

KEAF
Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum

PROGRESS REPORT #4
TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE:

JANUARY 2004 TO JANUARY 2005

31 March 2005

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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, 2004. The report is a summary report of the newly appointed KEAF that took office in January 2004 and documents the activities from January 2004 to January 2005. The elected Co-Chairs were Dr. Paula Klink and Dr. Harry Cleghorn. Dr. Klink stepped down in December 2004 and Ms. Maureen Thompson was elected in her stead as Co-Chair.

From its inception in 2000 through 2004, KEAF reported directly to Council. Effective January 2005, under the new Standing Committee structure, KEAF reports to the Planning Services Committee.

1.1 Background

KEAF was created in January 2000 as a volunteer committee of Council with a mandate to identify environmental issues and priorities in Kingston and to assist the City in the preparation of an environmental strategy. Membership of KEAF includes 12 public representatives appointed by Council from community volunteers, 7 technical representatives from Queen's University, the Royal Military College, St. Lawrence College, the Cataraqui Regional Conservation Authority and the Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington Health Unit and 2 members of Council. (Appendix A)

Accomplishments for 2000-2003 have been documented and submitted to Council in the form of Progress Reports. These reports are available on the KEAF webpage www.cityofkingston.ca/keaf. Recommendations from the May 2002 Report to Council which were all approved by Council are included in Appendix B.

Early in 2004, KEAF held a visioning session to review its role and goals for the current term 2004-06. This report summarizes the priority issues that were identified during that session and captures KEAF's activities and plans for going forward with our mission:

“to provide leadership in improving the quality of our lives through the thoughtful planning and management of our built and natural environments”

2 HIGHLIGHTS OF KEAF VISIONING SESSION

The Visioning Session was facilitated by a City-appointed consultant in March 2004. Key issues were identified for implementation.

1. Production of a community action plan for greenhouse gas reduction and air quality protection as part of the Partners for Climate Protection program.
2. Production of a state of the environment report.
3. Establishment of a coordinated education, research and technology program for the Inner Harbour.
4. Establishment of 3 interpretative stations (educational depots) on the Inner harbour.
5. Identification of communication tools and preparation of a KEAF communications strategy.
6. Process development and recommendations for making KEAF a more effective resource to Council.
7. Development of an improved KEAF webpage and preparation of an orientation manual for new KEAF members.
8. Development of a KEAF logo and a branding strategy

3 PROGRESS REPORTS

KEAF general meetings and working group meetings were held monthly. 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.

Drs. Paula Klink and Harry Cleghorn met with Mayor Harvey Rosen on 23 August 2004 and gave him an update of KEAF's activities.

3.1 Inner Harbour Group

One of KEAF's significant accomplishments was the report Kingston Inner Harbour Data Compilation and Gap Analysis for the Great Cataraqui River presented to Council in June 2003. Going forward, KEAF's plans include:

- Creating Educational Depots to heighten public awareness of the significance of the Inner Harbour. The first depot will feature Belle Park and is to be unveiled in 2005.
- Establishing an Inner Harbour Research Station to facilitate on-going scientific and educational research at secondary, undergraduate and graduate levels in conjunction with Queen's RMC and St. Lawrence College
- Seeking co-operation among all stakeholders through continuation of the Inner Harbour Working Group; which includes representatives from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Parks Canada, DND-CFB Kingston, Transport Canada, Environment Canada, the City of Kingston and KEAF.

3.2 Partners in Climate Protection Working Group

The Other High Priority Issues & Environment Strategy (OHPIES) Group was created by KEAF in June 2002 to deal with environmental matters as Air Quality that did not fit under the mandate of the other working groups. Following the 2004 Visioning Session it was decided that this working group would be renamed the Partners in Climate Protection (PCP) Group. The PCP working group works co-operatively with Environment Division staff to research PCP initiatives and options with the goal of developing a community Local Action Plan (LAP) for Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction.

Under the direction of the PCP Working Group, a contractor prepared a summary report in December 2004, entitled: GHG Reduction Initiatives Compilation Report¹. The report listed successful initiatives in other communities for use as a resource in preparing a plan for the City of Kingston. The PCP Working Group plans to use this information as a base to produce a Local Action Plan that will:

¹ To view the consultant's report, consult the KEAF webpage: www.cityofkingston.ca/keaf

- include suggested initiatives
- co-ordinate with other local initiatives such as the One Tonne Challenge, Energuide program, etc.
- specify timelines, budget, milestones, champions, marketing plan
- identify funding and other partners
- vet the proposal at various levels (City, NGO's, ICI stakeholders, and the public)

The goal is to forward the finalized version of the LAP to Council for adoption and implementation in time for 2006 budget deliberations.

3.3 Forum Learning, Awareness and Publicity (FLAP) Group

Increasing awareness and understanding of environmental issues has been an important function of KEAF. To this end, the FLAP Group (the Group) has developed a KEAF communications strategy, which may be considered to be a work in progress and subject to modification on a routine basis².

The Group is pleased to report progress on the following fronts.

- Three public Workshops were hosted in 2004: Handling Pressure Treated Wood; Environmental Grant Applications; and Home Energy Conservation
- Speakers were arranged for regular KEAF meetings to inform committee members. These were: Damon Wells on City Road Salt Usage; Beth Sills on PCP Program; Malcolm Morris on Biodiesel Project; Devin Causley and Paul Gregory, Federation of Canadian Municipalities on FCM PCP Program; Rowan Sentesy on Green Map Proposal; Graham Findlay, Vector Wind on DuPont-Invista Wind Energy Project; John Giles on Solid Waste; Steve Lapp on Net Metering and Smart Meters; Jim Keech and Nancy Taylor, Utilities Kingston on Province of Ontario Bill 100.

² To view the KEAF Communications Strategy, consult: www.cityofkingston.ca/keaf

- Field trips were organized for Committee members and Councillors to tour the West Kingston Water and Waste Water Treatment Plants and Belle Park, respectively.
- Website improvements included: a) simplifying access to the KEAF page by creating a direct link (www.cityofkingston.ca/keaf) b) creation of an EnviroFact section to house fact boxes; c) an EnviroLinks button that highlights selected links to relevant sites; and d) posting of Conservation Tips from the KEAF Home Energy Conservation workshop. The website will continue to be a work in progress.
- A State of the Environment Report was proposed as part of the Environmental Plan included in Focus Kingston and KEAF was charged with developing a template for review by the City. This work is underway.
- Speaker Series: A regular speaker series sponsored by KEAF has been proposed for 2005 – 06. This would complement One Tonne Challenge and PCP initiatives by offering a public forum on Environmental topics.

3.4 KEAF's Advisory and Support Role to City

KEAF members served as delegates on several environmental project committees, responded to requests for comment and wrote letters of support for environmental initiatives. These included:

- Advisory support on the Ravensview Upgrade Project
- Informed comments on the Brownfields Plan
- Suggestions and recommendations related to environmental issues re Counter Street Improvements program
- Informed comments on the Urban Growth Strategy
- Comment on Highway 401 Widening
- Support for the City response to Ontario Ministry of the Environment regarding disposal of used tires and plastic waste during operations at the Cement Lafarge Plant
- Responses to the public regarding the City's Cosmetic Pesticide Policy
- Response to the Ontario Ministry of Energy regarding Bill 100 under the Electricity Restructuring Act

- Letter of support for funding by Hearthmakers Energy Inc., a non-government cooperative.
- Letter of support for funding the Queen's University SWAMP project.
- Letter of support for the City request for Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure funding for River Street Sewage Pumping Station Upgrades.

APPENDIX A. KEAF Membership and Organization 2004

The current roster of KEAF members was appointed for the 2004-06 term. It is made up of technical and public representatives, 2 councillors, the mayor as an ex-officio member and staff support.

City Council

Deputy Mayor Leonore Foster
Councillor Sara Meers

City of Kingston, Environmental Division

Paul MacLatchy, P.Eng.
Beth Sills, MBA
Jim English, P.Ag.

City of Kingston, Committee Clerk

Susan Powley

Queen's University:

Dr. Bruce Anderson
Dr. Vicki Remenda
Dr. Luke Bisby

Royal Military College:

Dr. Ken Reimer

St. Lawrence College:

Steve Mortensen

Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority

Rob McCrae

Mr. Stephen Knechtel

KFL&A Health Unit

Andy Dubchak

Public Members:

Dr. Harry Cleghorn

Dr. Paula Klink

Maureen Thompson

Rod Babiuk

Dr. Ugis Bickis

Robert Foster

Everett Lander

Andy Mills

Bardi Vorster

Allan Hammond

Isabel Santibanez

Wilfred Sorensen

KEAF Co-Chairs

Dr. Harry Cleghorn (Jan/04 -)

Dr. Paula Klink (Jan/04- Dec/04)

Maureen Thompson (Jan/05 -)

Inner Harbour Working Group:

Dr. Ken Reimer (Co-Chair)

Dr. Vicki Remenda (Co-Chair)

Dr. Luke Bisby, Dr. Harry Cleghorn, Mr. Robert Foster

PCP Working Group:

Mr. Andy Mills (Chair)

Mr Rod Babiuk, Mr. Robert Foster, Dr. Ugis Bickis, Dr. Paula Klink,

Mr. Stephen Knechtel, Mr. Everett Lander, Mr. Steve Mortensen, Ms.

Bardi Vorster, Ms. Maureen Thompson

Forum Learning, Awareness and Publicity Group:

Mr. Allan Hammond (Chair)

Ms Maureen Thompson (Vice-Chair)

Mr. Rod Babiuk, Mr. Andy Dubchak, Mr. Robert Foster, Ms. Isabel Santibanez, Mr. Wilf Sorensen