

To: SARENE Participants and Other Interested Parties
From: Phillip Penna, OEN Coordinator
Date: July 8, 2010
Re: SARENE Project Update

Friends,

First of all, let me say "thank you" for your participation and interest in the Sarnia and Region Environmental Networking Exchange research project. As you know, this collaborative project was funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). The main partners in this collaborative were the Ontario Environment Network, Wallaceburg Advisory Team for a Clean Habitat (WATCH), and Victims of Chemical Valley (VoCV). These three organizations have been and remain the responsible parties for this project as it relates to our funding agreement with the OTF. In addition, we have been working with a Local Advisory Committee made up of representatives of various organizations and bodies to assist in the implementation of the project. We are pleased to say that this project has been very successful and we look forward to working with all of you in this period of transition from the initial research phase to the establishment of a permanent networking body to carry on the good work which has begun.

As you know, this past June 19 we had our Founder's Conference. During this conference, we had excellent discussion about future plans. We had presented to the participants a draft sustainability plan which was both well received as well as well challenged - which was our hope. I will not go into the details of the discussion here. Rather, I wish to inform you of the following:

- a. As lead organization in the Collaborative, the OEN was asked to request that the final reporting deadline to the OTF on this project be extended to October 15. I have done so and the OTF has agreed to this new deadline.
- b. A transition team has been established to take the draft proposal, as well as the many other good ideas that were discussed on June 19, and turn it into a Sustainability Plan which will then serve as the foundation for further application for funding of the Network. The work of this team will begin in earnest in August.
- c. The contract of two coordinators of the project, Kimberley Gignac and Barry Wright, officially come to an end on July 14, 2010. They are presently on holiday as they had days available to them and they are rightly taking them now. I want to thank them for all their work and for assisting all of us so well. I wish them well in all their future endeavors.
- d. In the meantime, the services which we provide through the SARENE website www.sarene.ca will continue:
 - The Green Events Calendar: <http://www.sarene.ca/calendar/index.asp> - If you want to have something posted on the calendar, please send it to our webmaster at ken@kenhallgraphics.com
 - Green Exchange: <http://www.sarene.ca/classifieds/default.asp> - you need to set up an account to use this service, and if you go to the page you will find directions on how to do so
 - Green Opportunities (Jobs and Volunteering): <http://www.sarene.ca/rss.html> - to post on this site please go to <http://www.planetfriendly.net/goodworksubmit.html> and they will show up on ours.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel to contact either myself or Kris Lee of WATCH or Therese Hutchinson of VoCV. (Note: I will be away from July 12 - 30)

Have a great summer!

Phillip Penna <oen@oen.ca>