

Is anyone listening? by Andree Morneau

Members often ask: are Section and National activities making any difference? Here is one example of change that can be attributed to a recent CIF/IFC Section event.

On November 3rd 2008, the Algonquin Section invited Alison Luke (CIF/IFC Section Councillor and OMNR forester in Pembroke) to give a presentation on climate change based on Al Gore's award-winning movie *An Inconvenient Truth* at Nipissing University. Towards the end of her presentation, she mentioned a website hosted by the CBC and The Hour with George Stroumboulopoulos called "One Million Acts of Green". The idea behind the campaign is that one small act can make a big difference and that one act from each individual can amass to a million. Acts of green can be as simple as switching to compact fluorescent light-bulbs, using re-usable bags, or walking to work. One person in the audience was Carrie Mayne, vice-president of the Nipissing University's Environmental Club. She was inspired by this idea and she and her father Chris started a community group – North Bay One Million Acts of Green (<http://green.cbc.ca> – go to groups – North Bay). The group started with 3 acts of green on Jan 7, 2009. By the end of January, they had reached 1000 acts of green, and by March 11, they had 243 members who **recorded 13,246 acts of green!** Chris Mayne is a city councillor in North Bay, an avid canoeist, and passionate about involving the community in projects that increase their appreciation of the environment and quality of life. He is very good at getting people involved and this project proves it. One act of green is to eat a vegetarian meal, so Chris organised a gourmet vegetarian meal for over 50 people at the Urban Café, a restaurant in North Bay on Feb. 6. This event was such a success that Chris is organizing a second "vegetarian feast" for Earth Hour - a candlelight dinner at one of 4 participating local restaurants: Average Joes, Mexicali Rosa's, Tennant's steak house, and the Urban Café. So, is anyone listening – the answer is yes. We will be listing our Section and individual member events on the North Bay "Million Acts of Green" website, providing people with the opportunity to learn about role foresters, forests, and forest products play with respect to climate change.



Urban café staff prepared and served a delicious vegetarian feast at the Urban Café on Worthington St. in North Bay on Feb 6, 2009 – 50 Acts of Green.