natural leader who has brought an unwavering commitment to social justice for the marginalized in this community."

Soaking up the sun in Inverness, Nova Scotia

In early July, members of the Inverness chapter invited Council of Canadians and community members from Cape Breton Island to a party and pot luck on the beach at West Mabou Beach Provincial Park. In addition to an event that would connect with a wider network of activists in the community, the chapter saw this as an innovative way to have fun, soak up some sun, eat some good local food and get to know one another.

Winnipeg chapter looks at "Unsustainable Compromises"

The Winnipeg chapter hosted a public event as provincial and territorial premiers came together for a Council of the Federation meeting in early August. Called "Unsustainable Compromises: The trade threats to provincial leadership on climate change," the event focused on conflicts between provincial and territorial climate agendas and trade agreements. Council of Canadians Trade Campaigner Stuart Trew and members from the Climate Action Network spoke about federal inaction on the climate file. Panellists argued that the federal government is undermining new provincial efforts to mitigate climate change and transition to a green economy with its support of the Canada-European Union Comprehensive and Economic Trade Agreement (CETA). Michael Welch from the Winnipeg chapter also set up lobbying meetings with various local and provincial politicians to discuss CETA.

Citizens for Quality Health Care prevent health care layoffs and closures

A network of individuals and organiza-

In October, three Council of Canadians chapters (Delta - Richmond, Vancouver - Burnaby, and Surrey - Langley - White Rock) joined the local organization "Gateway Sucks" to continue opposition to the South Fraser Perimeter Road freeway. Earlier this year the groups unfurled a huge banner that read "Climate Action Now!" to protest the rise in greenhouse gasses a new freeway would cause.

tions (including the Comox Valley and Campbell River, B.C. chapters) acted quickly to prevent the dismissal of five microbiology technicians and the closure of the microbiology lab at Campbell River Hospital, reversing a decision by the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) that had been announced in late July. For the past four years, the Citizens for Quality Health Care have successfully fought for hospitals in Campbell River and the Comox Valley, and defeated a VIHA proposal to replace them with a privatized regional hospital located miles away from both communities. Rich Hagensen, Campbell River chapter activist, says networking with hospital personnel, coordinating a letter-writing campaign to the local newspapers, getting media coverage on the issue, and working with other groups that opposed the changes were strategies that helped the chapter win the fight.

Final Shout Outs

... go to the 16 chapters that live video-streamed the "Shout Out for Global Justice!" event on June 25. As thousands of people gathered in Massey Hall on the eve of the G20 summit in Toronto, chapter activists from coast to coast came together in cinemas, community centres, union offices and homes for screenings that brought the messages for water, climate and energy justice across the country.

... also go to Carleen Pickard, who after five years with the Council of Canadians as BC-Yukon Regional Organizer and then Director of Organizing, wrote her last chapter update for this issue of *Canadian Perspectives*. Carleen has taken a new position with Global Exchange in San Francisco, California. We wish her well.