



March 2011



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Suggestions for April newsletter:
Deadline: March. 28th



whitby-oshawa greens

march newsletter

Rebecca Harrison to speak at Community Forum on Poverty March 17 in Ajax

Rebecca Harrison has been asked to represent the Green Party at a Community Forum on Poverty.

Join us on Thursday, March 17, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, at the Council Chambers, Town Of Ajax (65 Harwood Ave. S - just east of City of Toronto). Moderated by Carol Goar, The Toronto Star.

A community discussion on how to work in partnership towards reducing poverty in Canada, as recommended in a recent parliamentary committee report & Bill C-545, an

Act to Eliminate Poverty in Canada

Speakers include:



- Mike Creek, Voices from the Street
- Mark Holland, M. P. (Ajax-Pickering)
- Candace Hoepfner, M.P. (Portage Lisgar) & chair, HUMA Committee (invited)
- Jim Koppens, (NDP candidate, Ajax-Pickering--invited)
- Rebecca Harrison, (Green Party candidate, Whitby-Oshawa)

We want to hear from people

(Continued on page 6)

Greens call for Federal Programs and Legislation to end Child Poverty

OTTAWA -- National Green Party leader Elizabeth May called for stepped-up federal programs and legislated targets to end child poverty, in the wake of a recent report by independent Representative for Children and Youth Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond on the risk factors behind infant deaths in BC. The report, "Fragile Lives, Fragmented Systems", concluded that B.C.'s high poverty rate and patchwork support system for families put vulnerable chil-

dren, particularly First Nations children, at risk of an early death.

Contributing factors listed in the report for infant death included poverty and risk factors related to poverty, including mental illness, substance abuse, domestic violence, and single parenthood. Disturbingly, almost 75% of the infant deaths (having occurred during sleep) investigated - 15 of 21 - were First Nations children. In the riding of Saanich-Gulf Is-

lands, 10.5% of the population are classified as "low income" by the latest census and 3500 people are listed as being First Nations.

"It is time for action on child poverty, which is a significant factor in infant deaths. We have known for a long time that poverty is the number one social determinant of health. Now we know it increases infant death," said Green Leader Elizabeth May. "This is an urgent issue. BC has the highest child poverty

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Rebecca Harrison speaks on Simcoe North youth panel

By NATHAN TAYLOR, THE PACKET & TIMES

Where are the young Green voters?

That was the topic of discussion Sunday when the Simcoe North Green Party Association and provincial constituency association held their annual general meetings together at Abbott's of Craighurst. And who better than young voters to answer that question?

with a community garden project in her community.

"Change takes generations. Starting with the youngest ones and having them learn from the eldest ones -- that multi-generational collaboration -- is a good approach."

Harrison expanded on the point made by Chapelle.

Harrison was only eight years old when she helped with her father's municipal election cam-

panions. One key to getting youth involved is to do more than simply urge them to vote. Give them an opportunity to get involved with the executive, policy discussions or even to run for a seat, she said.

Education is also important. Harrison has spoken to high-school civics classes, and the students "know a little bit, but they definitely don't know enough."

One of her recommended ways to get youth involved or

their age."

Kearey-Moreland noted the importance of the Internet when it comes to connecting with youth -- or anyone else, for that matter.

"We have the ability to create online communities to share information, resources and communicate instantly, anywhere, on a mass scale for almost no cost," he said.

But Kearey-Moreland, when he's not at university in Toronto, is usually at the family farm just outside of Orillia. There's no high-speed Internet connection here at home, "partly due to the costs and our rural location."

"As the digital divide grows, many Canadians will become further marginalized from the economy, health care, education and other social services, which are increasingly online," he said. "I believe high-speed Internet access is a human right."

To attract youth, he said, the Green party needs "strong policies geared towards high-speed and affordable Internet access, copyright and intellectual-property laws which reflect the realities of the Internet age, as well as Internet literacy, education and net neutrality."

Sunday's meeting also included regular business, such as financial statements and internal elections.

Source:

www.orilliapacket.com



Oro-Medonte Councillor Marty Lancaster, Rebecca Harrison, Penatanguishine Councillor Erin Chapelle, Jacob Kearey-Moreland

Included in a panel discussion were Penatanguishene Coun. Erin Chapelle, 33, Whitby-Oshawa federal Green candidate Rebecca Harrison, 27, and Orillia Community Gardens founder Jacob Kearey-Moreland, 22.

"We need to involve children and youth from the time they can understand what's going on, and maybe even before that," said Chapelle, who is involved

in a campaign in rural southwestern Ontario. She has remained involved in politics since.

Regardless of your age, "people still take you seriously if you know what you're talking about," she said.

Harrison is also an Ontario organizer with the Greens, helping candidates and riding associa-

tions. One key to getting youth involved is to do more than simply urge them to vote. Give them an opportunity to get involved with the executive, policy discussions or even to run for a seat, she said.

"First past the post was invented when it was still thought the world was flat. A lot of things have changed since then," she said.

"Proportional representation will increase people's readiness to go to the polls, regardless of

Supporting local food: Durham Organics

It's Healthy, Fresh and to Your Door

The Freshness of a Farmers Market!

The Selection of a Grocery Store!

For Less Than You are Paying Now!

Getting fresh organics delivered on your doorstep is very easy, we save you time, money and effort. Plus you are supporting local farms and our local economy. Eat better and feel good about doing it.

We work on a simple weekly schedule

Friday evening new box contents are posted

Saturday evening you will receive automatic email notification of your upcoming weeks order

Sunday 9 pm all orders and subs need to be in

Tuesday is Delivery day between 4:30-9:30

Open your bin brimming with freshness and **enjoy**

Durham Organics offers a

100% satisfaction guarantee for the quality of our produce and the accurate packing of your delivery. If you're not completely satisfied with a produce item, or find a produce or grocery item missing from your order, we will gladly credit or replace the item. We may substitute if an item is out of stock, it will be the same or greater value than item that it is being substituted for.

Free Delivery

At this time we offer free Delivery to:

Oshawa, Whitby, Brooklin, Ajax, Courtice (THERE are a few areas unserved so please email us your postal code if you would like to know if you are in our service area)

www.durhamorganics.org



Green Party: Change the Channel on Attack Ads

Attack ads are spiraling out of control. If you're disgusted with negative politics and the state of Canadian democracy, it's time to change the channel!

The Green Party of Canada is sending a message to the other political parties: Canadians are sick and tired of attack ads. We're sending the message with an attack ad of our own – an attack ad on attack ads!

You can help send the message to the other political parties by taking the ad viral across the internet.



Here's what you can do:

Share this ad
(<http://youtu.be/j-GekKKNUTU>) on your Face-

book page. Ask all your friends to share it too.

1. Tweet the link on Twitter with the tag #GPC. Ask your

followers to RT.

Go to the Facebook pages of Stephen Harper and Michael Ignatieff and post the Youtube link <http://youtu.be/j-GekKKNUTU> as a comment on their most recent wall post. <http://www.facebook.com/MichaelIgnatieff>
<http://www.facebook.com/pmharper>

Tweet the following message to Harper and Ignatieff: @pmharper @M_Ignatieff Sick of attack ads! Pull them now. [#green.ca/IGp#cdnpoli#cp#GPC](http://green.ca/IGp#cdnpoli#cp#GPC)

Earth Hour Info Session to be held March 26 in Oshawa

Come out and learn about Earth Hour! How did it start? What is the significance of Earth Hour? How can we get involved?

Join guest speakers Oshawa Regional Councillor Amy England, Oshawa Green Party Candidate Gail Bates, and Whitby-Oshawa Green Party Candidate Rebecca Harrison as they suggest ways to become more environmentally responsible.

There will be a group discussion on environmental issues, bioregional thought, reducing our ecological footprint, energy conservation, and more!

The goal of the event is to raise awareness around the significance of Earth Hour and highlight the steps that each person can take to move beyond Earth Hour.

Please be sure to invite your friends and family to this cas-

ual and fun event. Admission is free, instead everyone is encouraged to try something from the Simple Bodega tea house and support a local business.

Please post to your Facebook or Twitter and help us spread the word.

Date: March 26, 2011
Time: 2:00pm - 4:00pm
Location: Simple Bodega, 74 Celina St. Oshawa
www.simplebodega.ca



Top 10 Family Activities on Earth Hour

1. Candle Light Dinner
2. Play 'Dark Room'
3. Read Books by Flashlight
4. Camp in your Living Room
5. Art in the Dark
6. Play Old Childhood games by candle light
7. Watch the Skyline
8. Catch up with the family
9. Solve Earth's Problems
10. Take a walk in the dark

Star Gazing Party for Earth Hour

Come and celebrate Earth Hour 2011. We will have continually showing of Astronomical DVDs and indoor displays of all things Astronomical as well as the effects of light pollution. Outside we will have a telescope with a camera attached to show on a 22 inch LCD monitor for those unable to view through an eyepiece. Other telescopes on the South lawn will be viewing Saturn and other

Deep Sky objects such as Globular Clusters, etc. (Weather permitting)

When: Saturday 26 March 2011 at 08:00 PM

Ends: Saturday 26 March 2011 at 10:00 PM

Location: Heydenshore Pavilion 589 Water St. Whitby

Hosted by: Durham Region Astronomical Association

The origins of Earth Hour in 2007

Earth Hour started in 2007 in Sydney, Australia when 2.2 million individuals and more than 2,000 businesses turned their lights off for one hour to take a stand against climate change. Only a year later and Earth Hour had become a global sustainability movement with more than 50 million people across 35 countries participating. Global landmarks such as the Sydney Harbour Bridge, CN Tower in Toronto, Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, and Rome's Colosseum, all stood in darkness, as symbols of hope for a

cause that grows more urgent by the hour.



In March 2009, hundreds of millions of people took part in the third Earth Hour. Over 4000 cities in 88 countries offi-

cially switched off to pledge their support for the planet, making Earth Hour 2009 the world's largest global climate change initiative.

On Saturday 27 March, Earth Hour 2010 became the biggest Earth Hour ever. A record 128 countries and territories joined the global display of climate action. Iconic buildings and landmarks from Asia Pacific to Europe and Africa to the Americas switched off. People across the world from all walks of life turned off their lights and came together in celebra-

tion and contemplation of the one thing we all have in common – our planet.

Earth Hour 2011 will take place on Saturday 26 March at 8.30PM (local time). This Earth Hour we want you to go beyond the hour, so after the lights go back on think about what else you can do to make a difference. Together our actions add up.

More information:
www.earthhour.org

Growing a Green Durham event on March 23 in Ajax

The Ontario Centre for Environmental Technology Advancement (OCETA) is working with Durham Sustain Ability and the Regional Municipality of Durham to present "Growing a Green Durham: Sustainability for Businesses, Homes, and Schools" - a complimentary Forum for Durham

Region stakeholders scheduled for March 23, 2011 in Ajax, Ontario.

Find out about opportunities to reduce environmental footprint among Durham Region Stakeholders;

Increase your knowledge of sustainable production & con-

sumption and pollution prevention principles, tools, and resources, and how they can be applied daily, both at work and at home; and

Learn how to adopt sustainable environmental practices to achieve real quantifiable environmental reductions.

This Forum will also provide a platform to build partnerships, share local sustainability initiatives, best pollution prevention practices, and showcase achievements of local environmental stewards from all sectors of society.

Register: <http://guest.event.com/d/6dqgvv>



Green Party policy to eliminate poverty in Canada

(Continued from page 1)

rate in Canada and it remains at the same level it was when in 1989 the Parliament of Canada vowed to end it by the year 2000. It is a scandal that in a wealthy country like Canada, we accept the existence of poverty. We need to put in place a Federal Poverty Elimination strategy ensuring that every family has an income level sufficient to allow every child to develop to their full potential. We should be looking to the countries that are more successful in eliminating child poverty and asking what lessons could we bring to Canada."

The Green Party is calling for a Poverty Commissioner to develop a Federal Poverty Elimination Strategy, a recommendation echoed by a recent UNICEF report on poverty rates and various indicators of well-being in Canada and other nations. The Green Party also support's UNICEF's call for a

national Children's Commissioner who would ensure children's best interests are considered in policy development and that services across the country are better coordinated.

BC's main First Nations organizations have also recently called for provincial legislation aimed at ending child poverty that would set measurable targets, standards, and a legislated commitment to reducing the level of child poverty. The Green Party of Canada would also support similar federal legislation and targets.

"Although we think of Canada as an affluent nation, there is a great deal of inequality in family income and it is the children that often bear this burden. Poverty is a systemic problem that requires intervention in all spheres of public policy. We need to develop a comprehensive plan to improve our social safety network so that it eliminates child poverty. And this

program needs to be spearheaded by the Federal Government," stated Rebecca Harrison, the Green Party's Poverty Elimination Critic.

To eliminate poverty in Canada, the Green Party of Canada is also calling for:

- Creation of a poverty elimination commissioner to open the door to discussions with all parties regarding a Guaranteed Annual Income Policy.
- Establishing a Guaranteed Liveable Income for all Canadians to end poverty across Canada over the longer run. An immediate increase of 25% in the Guaranteed Income Supplement.
- Implementation of a National Affordable Housing plan to set an annual rate of building affordable housing so that the supply of housing is no longer an

issue by 2019; building 20,000 new and 10,000 rehabilitated, subsidized affordable units per year for the next 10 years using capital grants and changes in tax and mortgage insurance regulations.

- Increasing funding for low-income housing.
- Greater support for people with disabilities.
- Programs to provide for universal child care.
- Removal of taxes from the lowest income categories so that no taxes are paid by those below the poverty line.

Free transit passes for those on income assistance to ensure people the mobility they need to find work, shelter and other necessities.

Source:

www.greenparty.ca

March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Drinks	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Poverty	18	19 Fair Vote
20	21	22	23 Growing	24	25	26 Earth Hour
27	28	29	30	31		

**Thurs March 17th 2pm
Community Forum on
Poverty**
Ajax Council Chambers
65 Harwood Ave. S., Ajax

**Saturday, March 19th 2pm
Durham Fair Vote Meeting**
Sports Garden Café
Iroquois Sportsplex
500 Victoria Street West, Whitby

**Saturday March 26th
2pm-4pm
Earth Hour Info Session**
Simple Bodega Tea Lounge
74 Celina Street, Oshawa

**Wed. March 9th 6-8pm
Durham Green Drinks**
Riley's Olde Town Pub
104 King St. E., Oshawa
Do you want to meet a lively group of people interested in environmental issues from academia, business, government & NGOs for good conversation? If so, join us for drinks!

**Wed. March 23rd 8am
Growing a Green Durham**
Carruther's Creek Golf & Country Club
650 Lake Ridge Road, Ajax
Organized by OCETA & Durham Sustain Ability

SAVE THE DATE
April 15-17, 2011
**Green Party of Ontario
Annual General
Meeting and Policy
Convention**
Delta Grandview Hotel,
Huntsville, ON

Durham Eco-House: Greening your home Poverty Forum

Durham Eco-House will be an inspirational leader and signature site that will sell the concept of environmental stewardship and responsibility to homeowners, the building industry and suppliers. As a demonstration site, Durham Eco-House will emphasize innovation, learning and leading edge environmentally friendly building technologies - all geared to the existing housing market. It will profile new and emerging technologies and in turn will empower landowners, homeowners and interested parties with information to reduce (and ultimately eliminate) their carbon footprint.

Visitors to Durham Eco-House will have an opportunity to see first-hand the extensive environmental changes made to the home. Displays around the house will explain how a particular system works and lay out the costs and investment returns to an average consumer. Visitors to the house would leave with a cur-

sory understanding of the options available to them and an example of their success; ready to make changes in their own homes.

Contact us at
info@durhameco-house.ca
Address:
575 Lakeridge Road South,
Whitby



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with lived experience of poverty to share your stories and ideas.
Please RSVP to: Liyu Guo, at liyugu@familyservicetoronto.org or by phone at 416-595-9230, ext 244.

For more info, visit www.campaign2000.ca, www.makepovertyhistory.ca, and www.cdcd.org.

Organized jointly by:
Community Development Council Durham
Campaign 2000
Make Poverty History Canada
Family Service Toronto