



Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination

Member of the Michigan Environmental Council,
Earth Share of Michigan, Great Lakes United and
Michigan Network for Children's Environmental Health
8735 Maple Grove Road, Lake, Michigan 48632-9511
989-544-3318

*Chapter Organizations:
Huron Environmental Activist League*

December, 2008

CACC wishes you Happy Holidays and a Promising New Year!

2008 – A Banner Year for CACC



Great Lakes Health Banner on the shores of Lake Michigan, circa early 1990s

The Board of Directors of Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination thanks you for your generous gifts of time and money in 2008. Because of your support, 2008 was indeed a “Banner” year in CACC’s efforts to protect the health of our communities and watersheds. As we close one year and begin another, we ask you to consider a donation to the vital work that CACC does. You make all the difference to a precious and fragile ecosystem, and the lives that depend on its continuing health!

2008 saw many new beginnings for CACC and a return to our roots. The Great Lakes Health Banner, a very visible grassroots call for action on Great Lakes environmental health issues and consisting of panels from 80 Great Lakes organizations, has new life - thanks to CACC Director Gretchen Michaels and Mary Ann Stroup, Director of Families for Environmental Awareness (FEA) of Romeo. Inspired by the work of Linda King and the Environmental Health Network, Mary Ann Stroup originated this Banner to document serious local and regional environmental health issues. CACC and FEA plan to inventory, expand visibility and offer concerned Great Lakes groups the opportunity to add new panels. For more information on displaying part or all of the Banner, or to request a panel to voice your community’s health concerns, see our website: <http://www.caccmi.org/> or see our current newsletter. A contribution of \$12 or more will underwrite a square for the Banner. All contributions to CACC are greatly appreciated and are tax deductible under IRS rules.

CACC led the effort to educate Michigan communities on the potential dangers of a proposed deep underground radioactive dump beneath the shores of Lake Huron near Kincardine, Ontario. CACC is indebted to the Great Lakes Environmental Law Center and Staff Member, Anjali Patel, for her able assistance in writing comments for guidelines on a proposed Environmental Impact Statement and Panel Review for this proposed little-known dump, which could potentially affect Michigan and Great Lakes ecosystems. CACC Director Kay Cumbow also gave two workshops on this issue - one in Port Huron, the other at the Clean Water Action office in Macomb County. CACC gave presentations to local water quality boards as well. Our efforts helped spark Michigan community resolutions opposing this dump.

In June, CACC, together with Lone Tree Council in Bay City, celebrated 30 years of Education, Advocacy and Environmental Action! These two organizations were born in the heat of battle in 1978 to protect Michigan’s “backyards.” Lone Tree Council came together to help stop the beleaguered Midland nuclear power plant, and CACC organized to stop widespread aerial spraying of much of mid-Michigan with the pesticide Dimilin. The indomitable Lana Pollack, former State Senator, long-time environmental leader in Michigan, and retiring President of the Michigan Environmental Council, presented environmental awards to Ann Hunt of CACC and Terry Miller, of Lone Tree Council for their intrepid leadership and lifetime contributions to these mid-Michigan based organizations. Dave Dempsey, Policy

Advisor to the Michigan Environmental Council and respected Michigan environmental author, addressed an audience largely composed of dedicated Michigan activists. The Great Lakes Health Banner was proudly displayed.

In 2008, CACC joined with Michigan Network for Children's Environmental Health and took part in their Annual Planning Meeting in October. The future generations are the inspiration for our work, and becoming part of this strong coalition was a natural choice for us. We look forward to actively assisting the Network in their efforts to protect our children from everyday toxins that appear to surround us.

In 2008, CACC became an active member in the Clean Energy Now Campaign, a statewide coalition championed by **Progress Michigan** to seek clean energy alternatives to dirty, unneeded coal plants in our communities. CACC took part in two press conferences the Campaign held in Bay City, urging Governor Granholm to declare CO2 a global warming pollutant. A huge 350 foot banner/petition was carried to Lansing in September by the coalition. CACC continues to work with the coalition on these crucial energy issues.

CACC tabled at **Wild Lapeer** for an **Earth Day** celebration, **The Green Gathering** in August at Port Huron and the **Sustainable Energy Fair** in Bay City in October. Gretchen Michael's graphic creation of "Mother Earth" sat in at Wild Lapeer, and welcome visitors made herbal sachets from aromatic herbs plucked from Gretchen's amazing garden.

CACC's website, <http://www.caccmi.org/> continues to profit from CACC Webmaster Pam Warren's considerable graphic talents. Do check out recent changes to CACC's website!

HEAL, the Huron Environmental Activist League, CACC's chapter based in Alpena, continued their mighty struggle to stop mercury and dioxin emissions at 5 cement kilns at Lafarge. Lafarge continued burning supposedly non-halogenated chlorine-free plastics without an MDEQ permit through 2008. The permit is currently under MDEQ "consideration."

Victor McManemy, CACC Director, Great Lakes songwriter and musician, performed at the first Michigan **Protect the Earth Gathering** in Marquette. The Gathering came together to help stop metallic sulfide mining in the Upper Peninsula.

CACC Director Joseph Badura expanded **CACC's canvass in the Lansing area**, continuing to broaden our outreach.

In November, the CACC board, led by skilled facilitator, Wanda Joseph, held a board retreat in Onkama. We charted our past, put thought to our dreams and made a workable vision for the future. Among our plans is the desire to involve more youth in our projects, and to continue and expand collaborative work, both with other regional groups, such as the Michigan Network for Environmental Health, the Great Lakes Banner Project - and also, with events such as the 15th Biennial Meeting of the International Joint Commission for the Great Lakes in October of 2009. We will continue working for clean, safe energy alternatives to costly, polluting coal and nuclear power.

We plan to reduce CACC's carbon footprint at the CACC office in Lake. We would like to utilize this office, a much appreciated gift from a local donor, more effectively. The first step to a much-needed energy makeover is an energy audit. We will keep you posted as CACC plans a demonstration project for an older, still valuable building.

CACC has exciting plans for Wheatland! In order to maximize our display opportunities, we are looking into a possible production of a solar powered laptop presentation on CACC's work, and the creation of lively posters. We also plan to investigate the possibility of alternative energy to power all or part of the CACC concession. Special thanks to Alicia Rusch for her generous leadership and organizational skills that helped produce a successful Wheatland 2008!

We invite our supporters to take a larger role in CACC's activities in 2009. Please contact us with your interests and concerns. You and the future generations are the inspiration and the reason for our commitment to a quality environment, with clean air and water, and healthy, happy communities!

Gratefully,

The CACC Board of Directors – Kay, Lucia, Annie, Gretchen, Phill, Victor, John, Bill, and Joseph