



CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

Environment

TO: Chair and Members of the Community & Corporate Services Committee

SUBJECT: 2005 Smog Summit

Report Number: CORPSERV-13/05 Report Date: April 18, 2005
Author(s): Fleur Storace-Hogan Date to Committee: May 10, 2005
Telephone: 905-335-7600 Ext. 7580 Date to Council: May 24, 2005
Ward(s) Affected: 1 2 3 4 5 6 All File Number(s): 210-05-2

APPROVALS: Department Head General Manager City Manager

To be completed by the Clerks Department

Committee Disposition & Comments [Table with 3 rows]

01- Approved 02 - Not Approved 03 - As Amended 04 - Referred 05 - Deferred 06 - Received & Filed 07 - Withdrawn

Council Disposition & Comments [Table with 3 rows]

01- Approved 02 - Not Approved 03 - As Amended 04 - Referred 05 - Deferred 06 - Received & Filed 07 - Withdrawn

1.0 RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Councillor Lougheed or designate be authorized to attend the 2005 Smog Summit on June 8th, 2005, and sign the Toronto and Region Inter-governmental Declaration on Clean Air on behalf of the City of Burlington.

2.0 PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with background information regarding the 2005 Smog Summit and to recommend that the City participate in the event on Clean Air Day, June 8th, 2005.

3.0 BACKGROUND AND RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

The Toronto Medical Officer of Health released an alarming report in May 2000 called the “Air Pollution Burden of Illness in Toronto” that quantified the human health cost, including premature mortality, associated with smog. This report garnered so much press attention that three levels of government quickly organized the first Smog Summit the following month. The purpose of this summit was to develop short term measures that could be adopted to improve air quality in the summer of 2000 while encouraging initiatives to address the issue over the long term. The summit was deemed a success and became an annual event.

One component of the 2001 Smog Summit involved the federal, provincial and municipal governments signing an inter-governmental declaration committing to the establishment of a GTA Clean Air Council (GTA-CAC) to tackle smog and climate change emissions. The GTA Clean Air Council is an inter-governmental working group with members from local municipalities and the provincial and federal governments. Through monthly meetings, members explore opportunities for joint initiatives to reduce air pollution emissions and increase awareness of air quality issues in the GTA.

Since 2002, Councillor Lougheed has represented the City of Burlington by attending the smog summits and signing the Toronto and Region Inter-governmental Declaration on Clean Air demonstrating the city’s commitment for improving air quality. Staff provided an update on the city’s air quality initiatives in January 2005 (CORPSERV-3/05; CC-9-05).

The city’s participation in the 2005 Smog Summit corresponds with the long and short-term goals of the strategic plan, *Future Focus VI: Pillars for Success*.

Long Term Goal Statement – Liveable Community #2

The city will be a leader in making a high level of environmental performance one of its primary goals of its policies, programs and operations, and in the actions of its citizens, to provide the highest quality of life for all.

Short-term goals

2.2 The city will enhance the quality of air, land, water and the city’s natural heritage.

Strategy

b) Participate in municipal and/or other programs designed to improve air, land, water quality and the natural heritage.

4.0 DISCUSSION:

On June 8th, 2005, political representatives from all levels of government within the GTA will gather in Toronto to publicly sign the Toronto and Region Inter-governmental Declaration on Clean Air, to report on progress made since last year’s summit, and to announce new initiatives for government action to reduce smog. The declaration will include a ‘Joint Call for Action’ by the municipal participants on a number of issues. These action items are summarized in Appendix A.

This year, new activities have been scheduled relating to the transportation and health theme of the 2005 Smog Summit. These include a pre-summit air quality sampling exercise at the end of May and a free, public event called the Fresh Air Fair on June 4th.

Political representatives from various GTA locations will be taking real-time air quality samples at trafficked intersections to bring attention to air pollution caused by vehicular traffic throughout the GTA. The goal is to highlight the need for joint action to address air quality issues as they pertain to transportation and health, and to provide media profile for the smog summit. The exercise will be videotaped in all participating jurisdictions for presentation at a press conference in Toronto on June 7th.

The Fresh Air Fair, will be a fun, interactive event at the Harbourfront Centre in Toronto targeted to families with children aged 3-8. The goal is to raise awareness about the effect our transportation choices have on our health and our environment and to encourage people to adopt active lifestyles for cleaner air. The June 4th event will kick off with a high profile athlete at 12:00pm and end with a free concert by children's entertainers Judy and David. There will also be displays, prize giveaways, and an announcement regarding the top three winners of the GTA-wide "air pollution solution" essay contest for grade five students. Segments of the Fresh Air Fair will also be videotaped and shown at the 2005 Smog Summit.

The June 8th Smog Summit is a political event that is open to members of the public. This year, the event has been shortened to two hours allowing for introductions, a presentation on the state of smog in the GTA and a GTA municipal government roundtable discussion followed by remarks from the provincial and federal representatives. The event will conclude with the signing of the 2005 Toronto and Region Inter-governmental Declaration on Clean Air.

As the representative for the City of Burlington, Councillor Loughheed (or designate) will be asked to participate in the roundtable forum with other government representatives to discuss current issues related to the transportation and health theme.

5.0 FINANCIAL MATTERS: N/A

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

Smog is a form of poor air quality that negatively impacts one's health, the environment, and the economy. Until recently, it has generally been perceived that poor air quality only occurs in the summer months. However, the level of awareness associated with poor air quality is increasing and more people now know that it can and does occur throughout the year, including the winter months.

Members of our community that are especially susceptible to smog include children, seniors, and people with asthma, heart, and lung conditions. The most harmful pollutants are ground-level ozone and fine particulate matter. These contaminants come from the combustion of fossil fuels in our vehicles, power plants, factory boilers, and homes. They are also released through industrial processes, the evaporation of liquid fuels, and the use of solvents and other volatile products, such as oil-based paints.

Working with the GTA Clean Air Council provides an opportunity to effect change in environmental policies at local and senior levels of government.

7.0 COMMUNICATION MATTERS:

Staff will work with Corporate Communications to coordinate the communications associated with the City's participation in the 2005 Smog Summit.

8.0 CONCLUSION:

It is recommended that the City once again participate in the 2005 Smog Summit so that we may continue to work with our municipal, provincial, and federal partners to address this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Fleur Storace-Hogan
Environmental Projects

Copy filed: s:\inet\

Appendices:

A. Summary of Action Items for the 2005 Inter-governmental Declaration on Clean Air

Staff / Others Consulted:

Name	Telephone
Environmental Management Team Air Quality Initiatives Team Burlington Sustainable Development Committee Halton Partners for Clean Air	

Notifications:

Name	Mailing or E-mail Address
Burlington Sustainable Development Committee Halton Partners for Clean Air	jasb@region.halton.on.ca

Special Instructions:

Consent agenda

APPENDIX A

Preliminary Summary of Action Items for the Inter-governmental Declaration on Clean Air

On Clean Air Day, June 8th, 2005, elected officials from municipalities across the GTA, and the provincial and federal governments, will gather in Toronto to sign the 2005 Toronto and Region Inter-governmental Declaration on Clean Air. A copy of last year's declaration is available on the GTA Clean Air Partnership website at http://www.cleanairpartnership.org/smogsummit/pdf/2004_declaration.pdf

The following is a draft summary of preliminary action items under consideration by the GTA Clean Air Council to be incorporated into this year's declaration. The final copy of the declaration will be presented at the Smog Summit.

GTA Clean Air Council Action Items:

1. Undertake joint research and action on key areas of concern with respect to the theme of the 2005 Smog Summit, transportation and health.
2. Collaborate with existing programs such as 20/20 The Way to Clean Air, the One-Tonne Challenge, and the Smart Commute campaigns to strengthen and support existing efforts to engage residents in energy conservation activities.
3. Integrate the work of the GTA-Clean Air Council on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving regional air quality with Canada's commitment to the Kyoto Protocol and the Government of Canada's One Tonne Challenge.
4. Explore the applicability of a municipal model bylaw developed by members of Environment Canada's Burn it Smart! program to ensure that all new residential gas and wood fireplaces and stoves meet low emission certification requirements.
5. Support the federal government's development of a revised air quality index that reflects the combined health effects of exposure to multiple key pollutants.
6. Explore the benefits of hosting a cross-border Smog Summit.
7. Continue to undertake research and actions already underway as committed to in the 2004 Inter-governmental Declaration on Clean Air.