

# **London Chapter, Jan. 8, 2015 Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Roberta Cory, Robert Cory, Jennifer Hillis, Bryan Smith, Aldous Smith, Julie Picken-Cooper, Meg Bothwick-Challis, David Heap, Margo Does, Gloria Jenner, Charles Yu, Michael Lewis, Diana Bumstead, Lorna Cairns, Tina Stevens, Anne Jarmaine, German Gutierrez-Sanis, Don Dunsmore, Jan Pennycook, Dale Henderson, Michael Loebach, Deb Rosebrugh, Mike Rosebrugh, Rod Morley, Sara Parsons, Charles Beckett, Evangelos Bakas

## **Agenda**

**6:30 - 7:00** coffee, tea, snacks, social

**7:00 - 7:30 Business: Reports and Coming events**

- **Chair - Roberta Cory** asked for volunteers to set up and tear down at upcoming meetings. Celeste Lemire and Paula Marcotte volunteered for set up; Meg Bothwick-Challis and Tina Stevens for tear down.
- **Cinema Politica – Upcoming film - "Silence is Gold" January 12, Central Library, Stevenson Hunt Room.**

**Admission is free. Please be there by 6:30 for introduction. Film will start promptly at 7pm. Discussion, Q & A and opportunity for gathering literature will follow film.**

<http://www.cinemapolitica.org/london> for details on all upcoming films.

- **Food Security – Pollinator Sanctuary London – Margo Does reported.**
  - Ont. has opened discussions about reducing pesticide use.
  - Fair meeting went well
  - Group is gathering information and asking for input – will hold another meeting in the spring
  - Members asked to comment on pollinator health website until Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - Celeste Lemire added that France has sued Syngenta\* and banned neonicotinoids. \*["... a global Swiss agribusiness that markets seeds and agrochemicals. *Syngenta* is involved in biotechnology and genomic research." Wikipedia]
- **London is on its way to becoming the first Canadian city that is officially a Pollinator Sanctuary. Discussions, initiated by Pollinator Sanctuary London, are already underway, and will be taken up by the NEW City Council and Mayor in the new year!!**
- **OPAL actions – every Friday at 2:00 pm – please call Roberta Cory [519-601-2053](tel:519-601-2053) if you would like to go and support the OPAL action on any Friday.**

- **Bryan Smith distributed letters for members to send to Glenn Murray, Environment Minister, in support of OPAL Alliance and what they are doing to combat the pollution from various sources.**
- **Aldous Smith introduced presentation speakers for the evening: Lorna Cairns and Anne Jarmaine for Lead Now; and German Gutierrez-Salis for Fair Vote Canada.**
- **The London Chapter is looking at democracy in Canada, in the next three months, leading up to the federal election. Lead Now and Fair Vote Canada presentations are the first in a series.**
- **Lead Now spoke on the reality of the last federal election, where 60% of the vote went to opposition parties. Lorna and Anne spoke to the issue of strategic voting, Lead Now's targetting of 16 ridings in the upcoming election, and the London Lead Now initiative to unseat the Conservative candidate in London North Centre. 59 Conservative ridings across Canada are considered vulnerable in the upcoming election.**
- **German Gutierrez-Salis spoke of the need for proportional representation, given the flaw in the 'first past the post' system Canada now employs. He spoke of the necessity for amending the Canada Elections Act, to establish proportional representation as a fairer and more representative reflection of voting in Canada. He also spoke of his support for Lead Now, and the efficacy and strength of various groups uniting to put integrity back into the electoral system, and in parliament, making the legislature a true representative of voters' intentions and positions.**
- **The presentations were followed by a lively Q & A session.**
- **Paula Marcotte, Treasurer, updated the chapter on the state of our finances going into 2015.**