



April 2010



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whitby-oshawa greens

april newsletter

Green Living Show in Toronto April 23-25

The Green Party will have a booth at the annual Green Living Show in Toronto this year. Drop by and say hello to our candidate Rebecca Harrison, who will be at the event for most of the weekend. The show will be held at the Direct Energy Centre from April 22-24.

The Green Living Show is Toronto's largest green consumer show dedicated to educating the public about easy and workable

solutions for leading a sustainable lifestyle. Visitors can shop the wide variety of exhibitor booths while gathering information and inspiration from a diverse selection of demonstrations, presentations, and activities.

This year's Show offers a handful of new and exciting attractions such as [BioVino Eco-Friendly Wine Tasting](#). Attendees can

sample from up to 150 wines from over 40 wine-makers, ranging from organic to biodynamic to carbon neutral certified.

Info: [Green Living Show](#)



Green Party of Ontario response to the Provincial Budget

The provincial budget, brought down this afternoon, leaves our children with both a fiscal – and vision – deficit. It falls short by not prioritizing investments in energy efficiency, community health initiatives and green infrastructure. In short, this budget fails to prepare Ontario for the challenges of the 21st century: high energy prices, increasing health care costs and food security.

The Green Party of Ontario has a clear and compelling vision for Ontario to build a prosperous green economy that fosters sustainable communities and promotes the health and well being of all Ontarians. I believe this vision starts with stimulus investments today that save us money tomorrow by making Ontario more efficient. Instead, the Liberal government's budget spends money on yesterday's infrastructure and band aid solutions to rising energy

prices that will only increase costs for our children and future generations.

Greens would redirect investments to programs that prioritize energy efficiency, local economies and health promotion. This vision begins by implementing a comprehensive Green Building Program that would create jobs today that save homeowners, tenants, businesses and municipalities money by reducing energy costs.

We would also redirect existing funds to support a program to pay farmers for environmental goods and services such as clean water and offer a Farmer and Processor Donation Tax Credit for healthy local food donations. And we'd invest in transportation over the long-term, with fair, transparent and consistent funding to create a 21st century transportation sys-

tem that allows people to live, work and play in neighbourhoods linked by accessible public transit and safe streets.

Sadly, today's budget was a missed opportunity. We need to invest today for tomorrow not yesterday.

Source: www.gpo.ca



Mike Schreiner
Leader
Green Party of Ontario

Earth Day 40th Anniversary Celebrations: April 22nd 2010

April 22nd 2010 is the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. Join the Green Party of Canada in celebrating what has been accomplished by the concerted efforts of ordinary citizens and in gearing up for the work ahead in arresting Climate Change and getting the world on track to a new Green economy.

The Green Party of Canada encourages you, your community and your riding association to embark on planning on Earth Day events: hold a Climate Change teach-in and/or send us a Dear Planet Earth message.

Climate Change Teach-ins

April 22, 1970 was the world's first Earth Day. April 22, 2010 is the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day.

It started primarily in the US, although there were some Canadian actions back in 1970. Senator Gaylord Nelson and activist Dennis Hayes had the idea and made it into a global, iconic event.

The beginnings were simple. Earth Day 1970 was all about public awareness and education. Fresh out the 1960's with "sit-ins" and "be-ins," Nelson and Hayes held "teach-ins." Small and large groups of people of all ages gathered in towns and cities, in class rooms and community halls, and learned about the threats to our

environment.

Encouraging news for modern day activists, the issues we debated and discussed forty years ago have largely been resolved. LIFE magazine that week had a headline proclaiming "Lake Erie is dead." No, it is alive once again. Phosphates in detergents, causing serious eutrophication in the Great Lakes, have been banned. DDT is banned. Lead in gas has been outlawed. Ozone-depleting substances have been controlled. Acid rain has been largely eliminated as a threat through government action in Canada and the US to cut sulphur dioxide emissions by 50%.

We now face a globally pervasive threat that we didn't talk about forty years ago. The climate crisis is a clear and present danger and there has never been a greater need for public awareness, education and mobilization.

JOIN US for teach-ins celebrating Earth Day's 40th Birthday! Let us know if your community wants to hold a teach-in. If you cannot find a local expert in science, green technology, policy and practical tips for individuals, let us know and we'll try to help. We have DVDs, fact sheets, and copies of "Global Warming for Dummies" that you can sell and use at your events. Send your questions to [earth-](mailto:earth-day@greenparty.ca)

[day@greenparty.ca](mailto:earth-day@greenparty.ca).

We want these events to be open and for the idea to spread virally. If other political parties want to participate, invite them. If they want to hold their own events, encourage them.

Let's make April 22, 2010 the kind of turning point we experienced in 1970. Let's be able to tell our grandchildren that the issues we debated in 2010 have all been solved by 2050....another short 40 years from now.

Dear Planet Earth Messages

On the 40th anniversary of Earth Day and as an ode to Planet Earth send the Green Party of Canada your message for our Dear Planet Earth webpage. Let's show Planet Earth how much we care!

We are looking for letters & photos, video messages, songs, skits, you name it, we want it. Encourage your candidate and riding association to make a submission before Earth Day. Messages will be featured on our website! Encourage your neighbours, family and friends to come together and do something fun for Earth Day.

The top 3 viewed messages on our website will win a

prize! Encourage all your friends and family to check out your message on our website.

How to submit your message

Send your Dear Planet Earth message to us for posting to the Earth Day webpage, coming soon! Send to dear.planet.earth@greenparty.ca.

Please put your videos on YouTube or another service and email us the link.

Example

Dear Planet Earth:

I know that living here in the big city it's been hard to keep in touch with you but we're working on it. I'm sure you are very busy just trying to take a decent breath and unclog your arteries but I just wanted to say that a group of us are trying to see what we can do about treading a little more softly on this awe inspiring planet.

By the way I have to confess it's not just for you that we are fighting the Green fight, it's for our kids and their children too.

Don't give up on us.

With love

Ralph Benmergui

Senior Advisor

Visit the Whitby-Oshawa Greens NEW Website

Whitby-Oshawa Green Party Executive is proud to announce that we have gone live on our new website.

www.whitbyoshawagreens.ca/

This new website will feature information from both the Federal

and Provincial Green Party Associations.

We will be updating the website frequently so please be sure to check back often.

All newsletters will be available online. The website also features

the latest news on the Green Party Federal Candidate, Rebecca Harrison including her upcoming schedule and blog.

Your feedback is always appreciated so we welcome any suggestions on how to make this site

better.

Please be sure to pass on the address to any of your friends or family looking to become involved.

Earth Day Eve Event in Toronto with Gwynne Dyer

Finding Hope: Confronting Climate Wars



with Gwynne Dyer & Elizabeth May

[Join us](#) the night before the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day for an amazing event. Two of the strongest voices on the planet speaking to the climate crisis will join forces to demand action. Gwynne Dyer, award winning author, journalist and Elizabeth May, author, environmental lawyer, and leader

of the Green Party of Canada, collaborate to rebuild energy toward global climate action through the theme Finding Hope: Confronting Climate Wars. Ralph Benmergui, former broadcaster, performer and host of Jazz FM in Toronto will be master of ceremonies.

Gwynne Dyer's most recent book *Climate Wars* warns of the security threat posed by the climate crisis. The Pentagon and British intelligence service understand the threat; Canada's government does not. Elizabeth May whose book, co-authored with Zoe Caron,

Global Warming for Dummies explains the science, the threat and outlines hopeful solutions, will lead us through the politics and find hope to avert that threat.

Where: Trinity-St. Paul's United Church, 427 Bloor St. W. (1 block west of Spadina Rd.), Toronto

When: Wednesday, April 21st at 7:30 pm

Book signing will follow.

Tickets are \$15 each. [Order your tickets online](#) or call 1.866.868.3447 x 239

Exclusive Reception

Please join us for an intimate gathering with Gwynne Dyer, Elizabeth May and Ralph Benmergui. Meet our special guests, enjoy good wine and appetizers, learn

more about the climate issue, our chances to avert catastrophe, and the urgency to elect Green MPs to Parliament. Your reserved front row seats across the street will be waiting for you.

We need your support to ensure that Elizabeth May will be your voice in the House of Commons!!

Where: L'Espresso Bar Mercurio, 321 Bloor St. W., Toronto (SE corner of Bloor & St. George)

When: Wednesday, April 21st from 5:30 pm – 7:15 pm

[Tickets to the reception are \\$450](#) (includes \$400 dollar income tax receipt, your effective donation after taxes is \$100) which includes wine & appetizers and front row seating to the Earth Day Eve event.

Looking for Passionate Volunteers for Rebecca's Campaign

Do you believe change is possible in Whitby-Oshawa?

Do you believe that people are catching on to the Green message, and want to help us take the campaign to the next level?

Do you believe our nominated candidate Rebecca Harrison has what it takes to make

a difference?

Rebecca has made the commitment to represent the Green values in Whitby-Oshawa in the next federal election. Now we need to stand behind her and give her a chance to show the voters that she is the best choice.

We need passionate people who are willing

to contribute some time, effort, and creativity.

If you are willing to lend your specific skills, even for a small amount of time, it would greatly help Rebecca's campaign.

We are looking for people to help:

- Write press releases

- Set up public appearances
- Organize events
- Phone potential voters
- Canvass with Rebecca

Contact Rebecca now to volunteer. Call 905-999-5479 or send her an [email](#).

Introducing the FAITH Project for a Greener Whitby

Whitby Oshawa Greens are proud to support the FAITH Project.

FAITH stands for Further Advancement In Tree Habitats which in the end is to provide a sustainable tree habitat that will have a healthy and lasting effect on both the environment and the people living in Durham Region communities, specifically Whitby. The FAITH Project is a non-

profit organization that engages individuals, groups and businesses in planting and caring for trees in neighbourhoods and natural areas throughout Durham Region, specifically Whitby. We aim to provide what expertise we can, coordination and funding raising for projects. With assistance from the local town or township for permission to plant on a site

and tree species, raise funds, and purchase trees.

The FAITH Project is created and started by Faith Gibson who is 11 years old. Her vision and her recognition of a negative change in the world and a overwhelming need for positive movement towards conservation of all parts of the environment. She felt that since we need air to survive and oxygen comes from tree,

then there is no better place to began then with planting new tree habitats.



Canada's Earth Hour results are in!

TORONTO - People across Canada flicked off their lights for Earth Hour, but it seems less Canadians took part in the symbolic gesture than in the past two years.

In downtown Moncton, some lights went out, but the impact was far from dramatic, despite the efforts of many businesses.

The story was similar in other Canadian cities, and power consumption figures from various utilities tended to not be as low as they were in 2009.

NB Power had not yet calculated this province's energy savings yesterday.

Ontario saw a four-per-cent drop in electricity demand Saturday night during Earth Hour, or enough to power a city the size of Brampton, Ontario's electricity system operator said yesterday.

The 560-megawatt decline represented a four-per-cent decrease -- less than the six per cent seen in 2009 and five per

cent in 2008.

In British Columbia, BC Hydro said the province's electricity load dropped by 1.04 per cent between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m.

The drop in B.C. amounted to 64.6 megawatt hours of electricity.

That's less than the 1.1 per cent reduction in 2009 and two-per-cent reduction in 2008 in British Columbia.



Terry Young, with the Independent Electricity System Operator in Ontario, said the numbers may

seem like a drop in the bucket but it's further evidence that energy consumption in the province is generally on the decline.

"Earth Hour ... isn't something that obviously we're looking to see make a major impact in terms of electricity demand. What it is, is more of an awareness," he said.

"People were turning off their lights and stopped using as much electricity, and we could notice that.

"Any time we can notice something like that on a provincial scale then it does have some sort of an impact."

The weaker numbers more likely reflect the weather than a waning interest, Young said. The temperatures in Ontario were much cooler this year than during Earth Hour last year, so even though lights were shut off, heaters were running, he said.

Last summer -- the other time of year when electricity consumption

makes headlines -- hourly peak demand only rose above 24,000 megawatts four times, Young said.

Compare that with 2006, when Ontario broke its hourly peak demand record at the end of a heat wave, with demand exceeding 27,000 megawatts.

While that difference can partly be attributed to a cooler Ontario summer in 2009, conservation programs are making a difference, Young said.

Source: timetranscript.com



2010 GPO AGM and Policy Convention: June 11-13 in Ottawa

Registration is now open for our 2010 Annual General Meeting and Policy Convention!

This year we will be hosting a 3 day conference from Friday, June 11th to Sunday June 13th at Algonquin College in Ottawa. The convention will include training for CAs and campaigns, community outreach, as well as voting on policy and constitutional resolutions. We have

accomplished a great deal in the past months, and are looking forward to this convention as a chance to continue developing momentum and preparing for the general election in 2011.

How can you be involved?

[Register now](#) for the conference being held June 11-13th, 2010. Early bird rates will be available until May 11! You can register online at www.gpo.ca, or by

calling (416) 977-7476/(888) 647-3366.

Policy & Constitutional Resolutions

Members that wish to submit amendments to the Constitution or Policy Resolutions must be submitted by Friday April 23, 2009. You can email your submissions to GPO Secretary, Rob Schmidt at rschmidt@gpo.ca and Policy Resolutions to the

Director of Communications and Policy, Darcy Higgins at policy@gpo.ca. Note that submissions must be sponsored by three members from three different ridings.



2010 Green Party of Canada Convention to be held August 20-22 at Metro Toronto Convention Centre: Have your say!

The Trinity-Spadina riding association and the Toronto Greens are proud to play host to the [2010 Green Party Convention](#), which will be held in Toronto on August 20-22nd, 2010. This exciting convention will be held at one of the greenest convention facilities in the country, [The Metro Toronto Convention Centre](#).

Some key highlights of the Convention weekend include:

- * A lead up week to the convention where Toronto Greens will host a series of events featuring our three main messages: Green Economy, Green Communities, Real Democracy, with an additional event on International Affairs.

- * A 'Green Lifestyle show' open to the public featuring green businesses, candidates, riding associations, social jus-

tice/sustainable environmental advocacy groups.

- * Training sessions including: organizing in your riding, canvassing training, and candidate training.

- * Policy workshops and a Shadow Cabinet meeting with members – a chance to interact with shadow cabinet members at the convention, discuss policy positions, raise concerns, and volunteer to assist critics in a policy area of your interest.

- * Community outreach summits: A chance for candidates, organizers and members to interact with members of Canada's diverse communities and listen, learn and engage.

Join us at this occasion to celebrate democracy, inspire and reaffirm our dedication to

a better world and a better style of politics in Canada.

We look forward to seeing you in August!

Key dates to remember

Now - Policy resolutions can begin any time so EDAs, campus groups, individual members are encouraged to begin policy sessions and workshops for policy development.

April 19 - Early Registration begins.

May 30 - Resolution submission deadline.

July 20 - Last day to become a member in order to be able to vote at convention.

August 20-22 Green Party Convention weekend.

For all general inquiries regarding the convention, please contact to Stephen LaFrenie at: 2010greenconvention@greenparty.ca.



April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Good Friday	3
4 Easter Bunny	5 Easter Monday	6	7 Farm Event	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Green Drinks	15	16	17 Food Drive
18	19	20	21 Green Teens	22 Gwynne Dyer	23 Green Living Show	24
25 Green Living	26	27	28	29	30	

Thurs. Apr. 22nd 7:30pm
Earth Day Eve Event
 Featuring Gwynne Dyer, Elizabeth May & Ralph Benmergui
 Trinity-St. Pauls United Church
 427 Bloor St. W., Toronto

April 23rd — 25th
Green Living Show
 The Green Living Show is Toronto's largest green consumer show dedicated to educating the public about easy and workable solutions for leading a sustainable lifestyle.
Drop by the Green Party booth!
 Direct Energy Centre, Toronto

SAVE THE DATE:
June 11th — 13th
Green Party of Ontario
AGM & Policy Conference
 Algonquin College, Ottawa
Register now at www.gpo.ca

August 20th — 22nd
Green Party of Canada
Biennial General Meeting
 Metro Toronto Convention Ctr.
 427 Bloor St. W., Toronto
Registration starts April 17th

SUBMIT YOUR EVENT
rebecca.harrison@greenparty.ca

Sunday April 4th
Meet the Easter Bunny
at the Oshawa Airport
 Taunton & Stevenson Rd.

Wed. Apr. 7th 4:30-8:30pm
Durham Farm Connections
2010 Open House
 Vipond Memorial Arena, Brooklin

Wed. Apr. 14th 6-8pm
Durham Green Drinks
 On The Rocks
 227 Brock St. S., Whitby

Saturday April 17th
12th Annual Kiwanis Food Drive
 Donate non-perishable food items
 Simcoe Settlement House
 387 Simcoe St. South, Oshawa

Wednesday April 21st 7pm
Green Teens: Recycled Crafts
 Give some old items new life for Earth Day!
 Oshawa Library, Jess Hann branch
 199 Wentworth St. W., Oshawa

A Message From Your Candidate: An Invitation to our Members



Rebecca Harrison, our Federal candidate for Whitby-Oshawa

As we prepare for another busy summer of community outreach and campaign building I wanted to take a moment to remind all of our

members that you are always invited to attend our Executive Meetings. Being a member of the Whitby Oshawa Greens entitles you to sit as an observer on any of our monthly meetings. If you would like to make a delegation to the executive we also welcome your opinions. Please be sure to contact us if you are interested. Our next Executive Meeting will be April the 14th.

We are always looking for input on how best to serve Whitby-Oshawa and input from our members is a very useful tool. If you know events that you would

like to see your Greens be a part of please let us know.

We are also looking for members to host coffee and tea outreach. These meetings are informal gatherings with myself, your candidate and your area contacts. This is a great opportunity to discuss local issues and have your friends and family hear how the Greens would address them.

This summer Toronto will host the Green Party's National General Meeting. All members will have an opportunity to vote on the motions surrounding Green Party policy, governance issues and

constitutional reform. This gives you a chance to be part of shaping the party that you support.

There will also be helpful seminars and training opportunities that will equip all attendees with the tools necessary to spread the Green message.

There are countless ways members can help our Whitby Oshawa Greens prepare for the next election. These were just a few suggestions, but we are always looking for more. Please don't hesitate to contact us with your innovative idea. Your support is always appreciated.