

Audubon International Sustainability Specialist speaks in Uxbridge.

Suzi Zakowski, Sustainable Communities Program Manager, Audubon International, made a well received presentation at a special event on Sustainability for Municipalities to an audience of local politicians, environmental agencies and interested local citizens. The event was held at the Wyndance golf club and it was organized by the Uxbridge Watershed Advisory Committee and the Golf Clubs of Uxbridge. In her presentation she emphasized the importance of top down leadership and bottom up citizen participation for a programme to be effective. She also recommended that any plan should be thought of as a long term journey to be implemented in small measurable steps.

Suzi Zakowski's presentation was particularly timely because of the Township's recent decision to submit a Letter of Interest, jointly with the Townships of Brock and Scugog to undertake an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan. Such a Plan will provide a comprehensive and long term program for the Townships to become sustainable in accordance with the initiative of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Uxbridge has already displayed environmental leadership in a number of important areas, including an Environmental Policy for golf courses, which was prepared in cooperation with all seven of the courses which are now operating in the Township. This comprehensive policy is thought to be the first of its kind in North America. The Township is also a leader in the management of urban storm water which is treated to extremely high standards to eliminate nutrients entering Lake Simcoe. In addition the Township has initiated an energy conservation program which is guided by its Energy Conservation Advisory Committee.

Mayor Bob Shepherd says "Our Township is proud of its environmental record and is committed to being an environmental leader"

Tom Fowle, Chair, Watershed Advisory Committee