



– BI-ANNUAL REPORT 2013 –

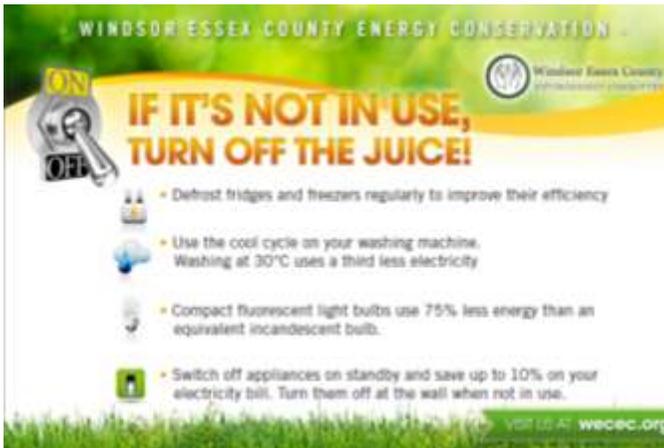
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Energy Conservation Campaign (\$596.06)

WECEC successfully partnered with St. Clair College, Essex Power, EnWin, the Windsor Essex Economic Development Corporation and EcoSpex in an Energy Conservation Campaign. In this way, we were able to pool our resources and develop a \$10,000 campaign to promote energy conservation benefits to home owners.

This campaign was launched mid April. A press conference was held on Friday, April 19th at St. Clair's Centre for Construction Innovation and Production and included a tour of the facility. Media coverage was obtained from Blackburn radio, AM800 and The Windsor Star.

Campaign advertisements were placed in the County papers and Windsor Star online. WECEC and our partners participated in Experts on Call sessions April 7th, and April 27th to discuss how homeowners can decrease their energy consumption, available technician programs offered at St. Clair College, as well as how reducing consumption can help small businesses. WECEC participated in the Windsor Home Show (April 5th - 7th) to promote the committee and this campaign. Post cards (shown below) were distributed to participants to promote this campaign.



ROSE City Clean Sweep Kickoff

WECEC partnered with the City of Windsor and the Downtown Windsor Business Improvement Association to organize a successful kick-off event for the City's Rose City Clean Sweep campaign. Over 40 participants met on Maiden Lane West on Friday April 5th to help pick up litter around the downtown. There was significant involvement from the media, including a write-up in the Windsor Star.

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Earth Day (\$40)

WECEC participated in the Windsor Essex Earth Day celebrations by having a booth at the event on Sunday April 28th at Malden Park from 10am until 3pm. Members distributed our brochure, customized pens and magnets, as well as our Energy Conservation Campaign information.

Green Speaker Series: Dr. David Suzuki (\$1,000)

WECEC was approached by Canvas Campus for a donation to support bringing Dr. David Suzuki to Windsor to present to over 7,000 school children at the WFCU on April 25th. Committee members were happy to contribute \$1,000 from the Green Speaker Series budget towards this cause. WECEC members were able to meet Dr. Suzuki before he spoke.



Pat on the Back Environmental Awards (\$2,426.53)

Fifteen applications were received for our third annual “Pat on the Back Awards”. A \$500 award is given to 4 environmental projects lead by community or school groups. An ad-hoc subcommittee met to review the applications and selected six final applicants who presented their project at the Pat on the Back award ceremony Wednesday May 29th at 7:00pm at the Ojibway Nature Centre.

WECEC is very pleased to announce the four award winners of the third annual Pat on the Back Awards:

- 1) Together we flourish, a community organization who will be building a community garden and running a Gal Pals mentoring program;
- 2) Sandwich secondary, to be able to expand their native plant area by amending soil with mulch and compost;
- 3) St. Jean Baptist, who will be building a vegetable garden and donating some of their produce to the community; and
- 4) St. Jules School, to make improvements to their outdoor green space through soil amendments and the planting of native species.

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The Committee also enjoyed presentations from St. Anne's legacy project, to create an accessible outdoor classroom and student area, as well as the Riverside Green Team, involved in a multi-phase project to turn their courtyard into a “no mow” zone.

The ceremony was well attended by many members of the public and environmental organizations.



Green Speaker Series: Dan Burden – Walkable and Livable Communities Institute (\$1,000)

On Friday June 7th WECEC continued their Green Speaker Series with host Dan Burden, Co-Founder and Director of Innovation and Inspiration at the [Walkable and Livable Communities Institute](#). Dan spoke to over 100 people about how creating more walkable streets can contribute to healthier, more vibrant communities with thriving economies.

WECEC partnered with the City of Windsor Planning and Environmental Master Plan departments, the Wyandotte and Walkerville Business Improvement Areas as well as the St. Clair Society of Architects to coordinate this event.

Participants included many members of City of Windsor administration as well as county municipality administration, City Councillors, architects, students, St. Clair College professors, BIA members, the Windsor Essex County Health Unit, Tourism Windsor Essex, members of the public, the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation, non-profit organizations and the Greater Essex County District School Board.

During the walking audit, Dan pointed out many simple solutions to begin improving walkability. For instance, clearly viable crosswalks and signage were often missing from city streets. Dan suggested using bumpouts at intersections, diagonal parking along side streets and more greenery and places to sit. He also demonstrated that Wyandotte East is wide enough to accommodate bike lanes by lying on the street perpendicular to a parked car. A bike lane is one “Dan” wide, and there was plenty of space for cars to pass by.

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After the walking audit, participants were split into small working group around aerial maps along Wyandotte. The groups brainstormed how to increase walkability. The diverse backgrounds of participants allowed for lively and passionate discussion while working towards a common goal.

There was a great media presence leading up to as well as during the workshop. Days before the event, the Windsor Star did an article with City Planner Thom Hunt highlighting areas in Windsor that are very walkable as well as areas that need improvement. Representatives from the Windsor Star, Blackburn media, AM800 and CBC attended the presentation. The Windsor Star and CTV accompanied the group on the walking audit and CBC radio hosted Dan on their show after the event. Positive media stories were released that day discussing walkability and the potential it has in Windsor.

Dan has provided all workshop participants with his presentation. Many valuable resources are on the Walkable and Livable Communities Institute page: www.walklive.org.



WECEC BUSINESS

Website Maintenance (\$503.37)

The WECEC Coordinator maintains our website, www.wecec.org. Here we post news and events along with information about WECEC and our meeting agenda's and minutes. The website is an important part of our communication and advocacy strategy. We pay yearly website hosting fees as well as a domain renewal fee.

Promotional Supplies (\$347.92)

WECEC often participates in community events such as Earth Day. At our booth we hand out promotional tools such as WECEC customised pens or magnets to encourage members of the public to visit our website and learn more about what we do.

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June Meeting at the Ojibway Nature Centre (\$122.50)

This year, WECEC decided to host one of their meetings at the Ojibway Nature Centre. This was to encourage members of the public to attend, as our meeting place at the Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant may not be viewed as a publicly accessible location.

Trip to the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (\$793.23)

The tour of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge on Friday June 14th was very successful. Nearly 20 people participated and attended a tour of Humbug Marsh along with a presentation by Refuge manager Dr. John Hartig. Participants included WECEC members, Essex County Field Naturalists, City of Windsor administration, Detroit River Canadian Cleanup as well as their Public Advisory Committee members. Dr. John Hartig discussed the process by which Humbug Marsh was saved from development as well as highlighted many ongoing Brownfield restoration and manmade wetlands sites.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY AND COUNTY COUNCILS

Report No. 69 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:

THAT the City of Detroit Environment Affairs, State of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the United States Environmental Protection Agency **BE CONTACTED** on behalf of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee over the environmental concerns that are mounting regarding the petroleum coke being stock piled along the Detroit River shoreline (just east of the Ambassador Bridge), and

THAT a letter **BE SENT** from Windsor City Council to the three levels of government (City, State and Federal government) outlining the environmental concerns over the stock piling of petroleum coke along the shoreline, and

THAT the City of Windsor **PETITION** the Town of LaSalle, the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA), Michigan Representatives Rashida Tlaib (D-Detroit), U.S. Representatives Gary Peters (D-Bloomfield Township) and John Conyers (D-Detroit) as well as regional MPs and MPPs for support in this initiative.

This report was approved by City Council on March 18th.

Report No. 70 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:

THAT the resolution presented by the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative to the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee emphasizing the serious nature of the Asian carp crisis in the Great Lakes and the urgency of finding a solution **BE ENDORSED** and

THAT the City of Windsor **BE REQUESTED** to pass a resolution endorsing the same.

This report was approved by the Environment and Transportation Standing Committee on April 24th and City Council on May 27th.

Report No. 71 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:

THAT City Council **BE REQUESTED** to reconsider/revoke/review Council Resolution CR433/2007 relating to a rezoning for Part of Block Z, Registered Plan 927 as there are no adequate plans for the mitigation

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of identified species and further, that a new bylaw **BE ADOPTED** relating to the Official Plan Amendment rezoning.

This report was rejected by the Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee on May 13th and by the Environment, Transportation & Public Health Standing Committee on May 17th. It was rejected by City Council on June 17th.

Report No. 72 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:

THAT the City of Windsor **BE REQUESTED** to engage the Windsor Port Authority to discuss their intentions for the activities occurring on the Ojibway Shores property, namely the hiring of a consultant to undertake a biological survey of the property.

This report was rejected by the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee on May 22nd.

Report No. 73 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:

THAT a letter **BE SENT** to Minister Lebel asking him to inform the Windsor Port Authority that they **CANNOT** proceed with the clear-cutting of Ojibway Shores **NOR** accept fill as they intend to start September 1, 2013.

This report was rejected by City Council on July 8th 2013.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2013 Budget		
Expense	Credit	Expenditure
2013 Budget	\$8,300.00	
Website domain renewal		\$76.32
Conservation Campaign Ad		\$1,525.39
Pat on the Back room rental		\$246.00
June meeting at Ojibway		\$122.50
Promotional Items		\$347.92
Conservation Campaign Generator Design		\$596.06
Earth Day		\$40.00
David Suzuki		\$1,000.00
Dan Burden		\$1,000.00
Pat on the Back cheques		\$2,000.00
Pat on the Back food		\$123.13
Wildlife tour		\$793.23
Pat on the Back plaques		\$57.40
Totals	\$8,300.00	\$7,927.95
TOTAL REMAINING		\$372.05

*To be reimbursed by campaign partner

*As of July 7th 2013

WECEC IN THE NEWS

Big-box retail development plan near Ojibway draws fire

Doug Schmidt

Mar 27, 2013 - 8:35 PM EDT

Last Updated: Mar 28, 2013 - 6:57 AM EDT

A developer is hoping to have found a more acceptable way to win approval for a long-delayed but controversial big-box retail development on lands abutting the environmentally sensitive Ojibway Prairie Complex.

Coco Paving Inc. has submitted a proposal under a rarely used clause of Ontario's Endangered Species Act that allows development in protected areas subject to the proponent providing "benefits that exceed the adverse effects" on several listed plant and snake species.

"It's a win-win — good for the environment and good for the economy," said company spokesman Anthony Rossi. The proposal was posted on March 7 on the province's Environmental Registry, which provides details and offers opportunity for the public to comment and ask questions until April 8.

One of the biggest changes, said Rossi, is Coco's willingness to carve about 10 acres from its 47-acre holdings east of recently-closed Windsor Raceway and establish a "restoration area" and natural buffer between the development, at the corner of Matchette Road and Sprucewood Avenue, and Ojibway park.

But the proposal hasn't found much favour from activist Nancy Pancheshan and her Save Ojibway group. "The problem with this application is that many of the endangered species are not included ... and (the plan) is incapable of offsetting the disturbances it will create," said Pancheshan, who has been fighting the developer's plans since they were approved by city council in 2007.

She said part of the development will lie just metres away from sensitive tall-grass prairie lands, and the estimated 18,000 additional vehicles per day along Matchette Road, to be more than doubled in width from two lanes to four lanes with a median, will greatly increase snake mortality.

"This will just cause future blight in the city and compromise our remaining environmental habitat," said Pancheshan.



Nancy Pancheshan looks out at the property near the former Windsor Raceway site where a proposed development is planned. Pancheshan has environmental concerns with the wildlife in the area. (JASON KRYK/The Windsor Star)

Pancheshan appealed the original plan to the Ontario Municipal Board and has spent about \$20,000 so far (raised mainly through public donations) enlisting the help of independent experts — a biologist, herbologist and hydro geologist — to dispute the company's own reports.

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It wasn't until Pancheshan's efforts that a number of rare and endangered species were identified on the lands targeted for development. An OMB hearing was indefinitely adjourned in August 2011 after the company was instructed to take a deeper look at the native species on its lands.

Rossi said Coco's latest proposal represents "a significant accommodation," one that will see plants like the dense blazing star and willowleaf aster dug up and replanted, as well the homes of Butler's gartersnake and eastern foxsnake relocated. The 10 acres to be restored to prairie habitat, which includes an existing horse training track, "will eventually be conveyed (to the city or province) for park purposes," said Rossi.

While still wanting to see the details, Ward 1 Drew Dilkens said if the developer is improving on a plan he and a majority of council already approved, then: "Bravo, Coco." Dilkens said "the demand of the market is going to drive the development," and that it's "a reflection on how people like to shop."

Ward 4 Coun Alan Halberstadt, however, said he'd like to see whether council might reconsider its original vote, particularly in light of the additional information Pancheshan and her group uncovered during the OMB appeal process.

Environmental issues aside, a big-box retail development on the outskirts of the city "would be another blow to the downtown and the core area," he said. Halberstadt is co-chair of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee, and he said Pancheshan will be addressing the group at its next meeting on April 4, just days before the Environmental Registry public input deadline.

WECEC is already warning on its website that the Coco proposal "goes against our city's efforts to revitalise." It also provides a "sample comment" letter to the province which begins with a denunciation of the developer's plan.

Clean Sweep crew kicks litter's butt

Volunteer Joan Ziriada uses a stick to clean gum from a Maiden Lane grate as Scott McMullan helps out during Rose City Cleanup on downtown streets Friday.

Photograph by: Nick Brancaccio, The Windsor Star

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Doug Schmidt, The Windsor Star | Apr 12, 2013 |
Last Updated: Apr 12, 2013 - 7:05 UTC



It seemed at times that it was raining butts as smokers strolling down Ouellette Avenue continued casually tossing their spent cigarette stubs at the same time as clean-up volunteers were bowed over sidewalks picking them up.

"This definitely makes one prejudiced against smokers," said Joan Ziriada, one of about 40 volunteers who hit the downtown streets Friday for this year's Rose City Clean Sweep kickoff.

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Ziriada, who works at a downtown law firm, said she loves the trees along Maiden Lane, which she traverses several times during each workweek, but she complains that smokers use the large iron grates that surround the trunks as ashtrays.

"They're a great idea, but they're giant butt receptacles," she said of the grates. Taking an early lunch break, Ziriada made bagging those butts her Clean Sweep mission.

When it comes to litter, the downtown's looking "pretty good" compared to in the past, said Ward 4 Coun. Alan Hal-berstadt, but he agreed that "the bad part are the cigarette butts."

Before being dispatched out into the streets and alleys, volunteers, armed with brooms, bags and protective gloves, were warned to avoid druggie needles and anything else deemed too gross or dangerous.

"I think the message this sends is more important than the actual cleanup," Ward 3 Coun. Fulvio Valentinis said of the annual spring ritual.

"I believe the politicians should be setting an example," added Ward 7 Coun. Percy Hatfield, who also participated.

The three city councillors said all Windsorites share in the responsibility of maintaining a clean city and tackling litter. "The image it projects is not a positive one," said Valentinis.

"All neighbourhoods are being encouraged to clean up," said Averil Parent, Windsor's environment and sustainability coordinator.

She said the city is still looking for groups, organizations and individuals to come forward to participate in the month-long Rose City Clean Sweep. To register, call the city's 311 line, or email cleancity@city.windsor.on.ca, or visit online at www.citywindsor.ca.



The plugged-in world needs to unplug

St. Clair College power engineering student Madan Roy operates the main steam control valve while learning the functions of a steam plant at Centre for Construction Innovation and Production on Friday. Steam power is an energy efficient power generation process and officials were on hand at St. Clair College to bring awareness to energy conservation benefits. **Photograph by:** Nick Brancaccio, The Windsor Star

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Craig Pearson, The Windsor Star | Apr 20, 2013 | Last Updated: Apr 20, 2013 - 8:17 UTC

Our increasingly plugged-in world needs to unplug, according to a new green initiative.

A freshly created campaign dubbed If It's Not In Use, Turn Off the Juice - which launched Friday in Windsor - urges people to turn off appliances when not in use.

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"We're so used to plugging in, plugging in, that it becomes second nature," Charlie Wright, deputy mayor of Leamington and co-chair of the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee, said at the energy-saving program launch at St. Clair College.

"We always feel we have to be plugged in to the Internet, to our cellphones. Yet it's good to be unplugged sometimes. You can save a lot of money."

Wright said consumers can save 20 per cent in energy expenses by simply turning off appliances and committing to other green initiatives, such as using new LED light bulbs.

"We had become the throwaway society," Wright said. "Then we became the recycling society. Now we're becoming the more efficient society. We're using energy smarter."

Fellow Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee co-chair Alan Halberstadt, a Windsor city councillor, said most people don't realize that simply keeping their TV, computer or coffee maker plugged in drains power and money.

"A lot of people might turn off their lights when they're not in use, but not appliances," Halberstadt said. "But if it's plugged in, you're using power."

If It's Not In Use, Turn Off the Juice is an energy-conservation, public-awareness campaign supported by WECEC, Essex Powerlines, Blue Wilderness Management Group, St. Clair College, WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation and Enwin Utilities.

After the campaign launch, students at St. Clair College showed guests a recent recycling project at the school's Centre for Construction Innovation and Production.

Waseem Habash, St. Clair's associate vice-president of academic operations, said the school already offers three programs centred around energy conservation, and that the campus continues to add more and more courses on the topic.

For instance, students in the power engineering technology lab convert excess steam into condensed air, which has a number of industrial applications.

"Energy conservation is important," Habash said. "Students are learning about greener design and greener construction."

American expert says Wyandotte Street full of opportunity



Wearing his bright green safety vest, Dan Burden, co-founder and director of Innovation and Inspiration, Walkable and Livable Communities Institute, picks out some of the possible improvements on Wyandotte Street East in Walkerville, Friday June 7, 2013. (NICK BRANCACCIO/The Windsor Star)

Jun 07, 2013 - 5:49 PM EDT

Last Updated: Jun 07, 2013 - 8:28 PM EDT

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An American expert on street walkability toured the Walkerville stretch of Wyandotte Street Friday afternoon to give city officials pointers on how to redesign the aging roadway.

Dan Burden, co-founder of the Walkability and Livable Communities Institute, said the East Windsor neighborhood shows a lot of promise.

Outfitted in a lime green reflective vest and matching farmer's cap, he stopped at the intersections of Wyandotte Street and Chilver Road and decried to the about 90 people around him: "I just love your opportunity on Wyandotte!"

The walkability audit with Burden was organized by the city and local organizations, such as the Wyandotte and Walkerville BIAs. City official Averil Parent said the event was so popular that she had to limit registration. Mike Palanacki heads city road maintenance and said Burden, named by TIME magazine in 2001 as one the six most important civic innovators in the world, was brought in as part of the plan to make Windsor's roads more "people friendly."

He said the city is taking a new approach in resurfacing Wyandotte over the next two years. He said moving cars efficiently and safely was the biggest concern in the past, but that things are changing.



Dan Burden walks Wyandotte Street in Walkerville "I think we have to rethink that whole philosophy," he said.

Now other ways of getting around – such as walking and cycling – are getting their time in the spotlight. Palanacki said it's to help promote healthy lifestyles, but that it's also to address functionality.

Building highways isn't always the solution when dealing with traffic congestion, he said, giving Toronto as an example.

Burden echoed the point in his analysis of Wyandotte, currently two lanes wide on each side in some areas. He said smaller single car lanes – 10 feet wide being ideal – are actually safer, because it allows room for separate cycling lanes and larger sidewalks.

To illustrate his point, he stretched out on the busy road flat on his back, showing that bike lanes – which he said need to be marked with thick painted lines – can be as wide as he is tall, and still allow traffic to flow easily.

He said cars currently have more space than they need and that adding bike lanes makes motorists safer, "because they're not jockeying for space."

The benefit of wider sidewalks is also commercial, Burden said. "Everybody wins," he said, because if pedestrians have room to stroll, shops lining the streets will see more foot traffic.

Motorists are more likely to slow down when they approach intersections with extended curbs as well, he said, making it a safer area to walk.

James Elliott, a 20-year-old architectural technology student at St. Clair College, was in the crowd with a friend. He said that as a student who's taught to design buildings with surroundings in mind, he liked what he was hearing from Burden.

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"It's really simple stuff," Elliott said, adding that small projects can still have a big impact.

Palanacki said the goal in bringing Burden in to evaluate Wyandotte was to learn how to revamp the road while keeping spending to a minimum.

Parent said the cost to bring Burden to Windsor for the audit was about \$7,000, but that the groups involved in the event pitched in with funds.

Palanacki said the city will "look hard" at the suggestions made by Burden and implement as many as the budget can handle.

Dan Burden, left, co-founder and director of Innovation and Inspiration, Walkable and Livable Communities Institute, begins his tour to point out possible improvements on Wyandotte Street East in Walkerville, Friday June 7, 2013. (NICK BRANCACCIO/The Windsor Star)



Dan Burden, centre, co-founder and director of Innovation and Inspiration, Walkable and Livable Communities Institute, picks out some of the possible improvements on Wyandotte Street East at Devonshire Road, Friday June 7, 2013. (NICK BRANCACCIO/The Windsor Star)

Using his lanky frame as a measuring tool, Dan Burden, co-founder and director of Innovation and Inspiration, Walkable and Livable Communities Institute, points out the size of bicycle lanes, one of many possible improvements on Wyandotte Street East in Walkerville, Friday June 7, 2013. (NICK BRANCACCIO/The Windsor Star)



Dan Burden, centre, co-founder and director of Innovation and Inspiration, Walkable and Livable Communities Institute, picks out some of the possible improvements on Wyandotte Street East in Walkerville, Friday June 7, 2013. (NICK BRANCACCIO/The Windsor Star)

Ojibway shores plan to store dric

dirt

Lorna Martis sits with hundreds of concerned citizens at an Ojibway Shores meeting this week at Mackenzie Hall.

Photograph by: Nick Brancaccio, The Windsor Star , Windsor Star

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Doug Schmidt, Windsor Star | Jul 05, 2013 | Last Updated: Jul 05, 2013 - 7:05 UTC

The Windsor Port Authority wants to raze the forest along the city's last stretch of natural shoreline because it hopes to land a contract to store dirt for the new Detroit River bridge.

In explaining its plans to the public Wednesday night to remove the forest and in-fill the 36-acre federally owned property, the authority said only that it had "attracted a potential tenant" to the site.

But rather than for some major new economic or port employment opportunity, the clear-cutting would allow temporary dirt storage, port authority president and CEO David Cree told The Star Thursday.

He said the land would be used as a storage site for perhaps five years as dirt is needed for the eventual approach to the new international crossing to be built to the immediate north.

Cree said the hope is that, in preparing the site, which the WPA has owned since 1998, it could lead to a long-term occupant.

"I find that a bit appalling, really," Ward 4 Coun. Alan Halberstadt said on hearing of the rationale behind the clearcutting proposal that has been met with strong opposition from the local environmental community.

Every one of dozens of speakers at a public meeting hosted by the WPA Wednesday at Mackenzie Hall urged the federal agency to preserve the property.

On Thursday, Windsor Mayor Eddie Francis added his voice to the opposition.

Francis said the port authority should reconsider its plan to clear-cut at Ojibway Shores.

"They don't have a tenant, they don't have an investor ... my advice to the port authority is for them to re-evaluate the future of that property," he said.

The authority recently announced its intention to clear the forest cover at Ojibway Shores as soon as September, with the final decision by the federal agency's board expected in August.

The WPA's plans, however, may have suffered a lethal blow after outside pressure, including from Windsor West MP Brian Masse Wednesday, saw Amico Construction, responsible for excavating the \$1.4-billion Herb Gray Parkway, deny it had a deal to supply a large volume of in-fill dirt to the property.

"There was no agreement in place," Cindy Prince, Amico's vicepresident of development, said in speaking on behalf of company head Domenic Amicone.

"That's certainly going to be a factor in the board's decision-making process," Cree said.

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He said it was only last Friday that the WPA learned of a June 11 letter from Transport Minister Denis Lebel to the local Citizens Environment Alliance assuring the group that "Transport Canada has no intention of using the Ojibway Shores land to accept fill for the Detroit River International Crossing project."

Cree said the WPA had been expecting about 150,000 cubic metres of parkway dirt trucked in to raise the property about four feet to bring the site to the required 100-year floodplain level.

Without the fill, "their business case falls apart," said Francis, adding he called Amicone Thursday morning after he "saw what happened" at the previous night's public meeting.

A capacity crowd of 230 filled a rented room at Mackenzie Hall, but a similar number who couldn't get in filled the adjacent corridor, downstairs lobby and outside parking lot.

Francis also said the city has no intention of investing the several million dollars required to service the property. A municipal servicing agreement was part of the 1998 deal that saw the city initiate a land swap with the port authority for the industrially zoned Ojibway Shores.

But that was then. "We value that area, and we value these properties," Francis said of the Ojibway Complex, containing the richest collection of rare and endangered plant and animal species in Ontario.

Also on Thursday, the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee met and voted to step up the lobbying of Ottawa to halt the chainsaws, as well as to seek municipal support to help in the search for a longerterm green solution.

A petition is currently circulating, calling for the creation of a "national urban park" that would serve as a green gateway into Canada from the new border crossing.

Halberstadt, who co-chairs WECEC, said he will meet Tuesday with MP Jeff Watson (C - Essex) to see what else can be done to protect Ojibway Shores.