

**PROGRESS REPORT #3 TO COUNCIL  
TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE:**

**MAY 2002 TO OCTOBER 2003**

**Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum**

05 May 2004

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to record for Council the work carried out by the Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum (KEAF) and its working groups since its last summary report to Council in May, 2002. The report is the last of three summary reports and documents KEAF's activities to the end of its term in December, 2003.

Between 2002 and 2003, KEAF reorganized its activities under three working groups, namely: Inner Harbour Group (IHG); the Forum Learning, Awareness and Publicity (FLAP) Group and the Other High Priority Issues and Environmental Strategy (OHPIES) Group

Following a recommendation by KEAF, Council agreed that KEAF adopt a harmonized approach to the Inner Harbour research that involved all levels of government - the goal being to assist the City in the development of a comprehensive plan for the Inner Harbour.

Under the supervision of the IHG, a detailed study of the Inner Harbour was conducted by a consultant. The 2003 report of this work entitled: *Kingston Inner Harbour Data Compilation and Gap Analysis for the Great Cataraqui River* was presented to the City Council in June, 2003.

To give the public an opportunity to make their own choices regarding environmental issues and to raise the KEAF profile within the community, FLAP produced a series of 'Fact Boxes' consisting of 100-250 word articles for weekly publication in the 'Kingston This Week' newspaper. The Group also arranged a series of guest speakers to speak to KEAF on a wide range of environmental topics such as air quality, traffic management and the West Nile virus. Site visits were made to locations such as Belle Park and the Ravensview Sewage Treatment Plant.

The OHPIES Group worked with City staff in collaboration with the Hearthmakers Energy Cooperative on the 'Green Home Visits' initiative, (an initiative within the framework of the Federal Partners in Climate Protection Program). This initiative also included energy audits, by Gaia Power Inc., on 44 City buildings as the first stage in the establishment of City-wide greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets as well as a situational review on average residential energy and water consumption use in the City.

The OHPIES Group submitted several ideas on the *Cycling and Pathways Study*, the *Urban Growth Strategy* and the *Kingston Transportation Master Plan*. For the *Urban Growth Strategy*, KEAF strongly supported Growth Alternative # 1 of the report, - the adoption of an alternative that will contribute to the biggest reduction in greenhouse gas generation

At Council's request, KEAF contributed to the section entitled: *Project Plan: Environment of The Community Strategic Plan 2000 – 2010* in *FOCUS KINGSTON – the Future of Our Community*

Following a recommendation by KEAF, Council asked City staff to prepare an annual environmental activities report to provide information to the public on progress towards environmental goals. KEAF was requested by the City to assist in the development of a format for the report.

KEAF continued to respond to the City's requests for input on several major studies being undertaken by the City (the *Urban Growth Strategy*, the *Transportation Master Plan*, the *Cycling and Pathways Study* and *Class Environmental Assessments* for highway construction north of the 401).

KEAF supported the City becoming a 'Partner' in the Climate Change Protection Program. The City is now in the implementation phase of the program and greenhouse gas emission reduction targets are now being evaluated by City staff.

Two motions, and one recommendation in support of a Council motion, were submitted by KEAF to Council. In these motions, KEAF supported initiatives on the use of bio-diesel, renewable energy and the Kyoto Accord. All three motions were passed by Council, (Appendix A).

# 1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to record for Council the work carried out by the Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum (KEAF) and its working groups since its last summary report to Council in May, 2002. The report is the last of three summary reports and documents KEAF's activities to the end of its term in December, 2003.

## 1.1 Background and Council's Instructions

KEAF was created by City Council in January, 2000. Membership of KEAF includes 21 volunteer representatives from academic, government and non-government organizations, and the public at large, all with an interest in providing constructive assistance to the City. The 12 public representatives are appointed by Council from community volunteers and the technical representatives are chosen by their respective organizations namely, Queen's University (two members), the Royal Military College, St. Lawrence College, the Cataraqui Regional Conservation Authority and the Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington Health Unit. Two members of Council sit on the Forum.

KEAF's mandate is to identify environmental issues and priorities in Kingston and to respond to special requests from City Council for advice on environmental issues that might arise.

## 1.2 KEAF's Response to Council's Instructions

Since its creation, KEAF has submitted to Council the following reports:

- *Towards a Sustainable Future: Environmental Priorities for a New City of Kingston, September 2000*; and
- *Progress Report #2 to Council: Towards a Sustainable Future, May 2002*.

Council is referred to the above reports for details of KEAF's activities prior to May, 2002.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE MAY, 2002 REPORT AND COUNCIL'S RESPONSE**

The following recommendations were submitted to Council within the framework of KEAF's May, 2002 report.

### **2.1 On KEAF's Role**

#### ***Recommendation 2002-1***

*That Council instruct KEAF to continue to work on environmental matters of importance to the City and citizens of Kingston, while focusing on the following priorities:*

- *An environmental strategy for Kingston;*
- *The Inner Harbour;*
- *Air Quality;*
- *Issue identification; and*
- *Public awareness.*

Council agreed with the recommendation that KEAF continue to be involved in the identified priorities.

### **2.2 On an Environmental Strategy for Kingston**

#### ***Recommendation 2002-2***

*That Council instruct KEAF to continue to participate in the Focus Kingston initiative and provide assistance and recommendations to Council on an environmental strategy for Kingston.*

Council agreed to this recommendation. The environmental strategy work is now completed and included in the section entitled: Project Plan: Environment, published in the *Community Strategic Plan 2000 – 2010* under the title: *The Future of Our Community*. Two of KEAF's technical members continue to participate in FOCUS KINGSTON.

### **2.3 On the Inner Harbour**

#### ***Recommendations 2002-3a and 2002-3b***

*That Council instruct KEAF to assist the City with the bringing together of interested parties to promote a harmonized approach to further research relating to the Inner Harbour; and That Council instruct KEAF to continue to work on matters relating to the Inner Harbour and assist the City with the development of a comprehensive plan for the Inner Harbour.*

Council agreed to the recommendation of a harmonized approach to the Inner Harbour research with the involvement of all levels of government; this work is in progress, with the overarching goal of assisting the City in the development of a comprehensive plan for the Inner Harbour. A compilation of all the studies carried out in the Inner Harbour over the past 30 years was submitted to Council in June, 2003

## 2.4 On Air Quality

### ***Recommendation 2002-4***

*That Council instruct KEAF to assist the City with the implementation of the Partners for Climate Protection Program and identify ways to reduce emissions of gases that are contributing to climate change.*

Council agreed to the recommendation. The Partners for Climate Protection Program is currently being implemented by the City and greenhouse gas emission reduction targets are now being evaluated.

## 2.5 On Issue Identification

### ***Recommendation 2002-5***

*That Council instruct KEAF to gather information on environmental issues of concern to Kingston and provide relevant and topical information to City staff and Council.*

Council agreed to this recommendation and KEAF continued to respond to the City's requests for input on several major studies being undertaken such as the *Urban Growth Strategy*, the *Transportation Master Plan*, the *Cycling and Pathways Study* and *Class Environmental Assessments* for highway construction north of the 401.

## 2.6 On Public Awareness

### ***Recommendation 2002-6***

*That Council commit to producing an annual environmental activities' report of City actions to provide the public with information on progress towards meeting its Environmental Strategy goals and that this report be posted on the City's website.*

Council agreed to this recommendation and the City is preparing an annual environmental activities report to provide information to the public on progress towards environmental strategy goals. KEAF has been requested to assist the City in the development of a format for the report, focusing on the following areas which are in concert with the FOCUS KINGSTON priorities.

- Land quality
- Water quality

- Air quality and Climate Change
- Environmental awareness

### 3 PROGRESS REPORTS

KEAF general meetings were held every month, as were working group meetings. KEAF was requested to provide representatives to sit on other City committees and members also have a presence on other committees with significance for the environment. Members attended or participated in conferences, seminars, workshops, lectures, and community meetings to learn more about the information available in the community and to increase their own knowledge as well as serve as ambassadors and spokespeople on the City's "green" activities and environmentally friendly programs.

Guest speakers came to regular KEAF meetings to speak on a variety of topics.

#### 3.1 Environmental Strategy Group (ESG)

The ESG compiled referenced information on a wide range of environmental topics, and developed an Environmental Strategy document for submission to the City

Following the publication of Project Plan: Environment, published in the Community Strategic Plan 2000 – 2010 under the title: *FOCUS KINGSTON – the Future of Our Community*, KEAF decided to dissolve the 'Environmental Strategy Group' in June 2002. A single, new group was subsequently created to develop environmental initiatives and strategies and which incorporated the 'Other High Priority Environmental Issues' (OHPI) Group. The new group was named: the Other High Priority Issues and Environmental Strategy (OHPIES) Group.

#### 3.2 Inner Harbour Group (IHG)

The IHG was instrumental in the creation of a separate working group, the Inner Harbour Working Group, which included stakeholder representatives for the Inner Harbour from among the following agencies: the Ontario Ministry of the Environment; Parks Canada; DND-CFB Kingston; Transport Canada; and Environment Canada. This Working Group met regularly to discuss areas of mutual interest with the goal of coordinating future studies and activities.

Under the supervision of the IHG, a detailed study of the Inner Harbour was conducted by Malroz Consulting Engineering. The study entitled: *Kingston Inner Harbor Data Compilation and Gap Analysis for the Great Cataraqui River*, dated February 2003, included a summary of all studies of the Inner Harbour as well as data gaps relevant to the public vision as determined through various rounds of public consultation. Hard copies and CDs of the report as well as an executive summary were prepared and the report is posted on the City website.

Educational videos created from the Malroz report were circulated to local schools and Principals were solicited for feedback. A Waterfront Visioning public workshop was held that was attended by more than 60 Kingston residents and a consultation document

was also published in 'Kingston This Week', requesting input from the public. Acting on some of the recommendations from this process, the City contributed to an ecological risk assessment conducted by the Environmental Sciences Group (ESG) at the Royal Military College which involved students from Queen's University and RMC – this is the first study to assess the impact of contaminants in the sediments.

KEAF presented the executive summary of the Malroz report to the Committee of the Whole in June 2003. An appendix of public opinion on the report and its findings was also submitted to members of Council.

### 3.3 Forum Learning, Awareness and Publicity (FLAP) Group

To give the public an opportunity to make their own choices regarding environmental issues and with the added benefit of raising the KEAF profile within the community, the Forum Learning, Awareness and Publicity Group produced a series of 'Fact Boxes' consisting of 100-250 word articles for weekly publication in the 'Kingston This Week' newspaper. These articles were printed in the edition published on the first Friday of each month.

The Group also arranged a series of guest speakers to speak to KEAF on a wide range of environmental topics such as air quality, the cosmetic use of pesticides, West Nile virus, well water quality, nutrient management, the role of Kingston Electricity Distribution Limited, fuel cells, traffic management, transit, pollution studies in the Inner Harbour, and studies such as the City's Cycling and Pathways Study and the Kingston Master Transportation Plan.

Site visits to locations such as Belle Park, the Ravensview sewage treatment plant and water treatment plant were also arranged for members to gain a better insight on remedial actions and wastewater and water treatment operations being undertaken by the City.

### 3.4 Other High Priority Issues and Environmental Strategy (OHPIES) Group

The OHPIES Group was created by KEAF in June 2002 to deal with environmental matters that did not fit under the mandate of the other working groups. One of its early actions was work on a template of environmental questions to be applied in evaluating City projects and ideas, with the ultimate objective of providing both environmental awareness by the public and enabling the public to evaluate environmental actions by the City through a 'state of the environment report'.

The OHPIES Group worked with City staff, in collaboration with the Hearthmakers Energy Cooperative, on their Green Home Visits initiative (an initiative within the framework of the Federal Partners for Climate Protection Program). This initiative also included energy audits by Gaia Power Inc. on 44 City buildings as the first stage in the

establishment of City-wide greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets as well as a situational review on average residential energy and water consumption use in the City.

The OHPIES Group submitted several suggestions to the City on the Cycling and Pathways Study, for example -

- creation of a design drawing of a model intersection of best practices for vehicle, cyclist and pedestrian interface;
- research on the six main arterial routes between the old City and the former townships to determine the physical impediments to commuter cycling;
- the use of educational workshops for motorists and cyclists and the creation of public awareness programs such cycling 'Fact Boxes' for publication in 'Kingston This Week'.

Submissions were also made by the OHPIES Group to the City with suggestions and recommendations on the *Urban Growth Strategy* and the *Kingston Transportation Master Plan*. For the *Urban Growth Strategy*, KEAF strongly supported Growth Alternative # 1 of the report, an alternative that would, amongst other environmental advantages, contribute to the biggest reduction in greenhouse gas generation. KEAF noted that this alternative was the option that was most consistent with Canada's Kyoto commitments and with the City's policies and should therefore be strongly supported. KEAF questioned the population growth figures indicated in the report.

### 3.5 Motions and support of motions submitted to Council

Two motions, and one recommendation in support of a Council motion, were submitted by KEAF to Council. In these motions, KEAF supported initiatives on the use of bio-diesel, renewable energy and the Kyoto Accord. All three motions were passed by Council, (Appendix A).

## **APPENDIX A. Details of Motions**

### ***Report No. 101 of KEAF: Council Meeting No. 22, 17 September 2002***

Moved by Councillor Foster

Seconded by Councillor Garrison

THAT Report No. 101 of the Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum be received and adopted.

#### **Report No. 101.**

To the Mayor and Members of Council:

The Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum (KEAF) reports and recommends as follows:

**WHEREAS** smog and air quality are concerns for all residents of Kingston, and;

**WHEREAS** pollution prevention is a goal of the City of Kingston as Partner in Climate Protection (Federation of Canadian Municipalities), and;

**WHEREAS** other government agencies such as the Montreal Urban Transit Commission and Toronto Hydro have found more environmentally friendly ways to operate their fleets, and;

**WHEREAS** it has been suggested that bio-diesel fuel is a possible source of alternative fuel for Kingston buses;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** City Council ask Kingston Transit to investigate bio-diesel fuel and other cleaner sources of fuel for the current fleet of buses and to provide a feasibility report on the costs and implementation requirements of a changeover. (File No. CSU-E05-00-2002)

**CARRIED**

### ***KEAF Motion on Renewable Energy, Council Meeting No. 11, 18 MARCH 2002***

Moved by Councillor Foster

Seconded by Councillor George

**WHEREAS** Kingston and The Islands is widely regarded as having one of the best wind resources in Ontario, and;

**WHEREAS** the post-secondary education institutions in Kingston are developing a “Centre of Excellence” for renewable energy research and technical skills development, and;

**WHEREAS** the Federal Government has committed to purchase 20% of its energy needs from fully renewable sources such as wind power in order to help meet its emission reduction obligations under the Kyoto Protocol, and;

**WHEREAS** there are many businesses in the Kingston area that are leaders in renewable energy development and would benefit from the continued support of City Council for renewable energies such as wind power, and;

**WHEREAS** wind power is a clean, renewable source of electrical energy;

**THEREFORE BE IT RECOMMENDED THAT** the City of Kingston:

- Request that the Federal and Provincial Governments support local renewable energy initiatives by purchasing a portion of the energy needs of their Kingston region facilities from local wind power producers and,
- Request that the Provincial Government mandate a Renewable Portfolio Standard in line with the recommendations of the Select Committee and,
- Work with the Municipality of the Frontenac Islands to lobby the Provincial and Federal Governments to address the issue of electrical transmission infrastructure linking Kingston and Wolfe Island by devoting Provincial and Federal infrastructure funding to its construction and proactively resolving issues related to its construction.

**CARRIED**

***Kyoto Protocol, Motion at 21 May 2002 Council Meeting supported by KEAF***

Moved by Councillor Foster

Seconded by Councillor Downes

**WHEREAS** climate change causes drought, permafrost melting, sea-level rise and floods that damage municipal infrastructure, displace citizens and create a financial burden for municipal governments, and;

**WHEREAS** economic activity in rural and northern communities relying on fisheries, tourism, forestry and agriculture is disrupted by climate change, and;

**WHEREAS** investments in building retrofits, community energy systems, water conservation, renewable energy technologies, waste reduction, landfill gas recapture, fleet management and public transit reduce municipal operating costs, help maintain community services and protect public health while cutting greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change, and;

**WHEREAS** forestry and agriculture sectors can expand business opportunities by increasing the capacity of trees and soils to absorb carbon dioxide and by developing renewable fuels like ethanol, and;

**WHEREAS** fossil fuel producers are increasing investments in renewable energy and alternative fossil fuel technologies that reduce the amount of carbon dioxide going into the air, and;

**WHEREAS** 72% of Canadians want the Kyoto Protocol ratified;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the City of Kingston endorses ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** this resolution be communicated to our Member of Parliament, provincial environment and energy ministers, federal and provincial opposition leaders, community media and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. (File No. CSU-C09-00-2002)

**CARRIED**