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Summary Report of Research Findings

Sarnia and Region Environmental
Networking Exchange (SARENE)

Project Year One

Released September 17, 2009

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Abstract

The purpose of this research is to identify the environmental organizations and initiatives within the designated geographical boundaries of Sarnia-Lambton and North Chatham-Kent. These projects include various public and private sectors including: not-for-profits, municipal projects, small businesses, individuals, academic institutions as well as Aboriginal environmental initiatives. By identifying these respective organizations and subsequently creating an environmental network; it is believed that these actions will facilitate communication and encourage capacity-building activities among local groups who share environmental goals. The research method that has been utilized for the purposes of this project is the semi-structured interview. One of our main findings was that many groups cited a lack of formal communication within and between ENGOs.

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Terminology

“Region” refers to the designated research area as it applies to SARENE’s mandate. The research area describes the geographic boundaries extending from Sarnia to North of Chatham-Kent. The following communities have been included in the research: Alvinston, Bothwell, Corunna, Dresden, Forest, Grand Bend, Kettle Point, Petrolia, Port Franks, Sarnia, the Pinery, Wallaceburg, Walpole Island, Warwick and Watford.

“Researchers” refers to the two staff members of SARENE that were hired to undertake the necessary research in order to develop an inventory of environmental initiatives in the region. The two hired staff members include: Kimberly Gignac of Dresden, Ontario and Barry Wright of Petrolia, Ontario. “Researchers” may be used interchangeably with “Project Co-ordinators” or “Project Mangers.”

Acknowledgements

SARENE was created as a collaborative project between the three participating groups: **The Ontario Environment Network (OEN)**, the **Wallaceburg Advisory Team for a Cleaner Habitat (WATCH)** and **Victims of Chemical Valley (VOCV)**. This project has received extensive support from a **Local Advisory Committee (LAC)** who has met quarterly to provide feedback and comments along the course of this project. This project has received financial support for a two-year period on behalf of the **Ontario Trillium Foundation**.

A thank you is extended to all of those individuals and groups who volunteered their time to provide interviews regarding their organizations for the purposes of this research.

A note of appreciation is extended to the Halton Environmental Network (HEN) and the Greater Sudbury Environmental Network (GSEN) for providing us with contact information and support in founding SARENE.

A note of appreciation is dedicated to **St. Clair College**, Wallaceburg Campus for the use of their office space.



SARENE

Samia and Region Environmental
Networking Exchange

1.1 Project Mandate

The purpose of the Sarnia and Region Environmental Networking Exchange (SARENE) is to research barriers and opportunities related to the development of an active and sustainable network in Sarnia and surrounding region for environmental groups and green initiatives.

1.2 Project Goals

Year One

1. Publish the Sarnia and Region Green Directory which will be an inventory of local “green” groups and initiatives
2. Increase in the accessibility of community members to environmental groups, projects and activities

Year Two

1. Compile a report of recommendations for sustaining the network and providing avenues for ongoing networking including:
 - Hold 1 Community Meeting
 - Hold 4-6 Capacity Building Workshops
 - Hold 4-6 Networking Building Events

Other Requirements:

- Develop a sustainability plan for the Sarnia and Region Environmental Networking Exchange beyond the initial two-year research timeframe.

2.1 The Sudbury Basin Environmental Networking Initiative (2004-2006)

The Sudbury Basin Environmental Networking Initiative began in the fall of 2004 as a collaborative project, funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The **Ontario Environment Network, Northwatch** and the **Ontario Health Communities Coalition** received a two-year grant to proceed with the networking initiative.

The goal of the project was to identify different environmental projects in the not-for-profit, educational, municipal, small business sectors as well as to identify Anglophone, Francophone and Aboriginal environmental initiatives in order to better understand the big picture of the Sudbury area. Furthermore, the initiative sought to research barriers and opportunities related to the development of an effective and sustainable network in the Sudbury Basin for environmental groups and green initiatives. As well, the initiative aimed to test potential networking models that would benefit the Sudbury region.

After the two-year grant period, the initiative took the name, **the Greater Sudbury Environmental Network (GSEN)**. The network continues its mandate to promote environmental action, policy and networking in the Greater Sudbury area. The non-profit organization has a full-time coordinator and a volunteer board of directors. **GSEN** has developed capacity-building workshops, an Earth Day Festival as well as a green guide to promote and sustain long-term environmental initiatives in Sudbury.

2.2 The Sarnia and Region Environmental Networking Exchange (2008-2010)

The Sarnia and Region Environmental Networking Exchange began in the summer of 2008 as a collaborative project led by the **Ontario Environment Network**, with the goal of creating a similar environmental network between Sarnia, Wallaceburg and surrounding communities. The OEN teamed up with the **Wallaceburg Advisory Team for a Cleaner Habitat (WATCH)** and **Victims of Chemical Valley (VOCV)** of Sarnia, Ontario.

Ontario Environmental Network

The Ontario Environment Network is a non-profit, non-governmental network coordinating the efforts of over 500 Ontario environmental non-profit organizations working towards and promoting protection of the environment. The OEN is providing administrative assistance for SARENE.

Wallaceburg Advisory Team for a Cleaner Habitat

The Wallaceburg Advisory Team for a Cleaner Habitat (WATCH) is a member group of the Ontario Environment Network. It has had long-standing relationships with local groups throughout its history, including extensive outreach and support with respect to environmental protection and emergency response. WATCH brings to this initiative an understanding of environmental issues facing the region within the perspective of downstream communities.

Victims of Chemical Valley

The Victims of Chemical Valley (VOCV) is a community-based support organization serving Sarnia-Lambton. They are dedicated to enlighten and support workers and citizens who have contracted a work-related injury or disease. The VOCV will bring a connection to labour and the health and safety movement to SARENE. They have substantial experience in the policy arena, in both application and advocacy.

On August 11, 2008 SARENE held two press conferences in Wallaceburg and Sarnia, Ontario. This marked the official kickoff of SARENE and its mandate to create a sustainable environmental network across these communities of southwestern Ontario.



(l-r) Barry Wright, Co-Project Manager, SARENE, Kris Lee, Vice-Chair, Wallaceburg Advisory Team for a Cleaner Habitat (WATCH); Kim Gignac, Co-Project Manager, SARENE; Barb Millitt, Victims of Chemical Valley; Patricia Davidson MP (Sarnia-Lambton); Bob Bailey MPP (Sarnia-Lambton); Dick Kirkland, Mayor, Point Edward; Mike Bradley, Mayor, Sarnia; and Jim Burns, Warden, Lambton County.

2.1 Methodology

Information that helped locate environmental organizations within the respective region was collected from the following data sources:

- **Local Advisory Committee (LAC)**
- **Project Steering Committee**
- **Interviews**
- **Environmental events and meetings**
- **Media sources**

2.2 Local Advisory Committee

The Local Advisory Committee (LAC) consists of members who help the researchers by reviewing and discussing research results and provide feedback and direction for future activities. The LAC meets once every three months. LAC members include:

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Chad Anderson | Agriculture |
| Margaret Buist | Community Volunteer |
| Art Da Costa | WATCH |
| Janet Fisher | Industry Engineering |
| Lisa Gilroy | Student |
| Mark Heinle | Union Representative |
| Therese Hutchinson | Ontario Environmental Network |
| Ada Lockridge | Aamjiwnaang First Nation |
| Brenda Lorenz | Education |
| Shawn McKnight | Small Business |
| Mark Parent | OHCOW |
| Linda Robbins | Community Volunteer |
| George Sunaitis | Union Representative |

2.3 Project Steering Committee

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Phillip Penna | Ontario Environment Network |
| Kris Lee | WATCH |
| Barb Millitt | VOCV |
| Jim Churcher | VOCV |
| Therese Hutchinson | OEN Steering Committee Liaison to the SARENE Steering Committee |

Interviews

In order to fully understand the environmental initiatives within Sarnia Lambton and North Chatham-Kent, a semi-structured interviewing process was conducted by the researchers with various community representatives.

A total of 104 interviews were carried out during the research period, each lasting approximately 60 minutes. (See **Appendix A** for a full list of interviews). This interview process began in September 2008 and ended in June 2009.

Each person interviewed was asked a series of questions which led to a discussion about their particular group. (See **Appendix B** for the full list of interview questions). Questions were asked as means to facilitate open dialogue and understand the barriers and opportunities that each organization has been facing.

Types of questions asked during the interviews include the following topics:

- History of the group (reason the group formed, year)
- Staffing infrastructure (paid staff, board of directors, volunteer base)
- Organizational status (not-for-profit, charitable status, community group, etc.)
- Type of funding (which sources, duration, barriers in obtaining funding)
- Partnerships (other groups they work with to reach their project goals)
- Outreach and educational programs/initiatives provided to the public
- Success and barriers in reaching their organizational goals
- Capacity-building needs
- Wish list (i.e. funding, exposure) of what would make their job easier

Environmental Events and Meetings

In order to locate environmental groups, the researchers attended a series of environmental events and meetings during the first research year. See **Appendix C** for a full list of events and meetings attended throughout the first year.

Media Sources

The researchers used the following media sources to find environmental groups within Sarnia Lambton and North Chatham-Kent:

- Newspapers
- Television
- Radio
- On-line Sources including:
 - Search engines
 - Group websites (i.e. links)
 - Facebook

The following list explains the general research findings that are recurring themes or issues related to environmental groups in Sarnia-Lambton and North Chatham-Kent. These observations stem from the semi-structured interviews that took place with representatives of environmental organizations.

General Observations

1. Types of Groups

- A variety of different types of groups are municipal programs, not-for-profit, membership-based and community groups.
- Some groups have been involved in the environmental movement for more than 20 years. One group has been in existence for 84 years.
- Groups that have been around for a long time have tangible results and successes, as well as long-standing partnerships with city/government i.e. land reclamation

2. Administration

- One of the biggest challenges for many organizations is dealing with a lack of human resources.
 - Many groups have indicated that they have a revolving presidency and board of directors, position usually held by the same individuals.
 - Some representatives have pointed out that they would like to retire, but have difficulty recruiting younger members/volunteers.
 - It is difficult to retain volunteers for long commitments.
 - A minority of active and dedicated members/volunteers feel 'burnt out'
 - Need more volunteers to undertake laborious tasks i.e. gardening.
 - Some meeting spaces are held at members' homes, other groups use city halls and public spaces.

- There is trepidation in some groups in growing too large or taking on too many projects, for fear that existing volunteers will be stretched even more thinly.
- Some groups feel that Wallaceburg's economic climate and high drop-out rates in secondary school may be affecting membership and volunteer numbers.

3. Wish Lists

- Desire to do more networking with environmental groups and public outreach
- Some groups cited a desire to organize more educational initiatives and work closer with school boards
 - Some groups would like to have easier access to the school board.
- Environmental networks have been attempted in the past, but none unifying Sarnia-Lambton and Wallaceburg.
 - Many representatives are pleased that an environmental initiative is targeted at reaching smaller communities in Sarnia Lambton and North Chatham-Kent.
- Environmental teachers would like more resources to pursue their environmental goals, as well as more networking opportunities (i.e. battery program).
- Some larger, established groups are well connected while smaller groups would like more networking opportunities with like-minded groups.

4. Funding

- Many groups feel that funding is not an issue
 - There are many funding opportunities available
 - It does take time however, to fill out grant forms, which becomes a problem as there are few human resources available to do so. Some groups indicated that a full-time paid staff member would alleviate this issue.
 - Those groups that have a dedicated person (paid staff member or volunteer) to coordinate such activities have better advancement than a committee comprised purely of volunteers.
 - Many groups engage in their own fundraising initiatives including: barbeques, penny drives, bingo nights and car washes. Some of these

organizations work together for fundraising purposes, as many groups did to raise money for Bickford Oak Woods.

- Some groups do experience problems in obtaining long-term funding, as grant money is usually provided on a project basis.
 - Funding for ENGOs tends to be short term; one year or project-specific.
 - Difficulty attaining long-term funding due to legal structure of organization.
 - Constant challenge to find new sources of funding to support environmental projects.
 - Many groups spend a majority of their time looking for funding opportunities instead of doing work directly related to their mandate.

5. Public Outreach/Publicity

- Publicity is the largest hindrance by far to moving agendas forward
- Established groups had an easier time getting their message out, since many have paid staff to perform this responsibility.
- Many groups do not rely on formal marketing to showcase their community events (i.e. newspaper, radio, magazine, on-line social networking).
 - Groups do however post their events onto their organization's websites.
- Smaller groups, volunteer-based groups have a much more difficult time getting their message heard.

6. Barriers

- Many groups hope to resolve the 'environmental activist' mentality among the public. This means that environmental issues should be important to everyone in a community, and not simply left up to the experts. Moreover, some individuals and groups who share their environmental interests do not wish to be labelled as 'activists.' Many groups would like the public to pay attention to their communities and unique locale, and to understand the small things that can make an important difference for the environment.
- Vandalism of public spaces

- Theft
- Computer hacking into group websites
- Accessing resources and networking were also mentioned, but much less frequently.
- Lack of time, energy, volunteers and funding

7. Environmental Concerns

- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Habitat Loss (including tree cover)
- Global Warming
- Food Safety
- Pesticides
- Organic lawn/garden care
- Wind Energy
- Chemical Valley
- Bio-fuels

Research Results

1. Non-Profit Community Groups

a. Community Wellbeing

- These organizations are focussed efforts to trying to empower individuals and their communities regarding matters of health and the environment.
- They want to increase their organizations' visibility with the general public and engagement with the other organizations.

b. Wildlife and Biodiversity

- Many of the wildlife groups work in isolation instead of with each other.

c. Air and Water

- Many groups have worked to protect St. Clair River. Some however, are unsure as to what their next project should be, or if they should change their mandate altogether.

d. Energy

- There does not appear to be many non-profit, citizen-based groups in either region that are advocating with a strong voice for renewable energy products. In fact, the only two citizen-based groups with a focus on renewable energy are opposed to the implementation of industrial turbines for the production of wind energy. Moreover, Sarnia's economy relies heavily on Chemical Valley.

e. Food and Agriculture

- Food and Agriculture groups mostly focus on promotion, education and stewardship
- Groups that specialize in Food Security often work closely with the public. They are often looking for volunteers and resources i.e. garden tools to work on community garden projects.

f. Recreation

- Recreation groups are working on tangible projects like bicycle paths and signage.
- They often receive municipal grants, but also engage in fundraising initiatives such as penny-drives and barbeques.
- They require volunteers to help keep their trail system clean.
- They cite their biggest barrier as being vandalism to the trail system.

g. Environmental Events

- These groups are very organized and can offer assistance/resources to other organizations in need of event planning information.

2. Government

a. Provincial

- Provincial government agencies concentrate on stewardship, conservation and education.

b. Municipal

- Municipal government agencies have a wide range of initiatives, from beautification to the preservation of natural habitat to recycling.

c. First Nations

An important cultural group that SARENE wanted to include in its research was the First Nations communities, Aamjiwnaang of Sarnia and Walpole Island First Nations of Wallaceburg. The following findings are taken from interviews with representatives of these First Nation communities.

- First Nations bring a respect for the environment in all aspects of their life that combine traditional knowledge with western science.
- Difficulty in obtaining long-term funding for important environmental research tools/facilities. Funding tends to be granted on a project basis.
- Some environmental groups do not engage in advocacy, but are spiritual/prayer groups that engage in healing ceremonies (i.e. water).
- First Nations groups are very proactive in the area of water quality.

3. Industrial/Labour Organizations

- Labour groups focus on the interface between industrial activities and the health and wellbeing of workers and the broader the community, and;
- Undertake actions to promote a healthy sustainable economy and environment.

4. Educational institutions

The SARENE research involved interviewing some environmental teachers and environmental committees.

- Green teachers in school working with student committees
- Desire to partner more with community organizations
- Need for networking among green teachers and ideas for tangible actions and resources i.e. battery recycling program.
- Potential for partnership with other academic bodies, and outside environmental organizations.
- Many established groups tend to spend much of their time and effort on education, awareness and advocacy, while school groups take a more proactive, hands-on approach by offering services such as recycling, composting and battery collection programs to students and staff.

5. Advisory Bodies

- Tend to be long-standing, reputable and well-connected organizations.
- Work with private landowners, municipal bodies and other public organizations.
- Concerned about the future sustainability of the area's economy.
- Tend to have more paid staff members.

6. Green Services

- Not necessarily interested in store front, but other networking opportunities and workshops.
- Bureaucratic delays and lack of government incentives are challenges
- Frequently attend environmental conferences.
- Lack of public awareness and marketing for environmental services.

Capacity Building Needs Identified

- Need for environmental groups, committees and not-for-profits to attract new members/volunteers on their boards.
- Need for information on current grants that exist for environmental not-for-profits and small green businesses and a list of potential funders.
- Collaboration to do more public and outreach campaigns and school programs
- Desire for public workshops on various environmental topics including: organic lawn and garden care, wind power, waste, pesticides.
- Fostering communication and networking opportunities among green teachers in schools and ENGOS.
- Workshop to help engage youth environmentalism in the community.
- Help environmental groups have more visibility within Sarnia-Lambton and North Chatham-Kent.
- A Network Founder's Conference that could showcase the local environmental groups
- Creation of a one-stop access resource centre for the public and groups to showcase local environmental groups, services and events in the area.
- Creation of a one-stop environmental community calendar to showcase all of the environmental events/activities in the area.

In addition to this research report, part of SARENE's second year mandate is to complete the following initiatives:

- Hold 1 Community Meeting
- Hold 4-6 Capacity Building Workshops
- Hold 4-6 Networking Building Events

Community Meeting

The purpose of the community meeting is to share SARENE's first-year research results with participating groups, and to discuss second-year plans for capacity-building workshops and networking events.

SARENE will be holding two community meetings in order to reach all of its participating groups in Sarnia-Lambton and North Chatham-Kent. The first meeting will be held on September 17, 2009 in Sarnia at Lambton College. The second meeting will be held on September 22, 2009 at the James Burgess Centre, St. Clair College in Wallaceburg.

Capacity Building Workshops

SARENE is currently planning six workshops designed around the following themes:

(1) Down the Garden Path – Sowing the Seeds for a Greener Future. We have contacted Ron Berezan, "The Urban Farmer" from Edmonton to deliver this workshop. For more information, please visit his website at: www.urbanfarmer.ca and <http://www.rcen.ca/AGA/2009/documents/Down%20the%20Garden%20Path.pdf>

(2) Group Dynamics. Phillip Penna, OEN, will present this workshop on how groups can operate in their most effective manner and how to recognize their own internal barriers to being able to do so.

(3) Skills Development. There are tentative ideas for this workshop which include workforce development and/or staff and volunteer communications.

(4) Volunteer Recruitment. We feel that a workshop designed around recruiting and retaining volunteers would be an excellent way to tap into the skilled workforces of Sarnia and Wallaceburg.

(5) Information Technology. This workshop will focus on new media, social networking and the interactive ways that groups can disseminate information, broadcast special events and communicate on-line. Bruce Roxburgh of Green Communities Canada's Green IT Project will be leading this workshop.

(6) Creating Social Enterprises. This workshop will focus on how non-profit groups can and are supporting their efforts through the creation of businesses whose profits are used to sustain their organization. For more information of Social Enterprises, please see http://www.enterprisingnonprofits.ca/about_social_enterprise/definitions

Networking Events

Networking events simply offer groups the opportunity to meet with others, in order to build partnerships, promote their own organizations and discuss their upcoming projects.

SARENE staff with the help of our LAC and Steering Committee will be planning 4-6 networking events which will start this fall. We hope to receive feedback from organizations at our September 2009 community meetings about what issues or projects groups would like to engage in with other groups in the region at a networking event.

It is believed that this research is the first to conduct a comprehensive inventory of the environmental activities, projects and groups within Sarnia-Lambton and North Chatham-Kent. While this research is inclusive, it could never claim to be an exhaustive inventory of all the existing groups and initiatives.

It is our belief however, that this is an accurate and thorough sampling of existing groups and acknowledges the common issues, themes and challenges that are key to the sustainability of environmental groups in Sarnia-Lambton and North Chatham-Kent.

Through the dissemination of this information with the public, environmental groups and other key stakeholders, we hope to continue to help foster networking and partnership opportunities for healthier environmental communities across the region.

Appendix A: List of Interviews

| Organization | Interviewee | Date |
|--|------------------|--------------------|
| St. Clair River Trails Committee | Janis Paulley | August 26, 2008 |
| Lambton Federation of Agriculture | Chad Anderson | August 27, 2008 |
| Individual Interests | Janet Fisher | September 2, 2008 |
| Wallaceburg Social Justice Group | Hank Bos | September 8, 2008 |
| Wallaceburg Trails | Art Da Costa | September 12, 2008 |
| Individual Interests | Lisa Maltovich | September 19, 2008 |
| Sydenham Field Naturalists | Tom Chatterton | October 1, 2008 |
| City of Sarnia Environmental Advisory Committee | Dave Shortt | October 2, 2008 |
| Chatham-Kent Public Health Unit | Kathy Tomecek | October 3, 2008 |
| Sarnia IEC | John Barnfield | October 4, 2008 |
| Bluewater Sustainability Initiative | Maike Luiken | October 7, 2008 |
| Lambton Wildlife | Malcolm Boyd | October 15, 2008 |
| Return the Landscape/ ArtWalk | Shawn McKnight | October 21, 2008 |
| SLEA/CAER | Dean Edwardson | October 23, 2008 |
| OHCOW | Mark Parent | October 30, 2008 |
| Wallaceburg Trails | Committee | November 1, 2008 |
| TD Friends of the Environment Foundation | Rose Northcott | November 2, 2008 |
| Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce Greenbelt Committee | Susan Doherty | November 5, 2008 |
| CK Organics | Barry Richards | November 7, 2008 |
| Individual Interests | Mary Pat Elliot | November 10, 2008 |
| United Way | Derwyn Armstrong | November 11, 2008 |
| United Way | Helen Heath | November 11, 2008 |
| Ducks Unlimited | Darrell Randell | November 12, 2008 |
| Friends of St. Clair River | Darrell Randell | November 12, 2008 |

| Organization | Interviewee | Date |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Bluewater Power | Tim Vanderheide | November 17, 2008 |
| Canadian Organic Growers | Su Morin | November 20, 2008 |
| Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority | Tim Cumming | November 24, 2008 |
| Akii Kwe | Committee | November 25, 2008 |
| Sarnia Lambton Economic Partnership | George Mallay | November 26, 2008 |
| Walpole Island Heritage Centre | Naomi Williams/ Clint Jacobs | November 28, 2008 |
| Patmos College | Valerie Sarloos | November 28, 2008 |
| Goodwill Industries | Kevin Smith | December 11, 2008 |
| Sarnia Lambton Labour Board | Vicky Ducharme | December 12, 2008 |
| Bkejwanong Eco Keepers | Aimee Johnson | December 19, 2008 |
| Individual Interests | Larry Cornelis | December 29, 2008 |
| 4-H Association | Dawne Murdock | December 31, 2008 |
| Dresden District Horticultural Society | Lynda Weese | January, 2009 |
| Post Carbon Chatham | Lance Meredith | January 7, 2009 |
| CK Wind Action Group | Monica Elmes | January 8, 2009 |
| Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation | Lynn Eves | January 12, 2009 |
| Locally Lambton | Committee | January 15, 2009 |
| Girl Guides, Wallaceburg | Committee | January 16, 2009 |
| Household Hazardous Waste Days | Committee | February 2, 2009 |
| Wind Concerns | Anne Towell | February 3, 2009 |
| Master Gardeners of Sarnia-Lambton | Jennifer Glaus | February 6, 2009 |
| Bluewater Trails | Lynn Bouchard | February 9, 2009 |
| TD Friends of the Environment Foundation | Yvette Scrivener | February 13, 2009 |
| St. Clair Region Conservation Authority | Rick Battson | February 16, 2009 |
| Lambton County Trails | Committee | February 18, 2009 |
| Sarnia Social Justice Film Festival | Thea deGroot | March 9, 2009 |
| Lambton College | Paul Mantle | March 12, 2009 |
| Tallgrass Ontario | Committee | March 16, 2009 |

| Organization | Interviewee | Date |
|---|------------------------------|----------------|
| Central Lambton Gardeners | Committee | March 19, 2009 |
| McKenzie and Blundy Funeral Home | Katherine Schimmi | March 23, 2009 |
| Communities in Bloom | Anne Marie Gillis | March 31, 2009 |
| Wallaceburg Advisory Team for a Cleaner Habitat | Bela Trebics | April 7, 2009 |
| Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation | Geoff Peach | April 7, 2009 |
| Organization | Interviewee | Date |
| SOBIN | Matt McLean | April 9, 2009 |
| Community Round Table Environmental Committee | Alison Mahon | April 14, 2009 |
| Carolinian Canada | Committee | April 15, 2009 |
| Sarnia-Lambton Research Park | Don Hewson/ Mary Prendiville | April 16, 2009 |
| MJ Waste Solutions | Mary Jean O'Donnell | April 20, 2009 |
| Friends of Pinery Park | Committee | April 22, 2009 |
| St. Patrick's High School | Dan Cote | June 4, 2009 |
| Canadian Organic Growers | Michael Tremblay | June 8, 2009 |
| Victims of Chemical Valley | Barb Millitt | June 10, 2009 |
| Aamjiwnaang First Nation | Sharilyn Johnston | June 12, 2009 |
| Sarnia and District Labour Council | Therese Hutchinson | June 16, 2009 |
| Alexander McKenzie Secondary School | Committee | June 18, 2009 |
| Ecole Secondaire Saint-Franchois Xavier | Mark Phillips | June 19, 2009 |
| Grand Bend Community Foundation | Committee | June 30, 2009 |

Appendix B: First Year Activities

| Event | Type | Date of Event | Location |
|--|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Local Advisory Committee | Meeting | July 15, 2008 | Point Edward |
| SARENE Staff Meeting | Meeting | July 24, 2008 | Sombra |
| Press Conferences | Public Event | August 11, 2008 | Wallaceburg/Sarnia |
| Ecological Tour | Invitation | August 2008 | Walpole Island |
| Chatham-Kent Children's Water Festival | Volunteer | September 2008 | Chatham |
| SARENE Staff Meeting | Meeting | September 3, 2008 | Corunna |
| Lambton Wildlife | Meeting | September 29, 2008 | Sarnia |
| Dawn-Euphemia Town Meeting Re: Wind Turbines | Public Meeting | October 2008 | Dawn-Euphemia |
| SARENE Staff Meeting | Meeting | October 2, 2008 | Sarnia |
| SARENE Staff Meeting | Meeting | October 14, 2008 | Dresden |
| SARENE Staff Meeting | Meeting | October 31, 2008 | Dresden |
| Local Advisory Committee | Meeting | November 2, 2008 | Point Edward |
| Lambton Federation of Agriculture | Guest Speaker, Barry Wright | November 10, 2008 | Petrolia |
| Doug Mackenzie, "Community-based Social Marketing" | SARENE Co-sponsored workshop | December 2, 2008 | Sarnia |
| Walpole Island Open House | Public Event | December 2008 | Walpole Island |
| Dresden Horticultural Society, Annual Meeting | Guest Speaker, Kim Gignac | January 15, 2009 | Dresden |
| Development of SARENE Website | Meeting with Ken Hall, publisher | January 30, 2009 | Sarnia |
| WIMBA Training Course | Computer Training | February 12, 2009 | On-line |

| Event | Type | Date of Event | Location |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Chatham-Kent Community Foundation Workshop | Environmental Workshop | February 28, 2009 | Chatham |
| Dresden Rotary Club | Guest Speaker, Kim Gignac | March 2, 2009 | Dresden |
| Halton Environment Network, Solar Fair | Networking Event | March 6, 2009 | Oakville |
| Local Advisory Committee | Meeting | March 10, 2009 | Point Edward |
| SARENE prints informational brochure | Promotional | April 2009 | Sarnia-Lambton/North Chatham-Kent |
| Urban Nature Centre | Grand Opening | April 22, 2009 | Sarnia |
| Sydenham Field Naturalists | Nature Tour, Sycamore Woods | May 10, 2009 | Wallaceburg |
| Local Advisory Committee | Meeting | May 19, 2009 | Point Edward |
| BSI Forum | Forum | May 28, 2009 | Sarnia |
| Sarnia Artwalk | Public Event | June 6-7, 2009 | Sarnia |
| Linda Duxbury, "Managing a Changing Workforce" | Workshop | June 8, 2009 | Sarnia |
| Canadian Environmental Law Association | Workshop | June 22, 2009 | Point Edward |
| CELA | Meeting | June 23, 2009 | Point Edward |
| Steering Committee | Meeting | July 2, 2009 | Wallaceburg |
| SARENE website is launched | Resource Information | July 2009 | www.sarene.ca |
| SARENE Green directories are released | Resource Information | July 2009 | Sarnia-Lambton/ North Chatham-Kent |

Appendix C: Interview Questions

I Administration

Name of Organization:

Contact Person(s):

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

Mailing Address:

Start Year:

What is the reason your organization formed?

Mandate/Mission/Vision:

What are the long-term goals of your organization?

Organization type (i.e. non-profit, business):

Can you provide a brief history of your organization?

Do you have any past or current partnerships with other organizations?

How many members make up your organization?

Do you have any volunteers?

Do you have any employees (i.e. PT, FT paid staff)?

Do you have a:

Board of Directors (10-15):

Evolving Presidency:

Advisory Committee:

Other:

II. Finances

What is your main source of funding (i.e. grants, donations, etc)?

What type of access to revenues is most useful for your group (i.e. Google, the internet, newsprint, environmental magazines, contacting experts in the area, library, government officials, industry representative, etc.)?

Have you faced any barriers in receiving funding?

Is your funding usually long-term or on a project basis?

III. Projects

What events/activities/projects/initiatives have you created in the past?

Would you consider these projects successful?

Do you have any upcoming projects/initiatives/events?

Has your group produced any documentation (i.e. brochure, booklet, flyer, website, policy paper)?

Can we have copies of this documentation?

IV. Opportunities/Barriers

What type of organizational development would be most beneficial to your organization?

What types of barriers has your organization faced in the past? (i.e. lack of manpower, lack of non-monetary resources, lack of time, lack of appropriate facilities, region too large, transportation for members, other?)

What type of services could an environmental network help your organization with, in terms of support?

What is needed to help with your overall success?

What particular skills and/or knowledge are unique to your organization?

VI. General Interest

Do your members within your organization have special skills/expertise/interests that stand out for you? Could we contact the organization in case if we are in need of such skills for special projects?

Are there any groups that have assisted/worked with your group through any of your issues/projects? Could you tell us more about these groups?

What do you think is/are the most important environmental issue(s) in this area (Sarnia Lambton, North Chatham-Kent)?

What do you envision for your organization's future (i.e. future projects and/or accomplishments to achieve, changes in legislation, obstacles/barriers to overcome, what do you think would be the best solution/to achieve your group's next stage of development)?

Do you have any special stories involving your group or specific members that you would like to share?

Can we share/publish this information?

Appendix D: Map of Region

