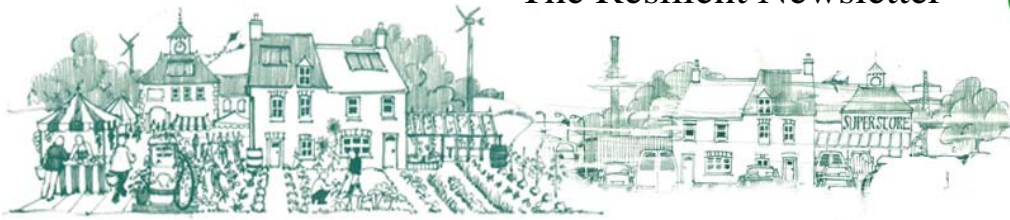




## The Resilient Newsletter



### We're Official!

As of February 2, 2010 Transition Barrie joined the 276 other communities that are officially part of the worldwide Transition Network.

The Transition Network is an international organization inspiring, supporting and encouraging local Transition Towns. These Transition Towns, Communities or Initiatives work to address the issues of peak oil, climate chaos, and economic dislocation cooperatively, honestly, and with confidence.

As members of the Transition Network, Transition Barrie will use the collective genius of our people to find ways to

- significantly rebuild resilience in response to peak oil and economic dislocation.
- significantly reduce carbon emissions in response to climate change
- encourage ordinary citizens to take effective action towards positive change.

We seek to create new models of grassroots transformation to ensure a better future for our community in the face of the economic and environmental challenges before us.

Last May, twelve volunteers gathered to discuss the coming crises and how we in Barrie should respond. We agreed to use the Transition Towns model from the UK to guide us in finding ways to plan for the inevitable changes coming to Barrie. We have held a number of events to inform the community about transition. We have now grown from twelve to well over one hundred participants.

To become an official member of the network, we had to satisfy eighteen criteria. Among these, Transition Barrie showed that we had number of committed, informed leaders ready to take action. We showed that we had members officially trained in the Transition Initiative. (In fact, we have five such trained leaders.) We agreed that our members would work cooperatively and inclusively with the community, the Network and other Transition Towns. We showed that we had an understanding of the challenges of peak oil and climate chaos.

We are pleased that we have been able to come so far in less than nine months.

If you wish to join our mailing list, simply fill out the "Let's Keep in Touch.." box at the top-right of the web site. We would love to hear from you. Please contact us at [info@transitionbarrie.org](mailto:info@transitionbarrie.org)

### In this Issue

- We're Official
- Latest Events
- Upcoming events
- Drew Dellinger
- Food Freedom Day
- EcoFest

### Latest Events

**January 16, 2010**—The Free Clothing Centre "Nifty Thrifty" held it's Grand Opening located at 110 Dunlop St W

**January 31, 2010**—Transition Barrie becomes an official Transition Town

**February, 2010**—The Energy Working Group held its first meeting

**February 13th, 2010**—Transition Barrie's Steering Committee invited members from other transition towns to a lunch and best practices sharing session

### Upcoming Events

**Wednesday's**—Georgian College's GEAR will be hosting weekly film showings at Georgian including Chimerical, a documentary that explores the life cycle of everyday household cleaners and hygiene products to prove that, thanks to our clean obsession, we are Drowning in a sea of toxicity. Other upcoming films include Who Killed the Electric Car

**March 29th @ 7pm** —Drew Dellinger poetry reading at Grace United Church at Grove and Cook St in Barrie on March 29th

★**April 24th**—Transition Barrie presents **The**

**Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium. The Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium is returning to Barrie, with added new material. Last year, two presentations at the Library were sold out. This year, Transition Barrie will present The Symposium in April. Don't miss it. Check the Transition Barrie web site for more info in the next few days.**



## The Resilient Newsletter

### Drew Dellinger

"Drew Dellinger is one of the most respected and admired performers in the field of deep ecology / awakening / planetary work." - Rob Hopkins, Founder of the Transition Town movement

"Drew Dellinger is mystic and prophet calling us to be the same and thus to be sane...again. He knows the stakes that our species is playing with at this perilous time in planetary and cultural history." - Matthew Fox, author of Original Blessing

To hear Drew Dellinger go to Grace United Church, 350 Grove St. Barrie on March 29 at 7:00 pm. Admission is \$20 and can be purchased at the door, reservations are recommended call 705-754-2427.

For more information go to [www.drewdellinger.org](http://www.drewdellinger.org)

### Drew Dellinger: poetry for eco-justice



Insight and inspiration for a sustainable future drawn from the teachings of Martin Luther King Jr. and Thomas Berry.

**Drew Dellinger is:**  
• Professor, writer, activist, performer  
• Founder of Poets for Global Justice  
• Inspired and inspiring speaker  
• Author of the internationally acclaimed poetry collection, *Love Letter to the Milky Way*  
• Luminary from the Awakening the Dreamer movement  
• Visit [www.drewdellinger.org](http://www.drewdellinger.org)

**Monday, March 29, 2010**  
**7:30 pm - 9:30 pm • Barrie**  
**Grace United Church, 350 Grove St. E.**  
**705.754.0760**  
**Tickets \$20 at the door**  
**Reserve at 705.754.2427**



### Food Freedom Day 2010—Pay Now, or Pay Later

Food Freedom Day falls on February 12<sup>th</sup> this year. This being the date in which the average Canadian has earned enough income to pay his or her individual grocery bill for the entire year.

While this might sound like good news – and indeed it is on one level as Canada enjoys one of the safest and most affordable food supplies in the world – there is a growing level of concern on the part of farmers regarding the sustainability of our food system.

Leah Riddel, a local sheep producer, states, “we need the residents of Simcoe County to understand that farmers need to be able to make a profit”. She adds, “right now, we have a lot of cheap food coming in from other countries where production standards aren’t any where near as onerous and stringent as here”.

Associated with the dramatic increase of food imports are the heavy environmental costs. As a case in point, Michele Rich, Executive Director of the Environment Network, cites a landmark study performed by the Waterloo Regional Health Unit that found that the average food item travels an average of 4,497 km and accounts for an average of 51,709 tonnes of Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

John Hemsted, chairperson of the Food Partners Alliance (FPA), expresses his concern regarding the “gross complacency and neglect” of the provincial and national governments regarding our supply of food. In particular, he is disturbed by the fact that Canada is one of the few industrialized nations that has no national or provincial food strategy.

On this account, John is not alone. Many food

*(Continued on page 3)*

### EcoFest Barrie—Saturday, June 12, 2010

The potential for encouraging a greener economy will be evident as over 100 local businesses and organizations from Simcoe County, such as Transition Barrie, will be showcasing their green products at the first EcoFest Barrie on June 12.

This festival will be an opportunity for learning, sharing and discovery for citizens of Barrie and surrounding area, focused on taking steps for living “greener”.

Short workshops and forums, information, demonstrations, hands-on displays and fun for all will showcase ways and means to take steps toward a cleaner and greener future.



**ecofest barrie**  
June 12, 2010  
Barrie's Waterfront  
celebrating sustainable futures

Leading up to the festival schools and individuals will have an opportunity to take part in an exciting and creative competition called “Trashfusion”, designing wearable fashion from 100% re-purposed or recycled materials.

Other artistic activities will encourage expressions of support for a healthy environment in chalk and local talent providing a backdrop of solar powered sound to entertain participants.

This EcoFest is a first for Barrie and anticipates a turn out of 10,000 to 15,000 people. Partners in

*(Continued on page 3)*



### Food

*(Continued from page 2)*

experts are concerned about the impact that rising fuel prices, unpredictable and extreme weather conditions and a host of other factors will have on our food supply, especially on other regions of the world on whom we have become increasingly dependent.

For instance, how many people know that **Ontario imports \$ 4 billion dollars more a year of food** than it exports. That our imports of red meats has increased by 600% over the past decade. And that we now rely on other countries for 95% of our fruit. Clearly, this should be a red flag if ever there was one.

And so, what is the answer?

Leah Riddel, believes that it all begins with the consumer. Her rule of thumb being. 1<sup>st</sup> Buy Local. 2<sup>nd</sup> Buy Ontario, 3<sup>rd</sup> Buy Canadian where possible.

Ultimately, “either we pay now, or pay later”, says John Hemsted. That is, either we begin to support our local farmers and ensure that farming remains a viable business to be in, or we pay later in the way of increased food shortages which we will not be able to respond to for the simple reason we will have lost our ability to grow our own food.

On this latter point, it should be noted that the average farmer is 53 years of age. Hence, “unless farming becomes more viable, we could find ourselves in a very vulnerable situation down the road in which we have lost our capacity to grow our own food” says local food activist Gary Machan. He reflects, “I suspect if people in Simcoe County knew we have the equivalent of only 3 days of food in the province, after which the shelves in our grocery stores would run empty that might make them pause and think twice.”

Fortunately, local leaders, including municipal representatives are starting take notice, as evidenced by the signing of a Simcoe County Food Proclamation. Furthermore, groups such as the Food Partners Alliance are working diligently behind the scenes trying to address some of the issues undermining the sustainability of our food system.

Written By: Gary Machan

*For further information, and/or to learn more about the Food Partners Alliance of Simcoe County, please do not hesitate to contact Gary Machan at (705) 734-9690 ext 225 or [gary.machan@bcbc.ca](mailto:gary.machan@bcbc.ca).*

### EcoFest

*(Continued from page 2)*

the festival include Downtown BIA, Transition Barrie, City of Barrie, Environment Network and InHouse Productions.

One of the major components of EcoFest Barrie will be Transition Barrie’s central relaxation area. This will take the shape of a 40 x 60 ft tent under the banner “*Transition Oasis*”.

The interior will have a central café style area with tables and chairs decorated with small trees to allow festival guests to escape the sun (it will be sunny that day) and enjoy some light refreshments. We will be offering water (courtesy of Bodystream) and coffee and tea courtesy of Fair Trade Barrie.

“*Transition Oasis*” will include an area where we will offer short presentations on a variety of ‘how-to’ topics such as how to assemble an electric bike kit, how to do basic canning, raw food preparation, authors discussing their (relevant) books etc., and there will also be light, unplugged entertainment to add to the ambience and a youth activity area to entertain the younger visitors.

On display there will be a variety of images of a more resilient Barrie for the future. This will include some information about the transition concept, and some specific 3D models and screen images of potential components of a city in transition.

#### **WHAT WE NEED!!! Volunteers and ideas!**

- Ideas and volunteers for (short) presentations with some relevance to Transition (re-skilling/energy reduction/energy conservation/promotion of local community etc)
- Energy supply providers (Our goal is to have the venue powered entirely by a sustainable energy source)
- Help planning and designing the venue, hosting and serving in the tent during the festival, set up and tear down assistance (the tent will be assembled but we need help preparing the interior)