

Our World

Community Collective



www.ourworldcommunity.org

OWCC, for the North Okanagan, believes that the best way to effect change is to focus the power generated by large numbers of people, to democratically identify concerns and move toward solutions which support a healthy and sustainable future.

70 Percent!

Meetings
We meet the first and third Thursday of every month.
@ 6:00 P.M.
For more information, phone Darren at 542-3379.

There has been a disturbing trend in Canada with less people electing governments into office than ever before. Since 1988, in the Canadian Federal Elections, voter participation has dropped from 75.3 percent to 60.5 percent. In the BC Provincial Election, only 55 percent of potential eligible voters were registered.

organization. Just by voting, people are feeling more connected and confident knowing

OWCC is going to reverse this trend! We've set up a simple, convenient system to poll public opinion so that together, we can move towards a more sustainable future. **We just ran our first official poll and had an impressive 70 percent participation! Congratulations OWCC for the North Okanagan!**



Darren Seymour, of Our World Community Collective, displays a sign to promote OWCC's first official Poll.

That we are receiving good, positive feedback from North Okanagan residents is encouraging. People believe in the OWCC concept and are excited about the potential of the

that there is something they can do to help. As a united group of concerned citizens, possibilities are endless.

Poll Results

In our first official Poll we asked our members in the North Okanagan what issues they were concerned about. We took all the information and categorized it into 29 issues. The Poll ran from September 10th to October 31st. For the Poll, members chose seven out of 29 issues that concerned them most

and ranked them from one to seven.

OWCC tabulated the results by giving each choice a value (1st choice a value of 7, 2nd choice a value of 6, and so forth, ending with a value of 1 for the 7th choice). The chart on **page 2** lists the results of the 12 top issues chosen, along with their total values.

This Issue

70 Percent!

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The Next Phase

Results Chart

Understanding the Issue

Now that we have identified the top issue as “Polluting of the Earth,” the next step is to identify and understand the underlying root causes of pollution. Together, we will continue the problem-solving process by asking such questions as, “What’s being polluted?” “How is it being polluted?” “What damage are we causing by our current actions?” “How are we connected to damage being done in other parts of the world?” Answering questions like these will help us move toward attainable and effective solutions.

Extent of Involvement

Remember... if you are reading this and do not have time to invest, that’s okay. The minimum we want you to do as an OWCC member is to be counted and heard ... **to vote**. Through that vote you will be providing pertinent feedback that will help direct the course of OWCC. If you have free time and want to contribute more, great! You can become more actively involved as a member if you wish, periodically or on a more permanent basis. The extent of involvement is up to you!

If you have the time or want to become more actively involved, you can help us research and/or attend our bi-monthly meetings. If “Polluting of the Earth” was not one of your top issues, know that we will eventually get to your issue. Your continued assistance will be appreciated. Our hope is that, as our membership grows, we will be able to tackle more than one issue at a time. If you have experience or expertise in the area of pollution or know someone who has, we need your help. If you are not experienced but have a desire to work on the issue, please participate.

Researching the Issue

To identify and understand the issue of “Polluting the Earth,” anyone willing and able can perform research in books, magazines, on the Internet, etc., then bring the information to the OWCC meetings (1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at the Blue Heron meeting room) or provide input on our interactive forum in the “Member’s Area” on our web site (ourworldcommunity.org). At our meetings and on our web site, we invite people to share research, brainstorm and exchange ideas of what we can do to keep our planet healthy. Information will continuously be brought to the member base for input through votes and surveys.

RANK	ISSUE CHOICE	VALUE
1 st	Polluting of the Earth	483
2 nd	Wildlife and Habitat Destruction	303
3 rd	Lack of Public Representation in Government Decision-Making	231
4 th	Government Accountability, Responsibility and Transparency	219
5 th	Insufficient Health Care System	174
6 th	Media Control Through Manipulation of Information	166
7 th	Genetic Modification	137
8 th	Rich/Poor Gap	125
9 th	Rising Cost of Living	118
10 th	Usury and Control Through Borrowed Money by International Banking Systems	115
11 th	Deterioration of Social Values	110
12 th	Tuition Costs are a Hardship for Most	102

Poll results of the 12 top issues chosen by OWCC members, along with their total values. The issue of “Polluting the Earth” came out on top. For complete results, visit our web site at ourworldcommunity.org or phone 542-3379.

Membership on the Rise

We are pleased with the growing numbers of new members in our Collective. We will continue to evolve as new people become more aware of our organization and join our team. Sign up, free of charge, and join us on our quest to solve issues and make the world a better place.

A Year In Review

December brings to an end a very eventful year that offered many challenges and changes to OWCC. A productive year focused on building a strong foundation with communication being the cornerstone.

Laying the Corner Stone

One of this year's primary goals was to build a user friendly, interactive web based system where the community would have the ability to express their views and concerns in an open forum with others. OWCC's web site now includes the addition of a PHP interactive forum with integrated polling capabilities. It is the first interactive system of its kind in the Okanagan. With the successful completion of our first Opinion Poll, we can confidently say we achieved this goal. (See OWCC's Poll Results article on page 1)

Newsletter Grows

With communication being a strong theme this year, we decided to renovate and expand the content and distribution of our Newsletter. With the additional space we are now able to report OWCC's activities and also spotlight others making positive contributions to our community and the world as a whole. Look for new topics, innovations and expanded distribution in the coming year.

Season's Greetings

OWCC Committee Members would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members and the community for their support and encouragement over the past year. With your participation we have been able to achieve this year's goals and to confidently plan for next year's. As always, your cooperation and participation is key to the success and effectiveness of OWCC.

We would also like to thank all the generous businesses that offered support and provided display space for our Newsletter throughout the year. A big thanks to the Blue Heron Pub for the use of their meeting room, and

Participation is the Key

As in all Democracies, participation is the key to OWCC's success and effectiveness. If the goal is truly to be the representative voice of the community, we'll need to continue to grow our membership. With in the last ten months our membership has grown to 180, fifty of that just within the past two months. We expect these numbers to continue to increase as our message reaches more people.

Reaching Out

Another of OWCC's goals this year was to reach out to other non-profit organizations and raise awareness of their work in the community. With the use of our Newsletter, we were able to help them communicate their message and attract new members. OWCC will continue to provide this service in the future.

So, all and all, it was a very productive year and we have reason to be thankful. Next year will bring many new challenges as we enter into the problem solving phase. We look forward to these challenges with great enthusiasm and anticipation. As always, we will be polling your views and opinions to guide OWCC's path forward.



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Our World Community

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Community Radio a Reality

The wheels are in motion to bring a new FM Radio Station to the North Okanagan as early as next Summer. A group of radio enthusiasts believe that local radio stations are not meeting the needs of all residents and propose that a non-profit Community Radio station (CRNO) be established.

According to spokes person Mike Masella,



“CRNO will strive to provide views, opinions, news and music not already offered by the corporate media outlets. Emphasis will be on public participation and providing local programming that differs in style and substance from commercial radio.” Volunteers are needed now. For more information call Mike at 250 558-4899.

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A big Thanks to Erynn for designing and hosting OWC's web site

Organic Harvest Festival



OWCC at the 1st Annual Organic Harvest Festival at Polson Park on October 9th.

Bright, rich colours describes the bountiful harvest of wholesome, organically grown produce on exhibit at the 1st Annual Organic Harvest Festival at Polson Park on October 9th. Hundreds of visitors from around the Okanagan were greeted with an impressive display of open air booths, friendly people and the entertaining sound of live music coming from the band stand. The Organic Harvest Festival is sure to become a Fall classic.



• Donations •

We created our OWCC newsletter to promote the OWCC concept of uniting people to create solutions in our community and to promote businesses that are moving towards a sustainable future. To achieve this vital goal we are asking you for financial support to cover printing costs. You can either deposit your donation at Vernon & District Credit Union (Our World Community Collective) or mail it to Our World Community, 7688 Okanagan Landing Road, Vernon, B.C, V1H 1G9 or you can bring it to the next meeting.