



PEACE & ENVIRONMENT NEWS

April-June 2022

Volume 37 • Number 2

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ARTICLES INVITED!

Submissions are invited for the Summer 2022 Peace & Environment News. Articles can be on any topic related to peace, the environment or social justice. Deadline is *June 13, 2022*. Email: pen-editor@perc.ca with ideas or submissions. Topics for blog posts are welcome at any time.

Russian Invasion of Ukraine: How Did We Get Here, What Can We Do?

by Stefan Klietsch

Stefan is a Sustainability Intern at PERC and has a background in political science.

There is a long timeline of shared history -- but also persistent tensions -- between Russia and Ukraine that have led to the invasion of the latter country by the former on February 24 of this year.

Ukraine's capital Kiev was once the capital

of a past Russian empire, and Ukraine was intimately linked to Russia under the Soviet Union. However, Ukraine also has a strong memory of the genocide of Holodomir and other oppressions by Moscow under the Soviet era. Following its newfound independence, Ukraine as part of 1994's Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances voluntarily disarmed itself of nuclear weapons in exchange for assurances that the United States, United Kingdom, and Russia would not challenge Ukrainian sovereignty with either economic or



"Sunflowers & Mourning Dove" original artwork by artist Jessica Gann Thuente. "I am feeling heartbroken and powerless of the war in Ukraine. It is so senseless and evil. An injured mourning dove seems more appropriate than a healthy white dove." Jessica is selling archival giclee prints of the piece "to help, in a small way, the people suffering as a result of the war and refugee crisis." More info inside.

military pressure.

In 2014 the Ukrainian Presidency of the allegedly pro-Russian Viktor Yanukovich was ended amidst violent clashes with police and the fury of the Euromaidan

protests. Some NATO critics such as writer Yves Engler alleged that an elected President was removed against the Ukrainian constitution, but in line with the NATO-expansionist interests of countries

such as the United States. However, Russian critics argue that Yanukovich voluntarily abandoned his office rather than resigning from fear of insecurity of his person. Regardless,



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2014 marked the beginning of the Russo-Ukrainian War.

During that year, 14,000 Ukrainians died in the Russian-speaking Donbass region of Ukraine as the Ukrainian government suppressed the Revolution of Dignity there. NATO critics alleged that this violence was a provocation towards Russian solidarity with its ethnic kin. However, Russian critics alleged that most of the Ukrainians killed were soldiers and that Russia started that conflict by encouraging separatists to take up arms against their state.

In the midst of these conflicts, Russia sent its military forces into the Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea in a move that critics condemned as an "annexation." A referendum was organized under the presence of Russian troops in which the majority of local citizens allegedly voted for union with Russia; the legitimacy of this referendum, however, was rejected by the United Nations' General Assembly.

later Ukrainian government under President Volodomir Zelenskyy claimed that their country only ever signed the agreements because of the ongoing threat of Russian invasion.

In February 2022, Russia blamed Ukraine for the failure of the Minsk agreements, declared support for the independence of the Donbass region citing the disputed 2014 referendum results there, and then invaded Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin also cited "de-Nazification" of the Ukrainian government as a justification for the invasion, referring to the undercurrents of neo-Nazism in Ukrainian politics and known presence of neo-Nazis in the Ukrainian army.

However, President Zelenskyy is himself Jewish, and the allegedly-pro-Nazi Ukrainian Presidential candidate received only 1.6% of the electoral vote in 2019, making claims that Nazi influence has to be removed from the Ukrainian Government

could someday threaten Russia itself. Russian critics allege that Putin is a dictator forcing his own country into war in an aspiration to rebuild past Russian empires, and that Putin is systematically picking on non-NATO neighbouring countries. NATO critics allege that Ukraine should satisfy

an, development, and peace keeping assistance to Ukraine, and recently increased sanctions against Russia and cancelled a large number of export permits to that country. Canada has also created programs to help Ukrainian refugees who are fleeing to Canada, and continues to



Artist Jessica Gann Thuente is selling prints of the artwork on the cover as a fundraiser for UNICEF's humanitarian efforts in Ukraine and with displaced refugees. All profits (after printing and shipping costs) go towards the fundraiser. Cost starts at \$15 and additional contributions all go towards humanitarian efforts.

Contact Jessica to inquire about purchasing prints by emailing jessica@tintydesign.com.

Russia's demands rather than fight an unwinnable war, whereas Russian critics allege that full Ukrainian sovereignty, including over Crimea and the Donbass, and humbling of the Russian dictator, is the only sustainable path to peace.

participate in NATO talks. However, the aggressive nature of the conflict has led some to see peace-keeping as an insufficient response and question how helpful a country known for peace-keeping can be in a situation with no peace to keep. Others criticize any support that directly aids the Ukrainian military, such as supplying anti-tank weaponry and ammunition.



People around the world have protested Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Photo: wal_172619 via Pixabay

The international community has roundly condemned Russia's actions in this war as a clear aggressor, with the Council of Europe expelling Russia, and organizations such as the United Nations and International Court of justice demanding an end to military activities. Many countries, including Canada, have issued a variety of sanctions against

In an attempt to resolve ongoing conflicts, multiple European countries negotiated the Minsk agreements to grant limited autonomy to the Donbass region. Ukraine signed these agreements but both sides in the conflict allegedly abandoned fulfillment of the Minsk terms. The

dubious. In the ongoing conflict NATO critics have alleged that although the invasion is fundamentally wrong, NATO and Ukraine still provoked Russian security interests with potential NATO expansion to Russian borders and stoking of neo-Nazism that

Russia. Whatever conclusions one may draw from these two competing war narratives, one fact is certain: there is a dire humanitarian situation in Ukraine. Over 10 million Ukrainian citizens have been displaced, over 3 million Ukrainian citizens have fled their country, and thousands of Ukrainian civilians and Russian soldiers have been allegedly killed. (Editor's Note: these numbers have continued to rise since the time of writing, and the intent of this article is to give some background on the continuing conflict and humanitarian crisis, rather than to provide up-to-date coverage of the situation.)

Numerous organizations across the country are stepping up to assist migrants arriving in Canada. One notable example in Ottawa is the Maidan Market, a volunteer-led shop that has opened in the Westgate Shopping Center, run by the Canadian Congress (UCC) Ottawa Branch. The shop was primarily stocked through a donation drive in March, and offers a free, dignified shopping experience to registered refugees needing support. With limited space, the store organizers are asking community members who wish to help to give cash donations. The store is open Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

In 1991, Canada was the first Western country to recognize the sovereignty of Ukraine, and has maintained strong cultural ties with the country and the 1.4 million Ukrainian-Canadians who reside here. Since 2014, Canada has provided humanitari-

We at PERC dearly hope that government policies and individual efforts may minimize the cost to human life in the days, weeks, and months to come, and help as many families fleeing Ukraine as possible to find safety and the support they need to start new lives.

Find the PEN Here!

Pick up a copy of the PEN at your local library or community centre (if you can't find it, ask for it - they all receive it!) or at one of these local businesses!

<p>Ottawa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Herb & Spice (Bank St) *Parkdale Food Centre *Farm Boy (Westboro) *Happy Goat Coffee (Hintonburg) *Ministry of Coffee (Hintonburg) *Grey Whale Barbershop (Hintonburg) *Algonquin College Horticulture Dept. *CKCU Radio, Carleton University *Ecology Ottawa *Unitarian House (Westboro) 	<p>*Rideau Park United Church (main distribution site)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kemptville</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Brewed Awakenings *North Grenville Public Library *North Grenville Municipal Arena *Municipality of North Grenville Building <p style="text-align: center;">Almonte</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Mississippi Mills Public Library
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Humans of PERC: Greening Sacred Spaces

by PERC & GSS Staff

Normally Steffan Hammonds features a PERC volunteer here, but since this issue was supported so much by Greening Sacred Spaces, we're featuring some of them instead!

Greening Sacred Spaces has a lot of new faces — and yours could be among them!

Are you passionate about environmental sustainability, spirituality, and their intersections? Consider volunteering with Greening Sacred Spaces Ottawa! We're looking for volunteers of any age who are interested in outreach to diverse faith communities in and around Ottawa. Additionally, if you're seeking to improve your skills with ArcGIS and other geographic software, we would love your help in mapping Ottawa's faith communities. Lastly, we welcome volunteers with financial experience to evaluate prospective loans by our community bond. Contact Hannah Rockburn at gssenergy@faithcommonsgood.org to learn more!

In the meantime, check out our new board members, and volunteers!

Charlie Scromeda

After several years of serving Greening Sacred Spaces Ottawa in a staff capacity, Charlie Scromeda is one of our newest board members. While achieving a BA in Early Modern Studies and German at the University of King's College, Charlie worked as a summer stu-



tion in Geomatics.

He identifies faith building locations using Google maps, websites, and other publicly available information. Once he identifies a complete list of faith community locations and geocodes them,

he will apply spatial analysis techniques on faith building locations within a 50m radius of freshwater river/lake/stream. And finally, the result will be in an interactive story map to highlight faith community locations, as related to the FSP.

Left: Sophie Lamb recently joined the GSS Ottawa Board and works with Sea Change Canada.

Below: Hameed Khorami is a volunteer who helps with mapping projects.

dent for Faith & the Common Good, writing case studies for the Regeneration Works program in 2015.

Since then, they have worked with both youth and adults as director of Country Fun Nature Camp, an eco-Christian summer camp; and as interim faith formation leader at Kitchissippi United Church. They are passionate about the intersections of spirituality, care for Creation, and lifelong learning.

Sophie Lamb

Sophie Lamb is a Program Coordinator at Sea Change Canada. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies from Carleton University with a Minor in Earth Science: Earth Resources and Processes.

Sophie has also completed a certification from the United Nations in Sustainable Development Goals Steward-

ship.

Hameed Khorami

Hameed is a volunteer for the Freshwater Stewardship (FSP), joining the GSS Ottawa team in December 2021. He is a recent graduate from Carleton University with a B.A. in Environmental Studies with a concentra-



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Charlie Scromeda transitions from staff to Board member at GSS Ottawa.

PEACE AND ENVIRONMENT CALENDAR

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 2022	All Month: Earth Month					1	2
	3	4 Mine Awareness Day	5	6 Intl. Day of Sport for Development & Peace	7 World Health Day	8	9
	10	11	12	13 Intl. Day of Pink	14 World Book Day Green Drinks, 5:30 PM, Virtual.	15 Good Friday	16
	17 Easter	18	19	20	21	22 Earth Day	23 World Book Day
	24	25 World Penguind Day	26 Intl. Chernobyl Remembrance Day	27	28	29 NCENN: Networking for ENGOS. 10Am-12PM, zoom. info@ncenn.ca	30

We provide FREE event listings to Non-profit groups. To submit an event, email pen-editor@perc.ca as far in advance as possible. With events still uncertain due to COVID-19, we highly recommend confirming events before attending.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 2022	1	2	3 World Press Freedom Day PERC AGM 5:00PM Rideau Park UC 2203 Alta Vista	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12 Green Drinks, 5:30 PM, Virtual.	13	14 GSS Ottawa Energy Benchmarking Conference, 2-4 PM, 2203 Alta Vista Dr
	15	16 Intl. Day of Living Together in Peace	17	18	19	20  World Bee Day Endangered Species Day	21
	22 Intl. Day for Biodiversity	23 World Turtle Day	24	25	26	27 NCENN: Networking for ENGOS. 10Am-12PM, zoom. info@ncenn.ca	28 Great Glebe Garage Sale
	29 Intl. Day of UN Peacekeepers	30	31		All Month: Mental Health Awareness Month, Wildlife Month May 13-23: Tulip Festival		

PEACE AND ENVIRONMENT CALENDAR

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 2022	Pride Month Great Outdoors Month EnviroCentre's Let's Bike Month!	1st week: Canada Environment Week 2nd week: Rivers to Oceans Week		1	2	3 Vegans Who Snack Food Festival Parkdale Market, 5-9 PM World Bicycle Day	4 Doors Open Ottawa June 4-5 613-580-9674
	5 World Environment Day	6	7	8 World Oceans Day	9	10	11 Rideau Lakes Cycle Tour June 11-12 www.ottawabicycleclub.ca/rict
	12 World Day Against Child Labour	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20 World Refugee Day	21 Summer Solstice & Ottawa Indigenous Solstice Festival https://summersolsticefestivals.ca/	22 World Rainforest Day	23	24 NCENN: Networking for ENGOS. 10Am-12PM, zoom. info@ncenn.ca	25
	26 Pride Day	27	28	29	30		

GROUPS

Amnesty International Group 56 meets monthly. Call 613-445-3996.

Canadian Peace Initiative (CDPI) - Ottawa Chapter meets at 7:30 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the month except for the summer, at 91A Fourth Ave. <www.departmentofpeace.ca> Call 613-341-9216 or 613-276-6764.

Citizens Climate Lobby Ottawa advocates for legislation to curb fossil fuel emissions and move to low carbon energy. Tues following 1st Sat of each month, 7-9 p.m. Info: ottawaccl@gmail.com, mwesche@xplornet.com or 819-459-1910 (leave message).

Ecology Ottawa is a grassroots nonprofit organization working to make Ottawa the green capital of Canada. To volunteer, or receive our e-newsletter, visit <ecologyottawa.ca> or call 613-860-5353.

Faith and the Common Good is a multi-faith environmental networking with faith communities in Ottawa. Regular networking events, Greening Sacred Spaces. Email: ottawa@faith-commongood.net

Green Drinks Ottawa - Fox & Feather Pub, 283 Elgin St (Upstairs). 2nd Tues monthly. For topics, registration links: <http://www.greendrinks.org/ON/Ottawa>

The Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital works to join individuals and citizens' groups to protect significant green spaces in the national capital area. Visit <www.greenspace-alliance.ca> Call 613-513-8372 or email contact@greenspacealliance.ca.

The Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Movement - Ottawa (IPSMO) is a grassroots organization that supports indigenous peoples in struggles for justice. <www.ipsmo.org> Email: ipsmo@riseup.net

Just Voices choir: activist choir that sings about peace, the environment, and social justice issues. New members welcome. Practices Wed at 7 pm. from Sep to June at the Bronson Centre, 211 Bronson Ave. Info: www.justvoices.ca

Maison Tucker House Children's camps, courses, retreats, rentals, eco-programs. <www.maisontuckerhouse.ca/>

No One Is Illegal - Ottawa <noiiottawa@gmail.com> A coalition of immigrants & allies dvocating & fighting for the rights, dignity, and respect of immigrants, refugees, indigenous peoples, and those living without status in Canada.

NOWAR/PAIX<<http://www.nowarpaix.ca>> Email: nowar.paix@gmail.com

NCENN - Environmental Networking for nonprofits. Fourth Friday of the month, 10AM-12PM. info@ncenn.ca <www.SustainableEasternOntario.ca/our-work>

The National Capital Peace Council of the Universal Peace Federation upf.org meets for vegetarian breakfast at 7:30 am last Tues every month to hear presentations by other peace-minded groups. Info: 613-218-1431, or thestring@rogers.com

One World Arts. <www.oneworldarts.ca> Call 613-238-4659.

OPIRG-Carleton resource library

and working groups. 326 Unicentre, Carleton University. <<http://www.opirgcarleton.org/>> Call 613-520-2757.

The **OPIRG-Ottawa** Resource Centre. Room 215 Unicentre, University of Ottawa. <<http://www.opirg-gripo.ca/>> Call 613-562-5800 x4363/4365. Ottawa

The Ottawa Biosphere Eco-Cities Initiative (OBEC) provides a convenient drop-in/drop-out model of volunteering on local sustainability projects. Get involved in something you care about. www.obec.ca

The Ottawa Organic Farmers' Market year-round, Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Canada Care, behind Canadian Tire, Bank at Heron. <www.oofmarket.ca> Call 613-826-2286.

Ottawa South Eco-Action Network is a community group active in the Mooney's Bay area. Based on the Ecology Ottawa model of grassroots action on climate and ecology issues. <https://www.facebook.com/OttawaSouthEcoAction/>

Ottawa Water Study/Action Group (OWSAG) is working to educate the public about environmental problems related to single-use plastic bottles of water. www.owsagottawa.org or call 613513 5668.

Physicians for Global Survival 30 Cleary Ave, Ottawa. <www.pgs.ca> Call 613-233-1982 - Working on nuclear disarmament.

The Population Institute of Canada a group concerned with the effects of world overpopulation. <www.piofc.ca> Call 613-833-3668 or Email: mail@populationinstituteofcanada.ca

Protect Our Winters Canada, Ottawa Regional Chapter is uniting and organizing outdoor enthusiasts to take action as effective climate advocates. We are building strength in numbers to influence Government solutions and policies on climate change. For information please email ottawa@protectourwinters.ca

Raw Vegan Potlucks in the Glebe at St. Giles Church held the last Friday of each month. <www.SimplyRaw.ca> Call 613-234-0806.

RESULTS Canada meets 2nd Tues of each month to take action on an issue related to absolute poverty at the Dalhousie Community Centre. Come be a voice for the world's poorest. www.resultscanada.ca. Info: Stephen - scsteden@gmail.com.

Transition Ottawa helping to face the challenges of Climate Change through practical solutions on a local scale. <<http://transitionottawa.ning.com/>>

Vegetarians and Vegans of Ottawa have a veg*an (vegan and vegetarian) meetup twice a month. <www.ottawaveg.com>

World Federalists Movement - Canada <www.worldfederalistscanada.org> Call 613-232-0647 or Email: wfc-nat@web.ca

Water Rangers Citizen Science to protect our local waterways. Borrow a test kit. <www.waterrangers.ca>

Spring Snow Melt, Hidden Hazards

by Evan Stelzer

Evan is a second-year university student in Ottawa who found the PEN through his mother Jen, who works with EnviroCentre!

While fresh fallen snow is beautiful to behold, it doesn't take long for that beauty to dissipate in urban areas. The once pure-looking snow quickly grows grimy as it absorbs pollutants from the air causing roads to be filled with an icky slush and snowbanks to lose their sparkle. Additionally, garbage becomes buried in the snow hiding away until spring and salt litters the roads and driveways. Come spring, snow starts melting and what we are left with is polluted water carrying the accumulated garbage down our streets and into our waste water systems, streams, and rivers. This springtime snow melt poses an environmental challenge as all these pollutants become exposed.

While the snow keeps the pollution in place during the winter, as the snow melts some of the pollution is carried with it, and some is left to pose a threat to the en-

vironment on land. To combat ice on the roads, roughly five million tonnes of road salts are used annually in Canada alone. This salt pollution poses a wide array of environmental issues: harm to roadside vegetation, negative effects on biodiversity and groups of microorganisms, and detrimental results to freshwater and soil.

Additionally, since the snow absorbs pollutants such as exhaust, lots of these pollutants are carried with the water once it melts. There is also the problem of the garbage left behind as animals may ingest it which may lead to them starving from not having enough room for food or other malign affects from toxic chemicals in the garbage.

Stormwater run off poses the problem of dragging pollutants into the storm drains which ultimately go to streams. According to Penn State Extension, melting snow poses the same problem with additional and unique problems. For one, frozen ground may serve as an impermeable surface which can cause flooding. Additionally, there's all the salt on the roads to be carried out on top of the typical debris stormwater brings to streams. This perpetuates

the previously established problems of salt affecting freshwater and subsequently biodiversity. It also introduces debris to aquatic life which may accidentally ingest it. While grit and sand can be less harmful than snow, they can also cause clouding and excess sediment in waterways, which can smother aquatic wildlife.

Spring, after the snow has already been melting for a while, is when the snow looks its worst, as much of the water has melted away leaving a pile of pollution behind in its wake. This is when all the cigarette butts and coffee cups that were littered and hidden away during the winter come back to sight creating a grotesque view. However, by the time this happens many chemicals in the snow may already have been carried off to ground and surface water with the early spring snow meltage. This is because most of the pollutants enter the soil and water ecosystems with the spring thaw in which the water first starts coming from the snow.

While the snow left in the snowbanks is left to melt on its own, there is also the snow that is cleared from the street and put into piles to be disposed of. However, sim-

ply disposing it in the water without care still poses the problem of introducing the pollutants absorbed by the snow into the ecosystem.

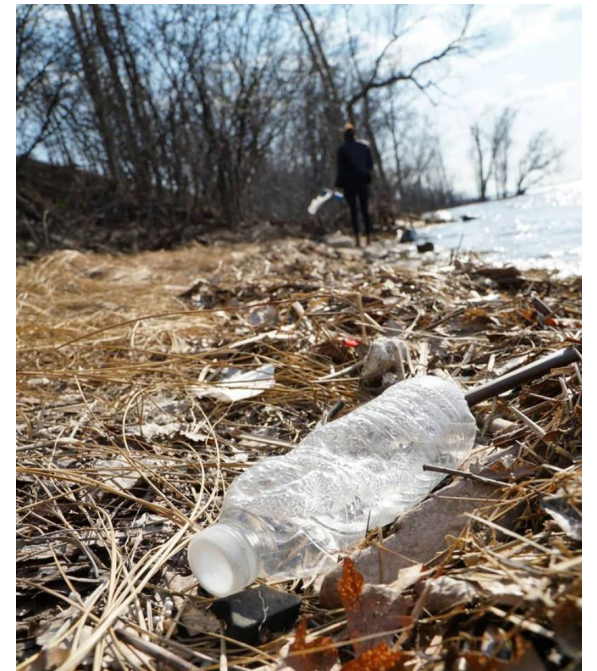
When disposing of these piles an assessment of the cleanliness of the snow being disposed of in waters should be conducted, and polluted snow should be treated just like polluted water to minimize environmental impacts. Another way to improve the disposal of snow is to put it to use. Snow cooling plants could put the

snow to use reducing the need for electric cooling and potentially simultaneously filter snow run off.

There are also things on the individual level that can be done to help combat the pollution. Piling snow on permeable ground to reduce run off, ensuring

local storm drains are clear to prevent flooding (which may bring additional debris), and to use salt and de-icing chemicals sparingly, and using eco-friendly products. Picking up litter and throwing it away properly is also helpful as it aids in preventing it from building up underneath the snow.

With the blooming of new life, spring can make us blind to the pollution that harms life around us. However, being conscious of these problems is good as it



Plastic bottles emerging from snow banks in spring are only one aspect of the pollution associated with snow melt. Go ahead and pick them up! Photo: Clare Stone

OSEAN's Pollinator Patch Pilot Program

by Bryony Wharfe with Charlie Scromeda

Bryony works with the Ottawa South Eco Action Network.

The Ottawa South Eco-Action Network (OSEAN), a group of volunteer environmental activists working in Ottawa South, has received a grant for a gardening program that will benefit residents and faith groups alike. The grant from The City of Ottawa's Community Environmental Projects Grant Program will help OSEAN create a pollinator program for twenty five residents within their three wards. The Pollinator Patch Pilot Program aims to help facilitate participants in building and planting their own pollinator garden in their front or back yards or balconies. The overall goal of the program is to build more pollinator corridors and protect biodiversity, and OSEAN hopes to do this by reducing some of the barriers that come along with pollinator patches, such as cost and knowledge.

While the Pollinator Patch Pilot Program will



Ottawa South Eco-Action Network

primarily target residents — supplying plants and seeds to residential buildings with yards or containers — the knowledge and resources provided by OSEAN will be open to all, and may be of particular interest to faith communities with gardens of their own.

Many of these faith groups, such as Carleton Memorial United Church and St. Basil's Catholic Church, have already taken steps in creating pollinator gardens, and Greening Sacred Spaces (GSS) Ottawa has created tip sheets for this type of outdoor greening. In partnership with OSEAN, GSS Ottawa hopes to direct more curious faith communities towards

the wealth of knowledge provided by community associations and local environmental groups.

OSEAN wants more people to have these native gardens, and to make the process easy and feasible no matter what walk of life you come from. They plan to create a space where participants (and members of the public) can have open discussions on pollinator gardens, building an environment where people can communicate and learn from one another,

and even exchange seeds!

As a participant of the program, you'll be receiving a bundle of resources to support your pollinator patch journey. Below are some examples of what's to come in the following months:

- A garden design presentation, hosted by Berit Erickson (<https://cornerpollinatorgarden.net>). During this webinar you will learn why species selection is important when considering what type of yard you have, and you'll be given suggestions for the best ways to group the plants you've been given.

- A pollinator patch yard sign. This sign will highlight the importance of your pollinator patch, and that it is maintained to protect and promote biodiversity of plants and animals.

- A resource docu-

ment filled with links to help educate you in every aspect of their pollinator patch journey, from seed planting to seed harvesting.

- Free seeds/seedlings. These will be based on your yard types (dry/wet, full shade/sun etc.) so your new native plants have the best chance of survival.

- A front yard gardening and bylaw 101 webinar presentation. This will include what bylaws apply to your yard, how to stay within local bylaws, and what to do if you get a bylaw notice.

If you're not a participant you don't have to miss out. You'll still be able to:

- Participate in the garden design presentation, hosted by Berit Erickson (<https://cornerpollinatorgarden.net>).

(continued on Back Cover)

The Leveller

CAMPUS • COMMUNITY • CULTURE

leveller.ca

More Bilingualism, More Sustainability

by/par Jean "Ked"
Neptune

After many years conducting business mainly in English, Sustainable Eastern Ontario is happy to report the founding of a French language counterpart to our flagship program, the NCENN - le RFOECN!

Pourquoi un Réseau d'Organisations Francophones?

Développement Durable de l'Est de l'Ontario (DDEO)/Sustainable Eastern Ontario(SEO) est un réseau d'organisations qui favorise le partenariat et la collaboration entre les Organismes à but non lucratif dans la réalisation d'activités de développement durable au niveau de l'Est de l'Ontario. L'un de ses programmes phares est le NCENN (National Capital Environment Non-profit Network) qui existe depuis 2008, avec son équivalent francophone RFOECN (Réseau Francophone des Organisations Environnementales de la Capitale Nationale) crée en 2021.

Conscient de la faible participation des francophones plus particulièrement des nouveaux

RESEAU FRANCOPHONE DES ORGANISATIONS ENVIRONNEMENTALES DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE



(Iles) Canadiens (nes) dans les débats

sur le développement durable et face aux besoins du moment à savoir les exigences climatiques et la croissance continue de la communauté francophone au niveau de l'Ontario qui est passée de 622415 en 2016 à 720 882 en 2021 avec une augmentation de 2% depuis 2011; alors que, les personnes bilingues sont passées de 1, 490,390 en 2016 avec une croissance de 7% par année depuis 2011 pour atteindre plus de 2 millions en 2021 (Statistique Canada recensement 2011).

Le Développement Durable de l'Est de l'Ontario a jugé nécessaire d'intégrer cette communauté grandissante dans le développement durable et la lutte contre les changements climatiques. Pour se faire, au cours de l'année 2021, le DDEO a lancé plusieurs programmes tout en se basant sur la Diversité, l'Équité et l'Inclusion, parmi lesquels le Réseau Franco-

phone des Organisations Environnementales de la Capitale Nationale (RFOECN) en date du 25 Juin 2021.

La Mission du RFOECN

La mission du RFOECN est de Connecter les différentes organisations francophones qui interviennent dans le développement durable, développer des Collaborations stratégiques dans tout le secteur, renforcer les Capacités administratives et opérationnelles et de Célébrer les succès dans toute la région.

Les Objectifs du RFOECN:

Les Objectifs du RFOECN sont de/d'

- Promouvoir le partage des informations, des expériences et des ressources matérielles, humaines et économiques entre les Organisations environnementales dans la région de la Capitale Nationale
- Encourager une franche collaboration entre les organisations en offrant des opportunités de réseautage entre le personnel des

ONGEs, les membres du conseil d'administration et les bénévoles.

- Offrir des opportunités de renforcement des capacités qui répondent à des besoins et des préoccupations spécifiques au niveau local tels que le soutien à la collecte de fonds, la gestion financière, les communications, la planification stratégique et plus encore!

Situation actuelle du RFOECN

En ce jour, le RFOECN compte plus de 25 organisations francophones avec des origines très diversifiées, ce qui représente une opportunité pour le secteur du développement durable plus particulièrement pour l'atteinte des objectifs fixés par le gouvernement pour réduire d'ici 2030 et 2050 respectivement 80 % et 100 % des émissions de Gaz à Effet de Serre (GES). C'est une grande ambition qui implique des actions symbiotiques caractérisées par le renforcement des liens, la participation de toutes les communautés en thème de diversité, la collaboration entre les organismes environnementaux sans but lucratif

au niveau de la Capitale Nationale afin de garantir que les objectifs collectifs d'atteindre un avenir durable soient réalisés.

Les défis environnementaux sont complexes, pour les surmonter, il revient à tous les organismes au niveau national, provincial, municipal et local d'unir leurs forces afin de travailler ensemble et d'engager les communautés dans la lutte contre les changements climatiques en vue de maximiser l'efficacité des efforts consentis pour parvenir à des résultats efficaces et durables.

Pour toutes informations supplémentaires ou pour rejoindre le Réseau Francophone des Organisations Environnementales de la Capitale Nationale, veuillez entrez en contact avec son coordonnateur:

Jean Ked Neptune
Directeur Assistant
Sustainable Eastern Ontario
ked@sustainableeasternontario.ca

Comics & Cartoons

In this PEN edition, we have a family submission! Poem by Marc Andre Bonami and accompanying artwork by his young daughter, Charlotte, with assistance from her mother Bianca Cadieux. The Bonami-Cadieux family are friends of former PERC Intern Jessie Lozanski, also an artist. Have an idea for artwork or a cartoon related to peace, social justice, or environmental issues? Email pen-editor@perc.ca with submissions or suggestions.

Indescribable landscapes
playgrounds of Earth
magnificent waterfalls

We are here
to admire you

Tundra, Taïga

Boreal forest

Great Lakes

We are here
to serve you

Paddling or hiking
saddle or shoes
with trails, parks and
passion

We are here
to protect you

Humanity for eternity
shall respect
this borrowed land
We stand on
Or be taken within



(continued from pg 6)

- Purchase a pollinator patch yard sign at cost. (expected price to be less than \$5)
 - Have access to the resource document.
 - Participate in our front yard and bylaw 101 presentation.
 - Receive seeds. (depending on availability)
- Current participants in the Pollinator Patch Pilot Program have a wide range of different yard types: there are some that get rather dry, while others that experience a lot of shade. Several participants have pollinator patches already but want to develop them to become more native, and a few have plant boxes where they don't have a yard at all!

With help from Hugh Metcalfe at Naturaide OSEAN chooses plants that will thrive in your specific yard, and you'll have countless resources to help support you whilst you're supporting your new plants. Other key sponsors include Ecoasis Landscapes Restoration, Fletcher Wildlife Garden, Green Thumb Garden Centre, and Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library, who have helped supply knowledge and resources for the program to be successful.

For more information on the program, to access its many free resources, or to sign up as a resident, please visit OSEAN's website: ottawasouthecoactionnetwork.ca/activities/pollinator-patches.



Lots of activity in a resident's pollinator patch that OSEAN is hoping to replicate in many other yards. Phot: OSEAN's Front Garden Yard Contest participant.

PERC Notes & Reader's Corner

Eco-Internships

PERC has been doing well with the guidance of Jessica Legere and Jacob Tarasofsky through the Eco-Executive Director program, and continues to benefit from Stefan Klietsch and Suzanne Tewnion through the Eco-Internship program, but keep an eye out for new job postings this Summer as we hope to hire 1-2 additional interns if funding for the positions is approved.

These positions offer paid training in the key skills needed in the environmental non-profit sector and competitive wages, and require a six month commitment. Possibility of contract extension, or of placement with partner organisations in the sector exists. Interested parties should email info@perc.ca and follow PERC on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for updates.

Board News

At the PERC AGM in early May, the Board said goodbye to Akil Mesiwala after two terms on the Board, and welcomed Charlie Scromeda to the Board of Directors.

Volunteer Needs

As businesses open up and people start to travel more, PERC is once again looking for volunteers who can help distribute the PEN in their workplace, favourite coffee shop, doctor's office, etc., as well as bring a copy along on their travels! Capturing interesting reader's corner images and sending them to pen-editor@perc.ca is a fun way to showcase the paper and get your pictures in print.



Stefan used a hand-held scanner wand to capture images of old PEN copies (broadsheets being too large to fit on a regular scanner) and then stitched the images together digitally. Photo credit to himself.

Please include a description of the image and photo credit information.

Additional volunteer needs include artists to submit artwork and cartoons for the Comics & Cartoons column, and people who can attend events (virtual or in person) around Ottawa to represent PERC and the PEN, help give out copies of the paper, and take photos or write up the events for the PEN and the PERC blog. These can be great volunteer opportunities for high school students needing volunteer hours, and we will happily sign any required paperwork for that purpose!

Interested in volunteering? Email engagement@perc.ca.

Staffing Changes

After over five years at PERC, Coordinator and (more recently) interim PEN editor Kathryn Norman is stepping down from PERC due to health issues. Some coordinator roles will go to existing and possibly future

interns, and PEN layout will be done by a design professional working for Sustainable Eastern Ontario and serving many different groups.

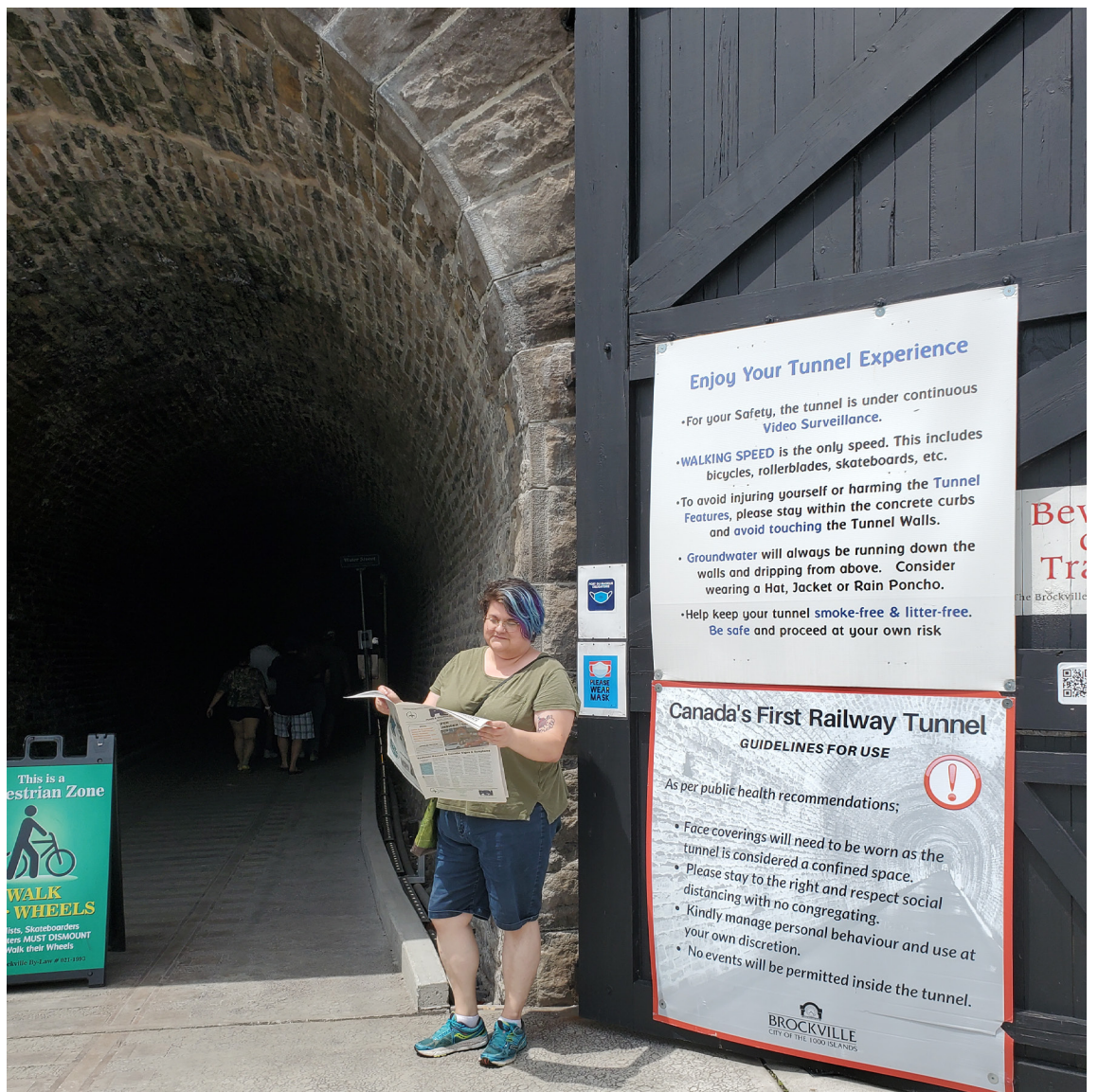
If you have questions about these roles at PERC or would like to volunteer time to help with editing etc., email info@perc.ca

Archives

Intern Stefan Klietsch has

been hard at work scanning past PEN editions and key documents, and all editions of the PEN from the very beginning of the Ottawa Peace Calendar have now been captured digitally. The next step will be populating the archive section of the website with these documents.

Stefan noted during his work that before PERC became a charity, there was much more partisan political discussion in the PEN, but that many issues, such as criticism of Canadian arms sales to other countries and foreign policy towards Haiti, have remained consistent.



Past PERC Board Member Andrea Dixon reads the PEN at the entrance to Canada's first railway tunnel, now a pedestrian tunnel, in Brockville, ON. Photo: K Norman.