

## **Environment Day Super-Successful**

On June 16<sup>th</sup> in the beautiful North Toronto sunshine, Councillor Karen Stintz and I hosted our annual Environment Day. Throngs of local residents flooded the parking lot of the North Toronto Memorial Arena **well** before the event **officially** started until after it ended, dropping-off their miscellaneous used items, hazardous paints, batteries and fluorescent light-bulbs, while some picked-up a new blue bin or free compost. It was a hive of activity and everyone **supported this event with a smile**. This Environment Day was so successful, Councillor Stintz and I are investigating whether we can add a second Environment Day to the calendar next year.

Many residents are communicating interest in helping stop Global Warming and Climate Change – this enthusiasm is great. Along with making many substantive contributions to the development of the City's new Environmental Plan, I hope to help connect as many residents with information and services as I can so we all can reduce our personal greenhouse-gas emissions or our 'carbon footprint' upon the Earth. The provincial Standard Offer Program (SOP) is helping a few residents already by providing an incentive to install solar-energy panels on their homes. The SOP pays a premium of 42 cents/kilowatt hour for any leftover electricity that a resident can sell back to the public system; we buy our electricity for around 7 cents. You can find information on personal solar- and wind-generation installations at [www.powerauthority.on.ca/sop/](http://www.powerauthority.on.ca/sop/) or by calling my office.

Our environment is changing – our trees decaying, our air poisoned, our resources depleting – we all know our society will need to adapt by doing more than changing from incandescent light-bulbs to compact fluorescent bulbs (which need to be specially disposed of because of toxicity). That is why over the last 4 or 5 years I've been pushing for restrictions on the use of leafblowers and restrictions on the entrance of smog and gridlock-multiplying delivery trucks into the downtown-core during rush-hours. Finally, Council is ready to phase-out the use of gas leafblowers/lawnmowers by 2010 (why not 2008?) as per the City's new Environmental Plan but are reluctant to move on truck delivery restrictions in the downtown-core.

For further information, please contact my office at [councillor\\_walker@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_walker@toronto.ca), 416-392-7906, or [www.MichaelWalker.ca](http://www.MichaelWalker.ca).

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