



Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination

Member of the Michigan Environmental Council and Earth Share of
Michigan

8735 Maple Grove Road, Lake, Michigan 48632-9511
Voice and Fax: 989-544-3318

Chapter Organizations:
Huron Environmental Activist League

A Call from Mother Earth and CACC - December 2007

Koo! Koo! Koo!
Git-chi ga-da-na
A-kwa-kwa
Git-chi da-ba-na

Repeat and add 2nd *Git-chi da- ba- na*
Repeat and add 3rd *Git-chi da- ba- na*

A rough translation:

An owl comes into the camp. The singer takes it out of the camp, (not an easy job.)

The owl comes back into the camp. The singer takes it out of the camp again!

The owl comes back again to the camp. The singer again takes it out!

Then, the singer asks
Ska-na nod-mo-zhick?
Can you help me out here?

Old Adawa song as taught to Victor McManemy by Pine Shomin in preparing for a gathering focused on shutdown of the Big Rock Point nuclear plant. An owl symbolizes death to Original Peoples and is not a welcome visitor in camp.

Winter sweeps across the Great Lakes, winds howling. Snow covers our industrial pollution for the moment – and brings in contaminants from afar. There are blatant warning signs of human pollution and global warming that we cannot continue to ignore. Among these signs: arctic ice is melting much faster than predicted; our newborns carry persistent toxins in their bloodstreams, as do we, and the fish, and our waterways; plankton in the oceans and the Great Lakes are disappearing. In Saginaw, the highest levels of dioxin in the U.S. have been found. Hormone mimics create havoc in the gene pool. Great Lakes water levels are falling. Our fish are tainted with mercury, yet mercury emissions continue unstopped. New coal and nuclear plants are planned for Michigan, without thought for the tremendous ecological damage they will cause, both here and where the mining, processing, transport and storage of wastes occur.

CACC believes with others that we are at a critical juncture. Our actions today affect the lives of many generations to come. We live amidst unmatched treasure – the Sweet Water Seas, ninety percent of the fresh water in the United States. How can we protect this tremendous resource we call Home? CACC looks to you, like the singer above, and we ask from our hearts: “Can you help us out here?” We are working to lessen our human footprint, and we need your capable assistance.

CACC believes that education that leads to action is the tipping point to survival. Knowledge can move us to change our lifestyles, to initiate greener forms of energy, to cut back our consumption - for as a people, we care greatly for those we love and our watersheds – the places we live. Join us as we put our best efforts forth in 2008 to tip the odds for healthy communities in the Great Lakes.

2007 Brought New Projects and Constructive Changes for CACC.

CACC Administrator Carey Pauquette-Schalm, initiated conference calls for our winter board meetings, assuring that the board met monthly, while conserving gas and avoiding hazardous weather! CACC joined the national **BE SAFE** coalition under Carey's watch. She made big changes to our newsletter with **Family Corner** (returning in 2008), a new format and title. She planted the seed for important work to stop pesticide use in our schools. A new webpage on this vital issue will soon be available at: www.caccmi.org

Pam Warren, CACC's resourceful Webmaster, redesigned the website, and introduced a new **ECO-Calendar** for events. Check it out at www.caccmi.org! Feel free to add your photos from CACC events to our online photo album.

Joseph Badura, CACC Director, continues to operate CACC's successful Lansing Canvass.

CACC joined with MEC, Don't Waste Michigan, Beyond Nuclear and others to help stop contaminated land at the former Big Rock nuclear site from becoming state parkland. CACC continues to campaign for independent monitoring of the site and near waters, and full disclosure and cleanup of radioactive contaminants. CACC Directors continue to work with the **Great Lakes United Green Energy/Nuclear Free Task Force** on safe energy education and advocacy.

At CACC's annual meeting in June, Kathryn Savoie Ph.D., Environmental Program Director of ACCESS presented her version of Al Gore's slideshow "**An Inconvenient Truth, The Planetary Emergency of Global Warming and What We Can Do About It.**" This event spurred networking with other groups on energy issues, i.e. Voices for Earth Justice, Michigan Environmental Council and others. This is a defining issue that has affected our lives directly.

At our annual meeting, CACC approved a Resolution supporting Michigan's Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) in response to Michigan's Supreme Court cutting back the scope and true intention of the law.

In August, with donated labor and materials, CACC sent a mailing to Michigan counties urging them to help stop proposed legislation that would allow far greater, unmitigated pollution to Michigan's waterways from CAFOs (combined animal feeding operations.) Thanks to Sierra Club of Michigan for their assistance with this issue.

CACC participated in Port Huron's "The Green Gathering" and other events focused on sustainable lifestyles.

In September, CACC's stalwart volunteers served up great food to thousands of hungry Wheatlanders! This year, as always, many young adults played a big role in our volunteer efforts. Wheatland is CACC's biggest fundraiser, and gives volunteers time to kick back and enjoy music and traditional arts, while raising funds to sustain CACC's operations. Our display celebrated CACC's "Keeping an Eye on the Great Lakes Basin".

In November, CACC and Voices for Earth Justice, with Citizens Environment Alliance of Southwestern Ontario and Nukewatch, hosted an all-day "**Binational Forum on Dangers of Nuclear Power and Steps to a Sustainable Future,**" for Step it Up's **National Day of Climate Action**, with speakers from Canada and the U.S.. The forum featured the **Great Lakes Health Banner**, a moving testimony to the campaign to end persistent toxins in the Great Lakes Basin.

CACC's work to make the Great Lakes a safe and healthy watershed is far from complete. Please consider a gift of money and/or time toward CACC's important work this holiday season. We work for the day when our children will breathe clean air, drink clean water and our gardens and workplaces are free of pollution! Tell us how you'd like to be involved with us in 2008. Thank you for your support - whether a continued contributor or a new donor as CACC celebrates nearly thirty years of environmental action!

Happy holidays to you and those you love from CACC's Board of Directors and our outstanding volunteers!

Kay Cumbow, Chair

CACC is a 501c3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.