

## LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPION DIES: HIS LEGACY REMAINS

We would do well to celebrate our heroes, local and beyond, in the climate and environmental movements. One such hero, dear to many in Grey and Bruce Counties and beyond, died on July 4 in Hamilton in his 91<sup>st</sup> year. His name is Siegfried (Ziggy) Kleinau. Anyone who knew him would agree with this description in his obituary:

*“For more than 30 years Ziggy has worked tirelessly advocating for the safety and health of our environment and has been warning society about our careless and thoughtless custodianship. His mandate was always the same, ‘we have to care for the environment because we owe it to our grandchildren’... The environment has lost a champion”.*

Trained in Germany in horticulture, Ziggy Kleinau arrived in Canada in 1953 and worked initially here as a farmhand and nurseryman. He quickly fell in love with Canada’s wilderness, leading church groups on excursions into Ontario’s forests. He then found his way to a patch of land near Lion’s Head in the Bruce Peninsula where he established his small organic farm.

Recognizing the importance of group action, he founded the Bruce Peninsula Environmental Group that still meets monthly. Through and with this group, Ziggy used his interest in others and his considerable communication talents to explore and promote renewable energy, recycling and conservation.

In 1985 he co-founded Citizens for Renewable Energy (CFRE). It was initially a Bruce Peninsula group but it spread to much of Bruce and Grey Counties and thereafter across Ontario. CFRE took issue with nuclear energy and Ziggy spoke in communities across the province on the perils of the nuclear industry and nuclear waste and on the virtues of renewable energy.

His own plot of Bruce County land was his laboratory where he introduced organic farming and on-site wind energy generation. He believed in bringing food and energy together, and he was a popular speaker at house tours and other events across Ontario, sharing information and inspiring people to embrace renewable energy.

Ziggy had a thirst for the truth and a hunger for data. No worshipper of academic degrees, he nevertheless pursued scientists to learn from to enlist them as allies, all the while stressing that we must act on the best interests of our children and grandchildren. He very much enjoyed communicating with young people and spoke often to University of Guelph classes.

Over the years he enriched other environmental groups, serving on the boards of Great Lakes United and the Ontario Sustainable Energy Association and participating in the Ontario Environmental Network. He also represented Ontario on the World Council for Renewable Energy. He enjoyed visits to Germany and bringing back environmental ideas from his homeland.

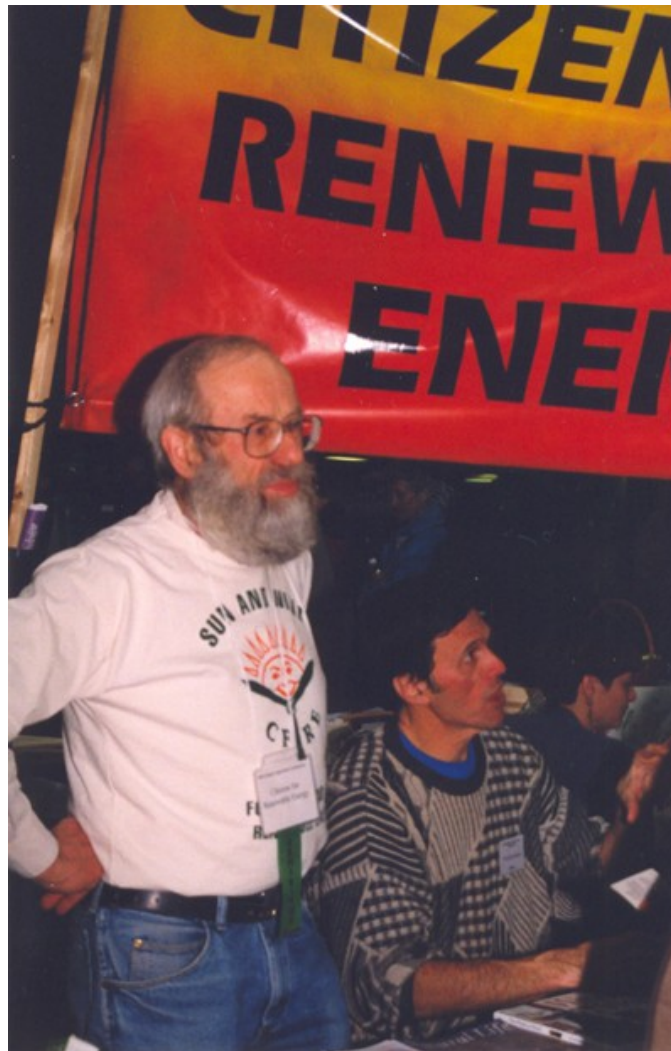
While material possessions interested him little, he was proud of his used Prius, prizing it in part because it was quiet.

By the first decade of this century he began to lose his eyesight, but not his environmental vision. He remained an active advocate, enlisting the help of students as he prepared submissions for change. He

eventually moved to a seniors' apartment complex in Hamilton, the city where his daughter lived, then into a nursing home in that city.

Vitold Kreutzer, climate and environmental activist from Chatsworth and a friend of Ziggy from the 1980s until his death, provided much of the information in this tribute to Ziggy Kleinau. Vitold remembers Ziggy as a high-energy, determined and thoughtful man. To some he seemed crusty on first meeting, but that crustiness was a mere initial façade, quickly replaced by Ziggy's warmth and his interest in the stories and the knowledge of others. Ziggy used the terminology of climate change and climate action long before these terms were widely used.

A celebration of Ziggy Kleinau's life and work will be held some time this fall, somewhere in Bruce or Grey.



– John Butler, Editor, The Village Green

From Chronicles of 34 German Immigrants to Canada in the 1950s and Three Stragglers compiled by Vera Weller.

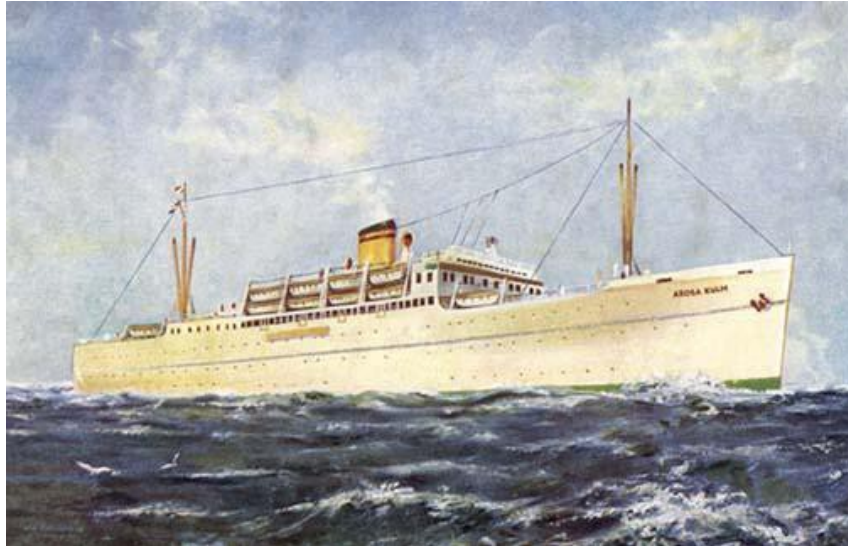
See LEAVING GERMANY AND EARLY BEGINNINGS IN CANADA, Vera's introduction to the collection in the entry under her name.

Siegfried (Ziggy) Kleinau's recollection.

(Taken from a dusty 1953 diary).

After crossing the border into West Germany at early dawn on May Day 1951 and landing a job as a journeyman gardener at an estate farm near Minden/Westfalen for a little less than 2 years, the 'Abenteuer Lust' got the best of me like of others at this farm and I accepted the offer of the Canadian Government to come help out as a farm labourer.

On March 18, 1953 I hopped onto the 'Arosa Kulm' and, after a stormy crossing of the Atlantic, arrived at Halifax harbour ten days later with only a few dollars in my pocket.



We were loaded on a rickety old train and, having chosen Ontario as my destination, I ended up at a French-Canadian dairy farm near Ottawa.

Sure, they could tell me in English what I was to do, but their Quebecois French was beyond my poor continental French language skills. The farmer put me right to work. Up at 5 A.M. milking the cows, cleaning the barn, splitting wood, cleaning grain, fixing fences— a 12 to 14 hour work day! Sundays the milking (by hand!) and barn cleaning was my job, too, even though they had 2 teenage girls, who could have helped.

Luckily I had made a friend on the boat, who was a nurseryman and had already garnered a job with Sheridan Nurseries in Oakville. I was able to slip him my farm address and asked him to try and get me a job there, too.

Three weeks later I got a letter from a German nursery owner in Clarkson asking me to come right

away as he needed help badly. Asking the farmer to let me go I got a definite 'No'.

I didn't give up and went to the immigration office explaining that I had an offer of a job in my profession. They did contact the farmer and in a huff he banged the few dollars I had earned on the table and said "You are the first guy who did proper work for me".

So on April 22nd I started work at the Clarkson Nursery off Highway 2, a good distance west of Toronto and not connected to the city by public transit.

Workdays were again long, 10-12 hours at 75 cents per hour(!). Sundays I was engaged in helping my boss to restore his cottage.

But my diary tells me that on May 31st I attended Pastor Goegginger's Church in Toronto.

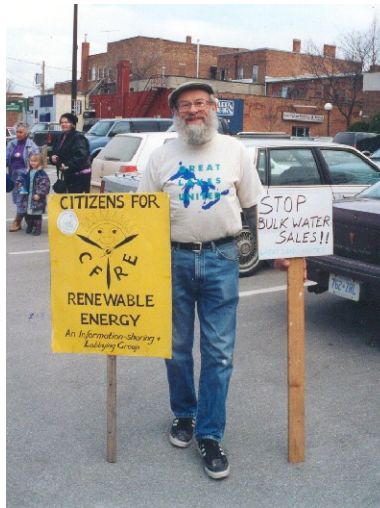
I desperately wanted to buy a car so I could get to Toronto without having to hitchhike, which was often a futile exercise. I bought only the barest necessities and food. 3 months later I had a neat old 1949 Chevy 2-door coupe. To get a driver's licence I only had to drive around a couple of blocks and that was good enough even for a Chauffeur's licence.

That was the start of my being able to take part in activities of the Goegginger Jugend Gruppe. And, as some of you might recall, for a while I was the guy who coordinated the weekend trips to Muskoka and the Kawartha Lakes. I still remember the adventurous trip down the Burnt River ('Kinmount or bust!') and the good time we had in Woodview- Deer Lake.

Beyond Nuclear is saddened to share the news that our pro-renewable and anti-nuclear ally in Ontario, Canada has passed on at age 91.

Long serving coordinator of Citizens for Renewable Energy, Ziggy focused on watch-dogging the Lake Huron shore Bruce Nuclear Generating Station (with eight reactors, the single largest on Earth), near his solar-powered WWOOF (World Wide Opportunities On Organic Farms) home base. But he also worked closely with, and generously supported, allies like us throughout the Great Lakes Basin, over many decades. Way ahead of the curve, he was a very early advocate for IRENA (the UN's International Renewable Energy Agency), as well as FITs (Feed-in tariffs), both of which originated in his native Germany.

Shortly before he passed on, he learned the news that Ontario Power Generation had officially abandoned its plans for a proposed Deep Geologic Repository for dumping radioactive wastes, targeted at the Saugeen Ojibwe Nation, a very hard won environmental justice victory, after two decades of widespread resistance, for which he shares credit.



Ziggy Kleinau, along with Lynda Hoita, initiated the Bruce Peninsula Environment Group in 1989. That group has held meetings every month since that time (presently on hold, of course)

Ziggy was an organic gardener who lived in a century old log house in the Cape Chin area. He had goats, a beefalo and a wiener dog named Kumpi.

He lived simply with wood heat, an outhouse and minimal electrical needs - one light bulb and a fridge. His hydro bill ended when he went off-grid with a small wind turbine.

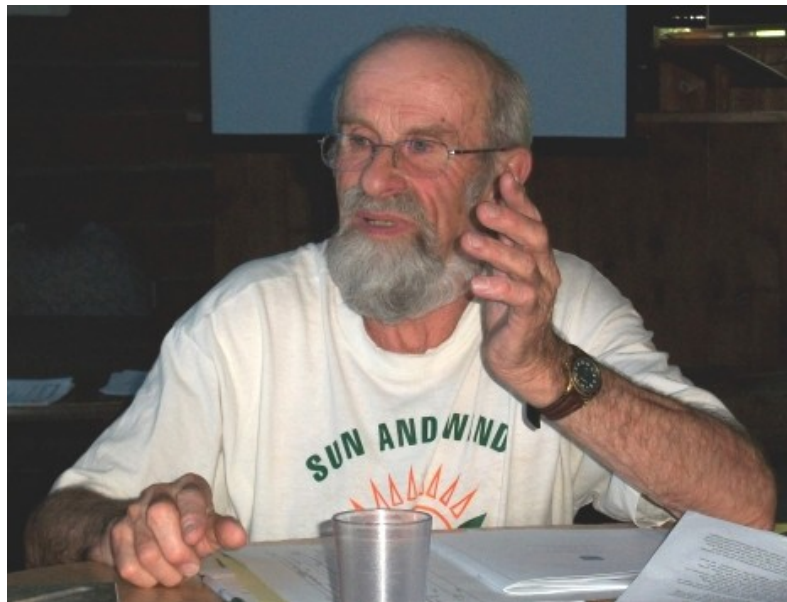
He grew amazing vegetables, including huge carrots which he claimed "picked themselves" when they hit the bedrock. An alternative health practitioner, he would often exchange Reflexology treatments for farm help.

He was unrelenting in his opposition to nuclear power plants and the toxic waste produced by them. He wrote letters, and travelled to many meetings and events to lobby against the nuclear industry. To further promote cleaner energy solutions, he started CFRE, Citizens for Renewable Energy.

Ziggy always supported and encouraged people to get involved, to participate in caring for, and saving the environment.

We need more Ziggys in the world.

– Stuart Burgess



There are a few thoughts that come to mind when I think of Ziggy but none more compelling than how he radiated his environmental concerns in the way he lived his daily life. It was a subject which latterly occupied most of his time and focus with a view of trying to create a much cleaner and generally

sustainable bubble in which we all can live.

He lived next door to us on the Bruce Peninsula and we would see him frequently as a neighbour. After a while, once we understood each other more clearly we became friends and he began to invite me to accompany him to various environmental events. I would drive his car. It was my first opportunity to drive a hybrid Prius which he had bought used from a friend. It may have been Hans Albarda.

After a while it became obvious to me that this guy was a real crusader for things environmental and that he had identified correctly some of the major barriers to creating a better world. It was very important to him and it became rather infectious in me too. It was early days and these people just didn't exist then.

As a person he was a bit of a mystery but not a really private soul. And one day I called him up and asked him if I could come over and chat with him about his background and he consented and we did. It turned out that his early days in Germany were somewhat chaotic as a young man as he was trying to make a life in a world surrounded by Hitler, Stalin and the events of World War Two. His father was serving in the German Army and I can only imagine that things were very tough then what with his mother and I believe three sisters. He had some odd jobs and then settled in to an apprenticeship in a nursery situation looking after plants etc. there for a while. I suspect that the growing of vegetables was a large part of this. I believe this took place in the Hartz mountain region of Prussia. When things became untenable there he split from his family with a view to meeting them later as the Russians were moving ever nearer to where they were living and the ladies fled before the Russian onslaught. He caught up with them later and he told me of them being machine gunned on a road it seemed to me in southern Germany.

In any case they managed to escape alive and Ziggy decided to emigrate after the war and wound up in Canada where he worked again in the nursery trade I think. In any case he got a job with Shell Oil Co. where he worked for several years and lived, I believe in King Township north of Toronto. At some point he separated from his spouse and moved to the Bruce Peninsula where he bought a marginal but very pretty farm and began to produce organically grown vegetables and in the summer months he would obtain help from various young people generally to assist him in this endeavour and of course he would teach them about organic production and marketing. The operation was named Ziggy's Little Meadow Farm.

It was natural for him in this surrounding to become enamoured further with his surroundings and the people it attracted. His focus became more fixed on living simply and on trying to improve life for all in a world filled with organizations like Monsanto and the likes of the very pushy Bruce Power or Bruce Nuclear as it is known here. One thing led to another and Ziggy became very involved in trying to halt quarrying here, becoming involved with the organic food and farming movement and his fixation on renewable energy. It was sometime after he had been involved with these themes that I would spend my early retirement years on several occasions attending conferences such as the Guelph Organic Conference to promote clean food and several environmental hearings especially those associated with the growth of nuclear power in Ontario and several other jurisdictions.

At this point I need to pause to say that Ziggy in conjunction with some others like Hans Albarda had founded at least two organizations to further the goals of clean food and clean renewable energy. One was the Bruce Peninsula Environment Group (BPEG) and the other was Citizens For Renewable Energy (CFRE). These were legally and properly constituted organizations which grew in membership and stature as time passed. BPEG is still in operation and is centered mainly in Lion's Head. CFRE was a much more difficult undertaking as its main focus was on personal power vs. huge grids and the

revealing of the fuzzy world of nuclear power growth and monopoly. It promoted clean renewable energy building and use from electrical generation to the combustion of bio fuels like diesel.

This latter was a very complex subject made worse by the corruption of business techniques employed by companies like Bruce Power and their imported leader, Duncan Hawthorne who when confronted with items like free energy from renewables or nuclear waste became very defensive and threatening. I recall sitting in the back row of an environmental hearing at the Bruce plant near Kincardine and watching Frank Barningham and Ziggy ask some pointed questions regarding a proposed nuclear waste dump at that site. I thought the questions were to the point but a hired moderator told them both to leave. There were several mustached and sunglass wearing men looking down from the gallery in the room who turned out to be police taking notes etc. and generally intimidating people like me and of course making sure that these two renegades were tossed out of the Environmental Assessment Hearing. It was nothing to either of them as fear of this sort of thing did not bother them at all. We all left and drove home in Ziggy's Prius passing Hawthorne's Porsche licence plate number BP 1, on the way out.

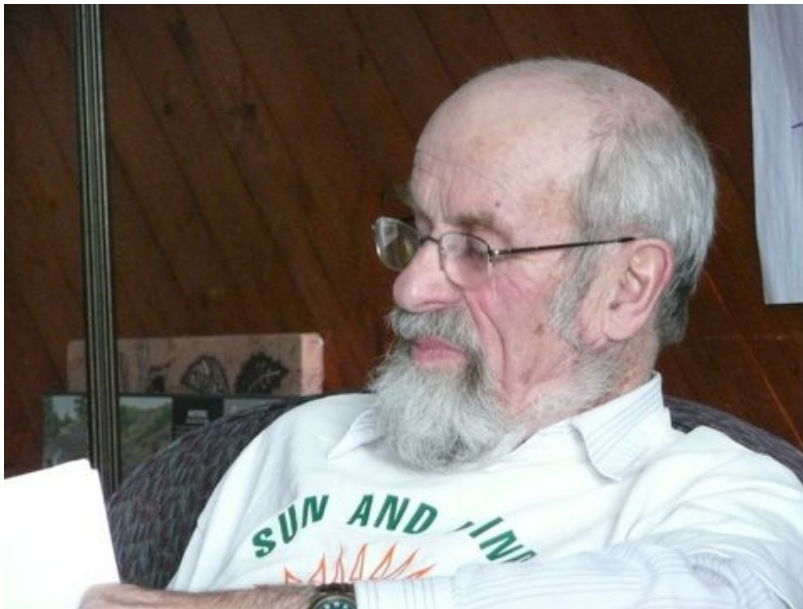
Ziggy amassed an enormous amount of information about who was in charge of what and technical facts regarding the Canadian nuclear industry which may have gone to Bill Trick a member of CFRE. It was a full time occupation for Ziggy following up on this appalling nuclear industry and its manipulation of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and public opinion at the expense of the citizens of Canada and also other countries.

On the positive side, through Ziggy I had the great privilege of meeting some of the early movers and shakers in the field of renewable energy in Canada and abroad like many members of CFRE and BPEG. Some who come to mind are Angela Bishoff, Bill Trick, Frank Barningham and the great Hermann Sheer. the Minister of Energy for Germany who began a speech at the University of Toronto in his heavy accent with "Nothing moves without energy". Does that get your attention? It certainly did Ziggy's.

I was so taken by Ziggy's dedication to these topics and I admired his focus, honesty and persistence. He was usually to be found seated at his computer in his off grid house next door trying to sort out various aspects of what we call now environmental challenges and trying to get these items in our lives before the public and to get people involved in finding a new and better way forward for us all.

I at one time was going to try and recommend him for an Order of Canada but was discouraged because of comments made by those who organized these things because of the topics in which he was involved. Little did I know that I was witnessing a fundamental change in the way the world moved and that Movement was in a large part due to the undying efforts of one great man and his many friends and acquaintances.





I was very saddened by Ziggy's death and by his blindness in later years. I had told him years before of my concerns of him sitting in front of that computer screen for so long but he had work to do and now we all will miss his friendship and great heart as we await what will be the outcome of his huge efforts on behalf of all of us.

Thank you young man. You really done good!

With love,

Tim Spencer

I came in contact with Ziggy around 2002 when I was working on the Ferndale wind project. There was no bigger booster the project than Ziggy! He knew instinctively that getting energy from renewable sources was the way to go. Less waste, no pollution.

Ziggy's tenacious scraps with the opaque nuclear industry were impressive. He understood the waste issue, the corruption issue, and the risk. We toured the Bruce plant together one time, as they were trying to do "community engagement". Ziggy had his iodine pills with him, and he gave one to me. One guy in an old cabin vs the nuclear industry. It didn't seem quite fair. But the nuclear industry managed to do OK anyways.

If I could use just a few words to describe Ziggy, I think I would use integrity - he walked the walk. Tenaciousness - he never gave up, especially when he knew he was right. Principled. What was right, was right.

I had conversations with Ziggy in his later years by phone. He wasn't reading due to his eyesight, so I would occasionally have news for him on the nuclear issues, or on climate issues. He was always very engaged and glad to hear of even little bits of progress.

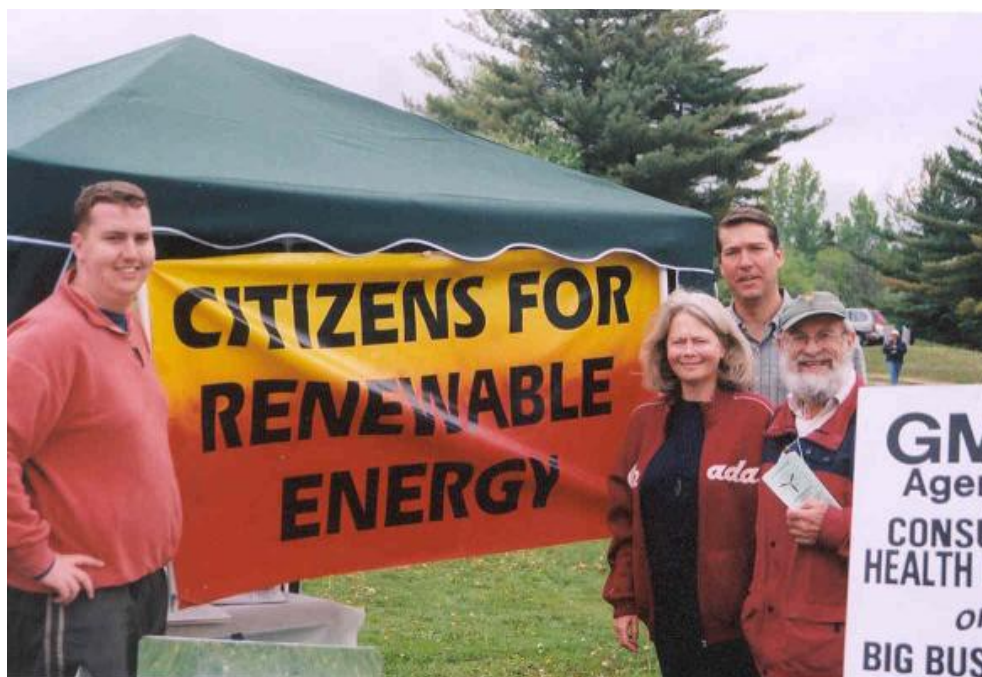
In many ways Ziggy's dreams of a renewable future are underway, perhaps too slowly, but happening steadily. Virtually all new generation facilities planned in North America are renewable. Solar is continuing to explode. The electric car revolution is underway. Coal plants are breathing their last gasps (or is it belching their last gasps). Nuclear power is being reduced in much of the West, including Ziggy's first home, Germany.

Ziggy would be happy. If I can leave the world having made even some of the difference Ziggy made, it would be an accomplishment. Ziggy, rest happy.

- Glen Estill



I knew Ziggy from the Ontario Environment Network. As a result of that connection, I spent two weeks at his farm in 1999 to help with Citizens For Renewable Energy (CFRE). What really sticks in my memory from that time are a few random things. His house was completely off the grid, so his life was not extravagant, but he was not suffering. We ate cheese and rye bread for lunch each day. He also was very proud and fond of his organic produce. Ziggy was well connected to the community. He was very eager to continue to learn how to use the computer better, so that he could carry on his lobbying work as the world progressed technologically.



At the beginning of 2000, I moved to Owen Sound to work a 6 month contract for CFRE. That contract got extended on a part-time basis, and then a very part-time basis (sending out quarterly newsletters and keeping up the web site) until 2010, when CFRE was retired. In that position, I worked very closely with Ziggy.

CFRE was an incorporated organization which had a goal “to accelerate the introduction and use of clean renewable energy, thereby speeding up the phase-out of polluting fossil and nuclear energy production.” Ziggy was an absolute wealth of knowledge both with regards to renewable energy and nuclear energy. He wrote very comprehensive reports and responses to public comment requests by various representative agencies of the nuclear industry. When he went in person to deliver his comments, the big-wigs of the nuclear industry recognized him, and treated him with respect. I’m sure that on the inside, they were not happy to see Ziggy because they knew he’d raise very good points that they’d have to try to refute.



Ziggy took periodic trips to Germany. I found one note that said he was taking a “holiday” after doing CFRE co-ordinating work for 1.5 years. The thing is, Ziggy’s “holidays” in Germany included learning about renewable energy endeavours in that country. In other words, he lived and breathed his passion which was his CFRE work. As a result of his work, he knew people all over Ontario, as well as across the world. He was a connection between people who were experts and people who were interested in gaining more knowledge – especially between those who were experienced with renewable energy and those who wanted to use renewable energy for their homes.

Part of Ziggy’s CFRE work included attending workshops, conferences, and exhibit opportunities mostly across Ontario, but occasionally outside of Ontario as well. A memorable trip was by train out to Halifax to the “Rise and Shine 2000” conference. Ziggy was able to take me along as a “senior’s

companion” on the train, and we stayed in a hostel (my first hostel experience). While the focus of the trip was very much the conference, we took a couple of hours to walk around, and Ziggy was keen to see Pier 21. Another memorable trip was to a three day anti-nuclear power workshop in Michigan. In the relatively small group (my recollection is about 40 people) there were people from all over the USA and a few from Canada. We drove there and back in Ziggy’s diesel car – Ziggy was very proud of how far he could go on a litre of gas.

While Ziggy had a very strong personality, he also clearly was keen to get more people involved in CFRE. There was a sort of push-pull situation where he had a clear and set direction for CFRE, and also invited people who showed real interest to get more involved. He especially was interested in getting young people involved. When he had the CFRE display set up at various events, he did not do it alone; he would bring in others to staff the display with him. Having said that, Ziggy was the centre of CFRE – he made sure things happened, and he gave a lot of input and direction into how things happened.



One thing that is striking me as I recollect Ziggy describing things and places is that he was very expressive. The “beautiful” Paradise Lake, a “high-profile” workshop, a “vibrant” organization are some examples. He often talked about our children and grandchildren having a cleaner and safer future.

With Ziggy’s passing, we have lost a hard-working, dedicated, knowledgeable, resourceful and passionate person who cared strongly that the he left the world a better place than it would have been without his efforts. This is not said lightly – his work had an impact.

– Karen Gventer

Ziggy was on the board of Great Lakes United (GLU), the Ontario Sustainable Energy Association (OSEA) and advised the board of the Ontario Environmental Network (OEN). He was well-known to established groups in North America including the Ontario CleanAir Alliance, Beyond Nuclear, the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) and GREENPEACE.

Every January Vitold would join him at the Organic Conference where they had a booth for the weekend, and renewable energy shows, forums, trade shows and eco-festivals in Owen Sound, Goderich, Lanark, Newmarket, Oakville, Hamilton, Kingston and Ottawa, and Feast of Fields, an outdoor organic food festival. Ziggy was a member and advocate for the Ecological Farmers' Association. He always brought a large sign with him that he could put up anywhere that had trees, but he needed help because of its size. Ziggy always wore his T-shirt for CFRE and expected anyone helping at the booth to wear one for the demonstrations and booth.

Ziggy had a miniature tabletop wind turbine that would spin in the wind, and would get a kick out of young children playing with it. He would say teach them young and make them aware of what these devices are.



He was constantly signing up members so they could get quarterly newsletters and give him strength when talking to nuclear bigwigs - showing that he had the support of so many members. Yet he didn't need that support for energy. He had facts, figures and the truth in his corner. Ziggy never felt shy about correcting them or calling them out on any misinformation. He was in constant touch with the Ministries of the Environment and Energy.

It was a constant flow of paperwork and letters between Ziggy, government officials, and other organizations. His house became one huge filing cabinet and he would spend countless hours on preparing and submitting papers, reports and rebuttals.

Ziggy organized renewable energy tours for BPEG and CFRE in 2005, spoke at conferences and forums at Universities of Guelph and Waterloo, Mohawk College, and University of Toronto, and debated the president of the Canadian Nuclear Society.

He went to Ottawa and did a deputation for the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission about operating license renewals and environmental assessments of Darlington, Pickering, Bruce and their waste facilities. He prepared submissions for the provincial electricity restructuring. Vitold joined him in various workshops on renewable energy in Flesherton and Vaughan.

The annual meetings of CFRE were held at YMCA's Paradise Lake Outdoor Centre, a camp for young adults and students, with knowledgeable speakers experts in all areas of wind ,solar, geothermal and conservation.



Ziggy's last name "Kleinau" means little meadow - that's what he called his farm. He set up a farmers' market on the Peninsula, selling his goats' milk, beefalo, and mature. He was very proud of his organic garden.

He would travel to Germany to visit family in between terms of government offices in the Energy Ministry, visiting renewable energy installations, wind and solar farms, and participating in renewable energy forums and showcases.

When he went on the road outside of his home area, Ziggy usually went alone, traveling many miles at all times and hours, arriving just in time for the first session.

To sell his point of view and CFRE, he was constantly talking about the evils of fossil fuel, coal- fired power plants and nuclear reactors and then changes entire tone to one of hope for clean, safe renewable energy. At the end of the day he would look up an acquaintance or notice a friend in the crowd and stay with them overnight, go to the event for another full day and usually start his journey back home as if it were magnet leading the way when he was totally exhausted.

During a few public meetings about the nuclear industry and Bruce operations it would be a whole room blue blazers, white shirts, black ties and briefcases full of documents on one side of the room.

Vitold said “And then I'd see Ziggy, with a young adult helping him, on the other side of the room. As I entered and sat beside him, he would smile, welcome me and thank me for coming and whisper “Now the odds are in our favour.” It made me feel like I was 10 feet tall and totally unintimidated by the huge throng on the other side. After hearing all the presentations I realized the nuclear crowd were trying to save their jobs, while Ziggy was serving the planet and future generations. The nuclear crowd would have to struggle to even the game.”

“I believe Ziggy always felt that if properly prepared (and he was relentless in getting all the facts) that he had the upper hand, and greater responsibility to do well.”

“When it came to this passion of his - Pro renewable energy and anti-nuclear and coal -no one had more energy, more dedication, more persistence or passion. Many times authorities disregarded his advice and words of caution, and others in his place would feel defeated. This just urged him on with greater vigor.

If he were a duck crossing a pond of energy specialists, producers or government authorities, Ziggy's calmness outside would overshadow the bruises scrapes and calluses of his worn-out battered feet.

He always hoped for more supporters but became very close to those who did support him. I have looked up to a handful of men in my life. Ziggy Kleinau is one of them.”

- Vitold Kreutzer

