

government and the public, has reduced runoffs of toxic industrial effluents, decontaminated polluted aquatic sites, protected habitats, created a marine park and rehabilitated endangered species; in Annapolis Royal, the local composting facility is part of the town's Zero Waste 2005 Program; Ontario Power Generation has erected a 1.8-megawatt wind turbine in Pickering.

Most large corporations are embracing corporate social responsibility by establishing in-house departments devoted solely to environmental and sustainable development concerns.

The problems are many — climate change, air, water and soil contamination, smog, hazardous wastes, endangered species, deforestation. Yet, as Professor Edward O. Wilson has said: "The 21st century is the Century of the Environment." There is greater global awareness now than ever before that our planet must be saved.

An update of my activities last year follows. I am looking forward to a new year of positives. The World Summit on Sustainable Development will bring together the world's leaders to map out an agenda for the globe's environmental future. In Canada, we will continue to carry out our environmental protection goals, among them the full realization of the right of every Canadian to clean and safe air, water and soil.

I will continue to champion environmental initiatives and technologies as I discover them and to report my findings to Cabinet. I will also closely monitor local, national and international environmental issues and concerns, which affect us all, and bring them to the Government's attention.

We must work together to keep our planet safe.

Hilbert Parent

Conferences Attended as Participant and/or Speaker

National

- First Meeting of Environment Ministers of the Americas, Montreal, Quebec
- met with 16 Canadian NGOs prior to the meeting
 - their views were incorporated in Minister David Anderson's remarks to the Ministers attending

International Best Practices Exchange, Toronto, Ontario

- a meeting of local government officials from around the world to discuss strategies for the reduction of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, most particularly as they relate to smog