

# CACC



# NEWS

*The Future of the Earth is in our Hands*

[www.caccmi.org](http://www.caccmi.org)



*Gretchen Michaels  
and Toby Benetti*

*Meadow Hunt  
Photo credits: Carolyn Rames*

## **We Put the EAT in WhEATland!**

*Gretchen Michaels, CACC Director*

CACC’s recent fundraiser at Wheatland Music Festival (September 7 – 9) was an impressive sight to see. Educational posters, paper lantern lighting, fresh flowers on brightly covered tables, and an abundance of eco-related literature helped to make our snack bar and café areas the best ever!

Our multigenerational volunteers filled each shift with determination and teamwork. We contributed thousands of delicious meals, snacks, beverages and desserts, made with loving care to feed the crowds and inspire feelings of hope.

Stories circulated among our volunteers of CACC’s early stages of growth as food providers for the Wheatland Music Organization. I learned that the Hunts (Annie and Phill) served spaghetti and “cowboy coffee” under a big tree with a perfect view of the old main stage. I also learned that it has taken 39 years of TLC and hard work to bring the CACC pavilion to its current state. The carpentry and mechanical skills of Phill Hunt and many others have made our commercial kitchen, walk-in coolers and cafeteria-style serving line spacious, efficient and aesthetic.

Our work this year was rewarding - many shifts brought in more funds than last year to support CACC’s environmental mission. A heartfelt thanks goes to our volunteers for donating their time, energy and creative ideas!

## **What’s in That School Backpack?**

*Ann Hunt, CACC Director*

You wouldn’t think that what’s in a school backpack could be dangerous, but take a good look in the backpacks of your children or grandchildren for toxic containing products. The Center for Health, Environment and Justice (CHEJ) has published its annual “Back to School Guide for PVC-Free School Supplies.” The annual report, in its fifth year of publication, identifies items that contain polyvinylchloride (PVC), and offers less toxic alternatives that are commonly available. The report also offers a guide to vendors of safer items and websites for more information.

Because of PVC’s ability to be easily molded and colored, it is commonly found in inexpensive items, from lunch boxes to notebook binders. Phthalates, called “plasticizers,” are a group of chemicals that are commonly incorporated into more than 90% of all vinyl products to help make PVC more flexible. These plasticizers have been linked to asthma, learning disabilities, diabetes, and other chronic health problems on the rise among young children. Burning PVC containing plastics as a disposal practice releases dioxins and furans, linked with cancer and harm to the immune and reproductive system, into the environment.

Although many PVC products are not labeled, some PVC products can be identified by the word “vinyl” in the product label or the recycling triangle with the number three inside.

Visit [www.chej.org](http://www.chej.org) to download a complete copy of the free report.



If you missed your chance to help us out and have lots of fun in the process, don’t worry because we’ll most definitely be back next year . . . cooking, singing, dancing, doing dishes, shucking corn and much more!

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## Please Support CACC's Environmental Protection Work!

**Fellow CACC members and friends---**

Each year seems to fly by faster than ever. Even so, CACC was able to make a number of important contributions to environmental protection in 2012.

**January** An environmental coalition including CACC, Beyond Nuclear, Citizens Environment Alliance of Southwestern Ontario, Don't Waste Michigan, and the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter filed new contentions concerning the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Fermi 3 reactor, proposed for the shores of Lake Erie in Monroe, Michigan.

**February** This same coalition defended its Fermi 3 Environmental Impact Statement contentions against challenges by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff and DTE.

**May** CACC's annual meeting featured speaker Maryann Lesert, a spokesperson for Ban Michigan Fracking, on the important and controversial issue of "fracking," a relatively new drilling process used to extract natural gas and oil that has serious implications for ecosystem health. Also this month, CACC helped host a Michigan tour of Beyond Nuclear's Kevin Kamps on Great Lakes nuclear waste issues. Kevin spoke in five Michigan cities, raising awareness of potential and proposed nuclear waste dumps in the upper Great Lakes, and also reactor waste transport throughout the Great Lakes that would accompany any permanent nuclear dumps.

**June** CACC's Chapter, the Huron Environmental Activist League (HEAL), under the leadership of Director Bill Freese, joined with Earthjustice, Sierra Club and other environmental groups, to file a brief to hold the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency accountable for enforcing regulations against toxic emissions from coal plants and cement kilns (an issue that affects the health of countless communities nationwide), after EPA allowed industry to continue its pollution under a "burn to earn" loophole.

**July** CACC joined with a coalition of Great Lakes organizations to urge the International Joint Commission to reinstate a nuclear task force to report on nuclear contamination and dangers in the Great Lakes.

**August** CACC, along with the Council of Canadians and First Nations, officially renewed opposition to the shipment of nuclear waste across the Great Lakes from the Bruce Power nuclear plant.

**September** Directors and volunteers alike staffed CACC's kitchen at the Wheatland Music Festival and raised funds to continue the organization's important environmental protection work.

This has all been possible with your support, but there is much more work to do! Please see [www.caccmi.org](http://www.caccmi.org) for a link through which to donate or a form to download, complete and send in to our office. Thank you in advance for your generous contribution!

## Great Lakes Radioactive Waste Issues Heat Up

*Kay Cumbow, CACC Member*

Your voice is needed now to protect the Lake Huron watershed from a proposed deep radioactive waste burial site -- a dump with the potential to contaminate groundwater, the Lake itself and communities downstream for millions of years.

Ontario Power Generation (an Ontario, Canada-based electricity company) is seeking approval from the Canadian government to bury 200,000 cubic meters of radioactive waste (reactor operating wastes) below the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station near Kincardine, Ontario on Lake Huron's eastern shore.

Studies have been done and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process is well underway. Approval of this dump would help pave the way for more U.S. and Canadian Great Lakes deep burial sites for radioactive wastes. To get involved, see <http://bruce-nuclear-waste-burial.weebly.com> -- a website created by concerned citizen groups.

The Canadian nuclear industry is also studying 21 different communities -- 15 of them in the Great Lakes Basin -- for a possible burial site for all of Canada's high-level nuclear fuel waste. And the U.S. government is looking for both permanent and temporary dump sites for this type of waste also. Parts of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan's U.P. with deep granite bedrock may be targeted for this waste.

Finally, Canadian and U.S. governments are working to ease regulations for moving radioactive and other dangerous wastes across their borders. Fast-tracking the transport and deep burial of these wastes puts the health of our communities and watersheds at enormous risk. Doesn't it make more sense to choose a simpler, more sustainable lifestyle? Energy conservation and efficiency and renewable energy sources such as solar and wind are cleaner, cheaper and safer.

Take action now! Visit [www.caccmi.org](http://www.caccmi.org) - for links to organizations that work on nuclear waste issues.

## Family Corner Passing Traditions to a New Generation: Grandpa Toby and Keane

*Gretchen Michaels, CACC Director*

For many years Toby Benetti brought his children (Arlo, Ria, and Tavio) to CACC's Backyard Eco-Conferences. Daughter, Ria, is now grown up and with her husband, Greg, has two sons -- Rowan, four years old and Keane, who is seven. Recently, I had the pleasure of spending some time with Keane and asked him to share some things about himself that CACC folks would appreciate. These were my favorites:

- "We close the curtains in the day to keep the heat out in summer."
- "I have a six pound sledgehammer. I help the men split wood. I learned when I was four."
- "We have an organic vegetable garden."
- "My dad works on the movies and is a puppeteer too. Mom works for Simple Organics."
- "I am very strong. I can lift my own kayak."
- "I caught a largemouth bass that was pretty big. I'm going trout fishing soon."
- "I can pop a wheelie on a trail bike. It has a battery, not gas."
- "Grandpa Toby taught me to build fires with birch bark and no paper."
- "I have a library card to Gretchen's books and one to my town library."
- "I read a recipe and made tortillas for my family all by myself."



It's easy to see how Ria's childhood experience has translated into an adult lifestyle that in turn is being passed onto a new generation. Teach your children well!

### CACC's ECO - Calendar

Please check CACC's online calendar at: <http://www.caccmi.org/calendar/plans.cgi/>

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

**November 10**, 8 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Bridging the Gap: Michigan Organic Celebration, Conversation, Collaboration. Sponsored by the Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance. Flint, MI. See [www.moffa.eventbrite.com](http://www.moffa.eventbrite.com) for more information.

**November 23**, Buy Nothing Day. Celebrate this international day of protest against consumerism by not buying anything!

**January 28, 2013**, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Northern Michigan Small Conference, Grayling, MI. See [www.smallfarmconference.com](http://www.smallfarmconference.com) for more details.

Check out CACC's online  
ECO-Calendar at  
[www.caccmi.org/plans.cgi](http://www.caccmi.org/plans.cgi)  
for more events and  
volunteer opportunities.

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