

Environment Report for MC² AGM
November 1, 2020, current Chair, Rita Reitsma

There will be draft minutes of our AGM available on the MC² website, including references made in this report.

First let me thank the faithful members of our committee who have stood by in this disorienting time of COVID. Our group includes: Arnold De Graaff, Knut Holmsen, Bob Mitchell, Flora Nadafi, and Joanne Rovet. We are always open to having new members come to a committee meeting to consider joining us in these critical times for the environment. We have a diversity of experiences and opinions and would love to have others work with us. Contact Rita at degraaff-reitsma@sympatico.ca and we'll let you know when we will restart our meetings.

Our last presentation on 'Plastic Pollution and Human Health' was well received and a critical topic that will continue to be relevant to our lives. You can access the presentation through our website at: www.monomulmur.com. Go to 'What We Do', then to 'Current Events & Ideas' and click on the Rogers TV presentation. The federal government has acknowledged our petition along with those from Environmental Defence, Greenpeace and many others. Plastic is back with a vengeance because of the pandemic. The new government regulations are still limited and piecemeal. For example, plastic cups and water bottles are excluded. An excellent website worth following, www.ecowatch.com, had a relatively recent article on how 'Bottle-Fed Babies May Consume Millions of Microplastic Particles a Day'.

We are planning to have our next presentation, 2021(?) more broadly focused on Waste. Locally and internationally waste in all its forms is a critical environmental issue about which we can make radical changes including advocating for change on all levels of government. Here in Dufferin County there are many things we will have to do differently in terms of waste management and programs like the blue box.

There are many local issues, some enumerated in this meeting, that have very important environmental impacts on our lives and future generations. The state of our world calls us to be much more empowered, vigilant and aware of what is happening with the environmental crisis and our role in re-directing the frightening path we have chosen.