

ECONEWS #187

A monthly newsletter funded by your donations that dreams of a world blessed by the harmony of nature, the pleasures of community, and the joys of personal fulfillment, guided and protected by our active citizenship.

A very big thankyou to the Victoria Natural History Society, Sylvan Foreman, Daphne Taylor, Nina Raginsky, James Robins, Ruth Masters, Beverlee Lane, Margie Parikh, Patricia Aldrich, James Whiteaker, Claude Maurice, Kate Stevens, Peter Schofield, Art & Marg Simons, Ed & Jean Mackenzie, Marian Kemp, Patricia Badcock, Andrew Pringle, John & Diana McMahan, Dave Secco, Jan Carroll, Dan Jason, Jean Evans, Patrick & Jane Fawkes, Tom & Muriel Kenyon, Marilyn Kan, Lorraine Tremblay, Paul Wise, Purnima Govindarajulu, Richard & Averil Pearson, Arnold Ranneris & the Society of Friends, Marlene Rice, Daphne Wheeler, Christine & Melville Johnson, Cecilie Davidson, Bob Peart, Louise Irwin, Frank Martens, Bob Willard, Kathryn Molloy, David Squance, Monica Rosevear & Morganne Keplar, & Blaine Juchau.

<i>The Money</i>	Oct	Nov	Dec
Copies printed	1900	1800	1800
Sent by email	2955	2977	2999
Print, postage	\$800	\$761	\$760
Editorial	\$450	\$450	\$450
Donations	\$300	\$1872	You?
Advertising	\$0	\$0	
Balance	-\$479	\$182	

To receive EcoNews by mail, call Guy 250-881-1304. By email, sign up at www.earthfuture.com/econews

THE ECO-PERSONALS

\$1 a word. Max 5 lines, non-profits, low-income free. 1" box ad \$50

* **The EcoNews bank account** is still very empty. If you can help with a donation, please send it to EcoNews, 395 Conway Road, Victoria V9E 2B9, or by PayPal to guydauncey@earthfuture.com. For a receipt, please send an s.a.e.

* **EcoNews** enjoys new volunteers at our dessert potluck mail-out parties. Friday January 2nd, 7pm. Guy, 881-1304

* **Unused envelopes** 9" x 4" needed for EcoNews. Guy, 881-1304

* **Charming guest room**, \$30/night. Cook St Village, ocean. 250-361-3102

* **Short term rental**, prime Fairfield location \$30/night. 250-382-3810

* **Syd's Demo Salvage**. Quality building materials. 250-381-1141.

* **Pacific Gardens Cohousing** – a sustainable community under construction in Nanaimo 250-754-3060 www.pacificgardens.ca

* **Swift Kick Computers**. Eco-friendly, servicing local business and personal computers at your location. All on-site transport fueled by used veggie oil. Peter, 514-4815.

CHANGE IS HAPPENING

It's so easy to lose the big picture, because the mainstream media is not reporting changes they are not tuned to. So while we know about the gloomiferous financial collapse, most people are not learning about other changes that mark an enormous shift:

* San Francisco has announced that it will become the electric vehicle (EV) capital of the US.

* Los Angeles is planning to become the first solar city in the US, generating 10% of its electricity from solar, costing LA residents just \$2 extra a month.

* In the UK, every new house must be zero carbon, starting in 2016.

* The new International Renewable Energy Agency is being launched in Germany January. The European Union has pledged to get 20% of its energy needs from renewables by 2020.

* Starting Jan 1st 2009, Seattle will be charging 20 cents for disposable plastic shopping bags.

* The BC town of Nelson has voted to become a Genetically Engineered Free Zone, ensuring that local farmers can grow crops and save seeds without fear of GE cross-contamination.

* In November, The New York Times came out with a special issue dated July 4th 2009, showing in amazing detail what might be possible. OK, it was a Yes-Men spoof! www.nytimes-se.com

Don't get caught in the daily gloomy news which drags our minds back to the collapsing paradigm. Focus on the birth of the new, not the death of the old.

SAVE O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE

If you have been to O.U.R. EcoVillage in Cobble Hill, it needs no explaining. If you've not, you've missed discovering this living laboratory of rural sustainability that's attracting 7500 visitors a year who come to learn about cooperative living, permaculture, natural building, and a new vision of life on Earth. OUR EcoVillage has run into a very peculiar roadblock, however. For the past nine years, they have had their mortgage with Island Savings, who have been great, but a renewal process requires a new appraisal, and it's proving hard to find anyone certified and able to do a multi-featured appraisal

that combines park, school, business, homes, and social capital. This has put OUR EcoVillage's \$900,000 mortgage in jeopardy, amplifying the urgency to pay it off. How can we help? OUR EcoVillage is inviting us to purchase shares in the Coop that owns the land. They have raised \$400k, so \$500k is still needed, with shares for sale from \$1,000 to \$5,000 to \$100,000. For a charitable tax receipt, you can buy through the Cowichan Community Land Trust which is purchasing the park area and placing an ecological covenant on it. Could this be the ultimate green Christmas Gift for a grandchild? Call Brandy McPherson at 250-743-3067, and see www.ourecovillage.org.

CORPORATION AND STATE

First there was Magna Carta in 1215, when the Barons of England forced King John to accept that his will could be bound by the law. Then there was England's Bill of Rights, the US Constitution, and the French Revolution, which empowered all males to vote. Then there was universal suffrage, allowing all humans to vote. Starting in 1886, however, US judges starting ruling that corporations be given them the same rights as humans, including trial by jury, and protection against the taking of property.

Dr. Riki Ott is an Alaska commercial salmon-fisher who witnessed with growing disgust the way Exxon slipped out of its responsibility to compensate people for the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster, when the oil tanker, under the guidance of its drunk captain, spilled up to 38 million gallons of oil. Almost 20 years later, after every legal maneuver in the book, Exxon – which took \$15 billion profit in its last quarter, got off with paying only \$507 million in damages –3 days profit. Riki is arguing, very simply, for a 28th amendment to the US constitution, separating corporation and state, which she spells out in her book *Not One Drop*. See her 4-minute video on YouTube at www.tinyurl.com/6hrtcx

SEEDS OF VICTORIA

Certified Organic
& non-hybrid seeds for Seed Saving
Christmas Seed Collections \$13.95
at all Dig This Stores
in Victoria & Nanaimo
& the Community Farm Store in Duncan
On-line seed catalogue:
www.earthfuture.com/gardenpath

RECYCLE A BEATER

Got a 1995 or earlier beater that costs a small fortune each time it needs repairing? The Victoria Car Share Coop has partnered up to bring Scrap-It to the Island, with four incentive options: (a) \$750 to \$2,250, depending on how much CO2 you reduce by scrapping it; (b) a 24 months transit pass; (c) 12 months transit pass plus \$1200 towards a bike or \$1300 towards an electric bike; or (d) \$1,000 towards membership in the Victoria Car-Share Coop. For details, see www.scrapit.ca. To join the Car Share Coop, with 17 vehicles in 12 locations, see www.victoriacarshare.ca

RIDESHARING ON PENDER

Hot on the heels of Cortes Island's Green Rider Program, Pender Island has its Car Stops, like Bus Stops, with 16 signs where people can wait for "casual carpooling" (not hitchhiking, so legal.) To learn more, call Barry Mathias, Moving Around Pender Alternative Transportation Society. 250-629-9965

CYCLING TO ECOTOPIA

Otesha! The word means "reason to dream" in Swahili, and it's a youth-run organization that uses theatre to mobilize young people to adopt more sustainable lifestyles. Otesha team members cycle around Canada, living together, having fun, and doing performances – and they're gearing up for 2009 May-June tours in the Prairies, the Kootenays, the Sunshine Coast, and the Rockies (and more). *"The twinkle in one's eye, the unstoppable laughter shared between beautiful people ...I'm forever seeking magic in a world that makes very little sense to me."* Now's the time to sign up. www.otesha.ca

NEW COUNCILLORS

EcoNews extends a big welcome to all new and returning councillors and Mayors. Congratulations! EcoNews has been published for 17 years, and you will receive a free copy every month. We aim to cover positive, important, solutions-oriented news that is practical and useful. If you'd like extra copies for your staff, send an email to guydauncey@earthfuture.com, and if you'd like to receive it by email, sign up at www.earthfuture.com/econews.

HOLIDAY RECYCLING

The Recycling Council of BC is committed to the goal of Zero Waste (yea!). They tell us that the annual waste generated in Canada from

gift-wrapping and shopping bags comes to 545,000 tonnes (ouch!). If every family reduced its weekly waste during the holidays by just one kilogram, we could eliminate 34,000 tonnes of garbage. If every Canadian was to wrap three gifts in reused paper or gift bags, we would save enough paper to not cover 45,000 hockey rinks. Tell your kids – don't make Santa feel bad about all the waste, and don't make the Grinch even grumpier!



"He puzzled and puzzled till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! Maybe Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas... perhaps... means a little bit more!"

– The Grinch, via Dr Seuss.

PS Due to the market meltdown, there's no market for low-grade recycled plastics, so we're being asked to reduce our use of plastics #3-#7 on the bottom, which includes those mini-yoghurt tubs.

THE WE GENERATION

First there were the baby-boomers, then the Me Generation – and now there's the We Generation: "We believe that our birthright has been violated, and we are inheriting a damaged future. Enough is enough. We, the youth, the fair-minded, the legacy bearers, must seize this great divide as a tremendous opportunity. We must immediately unite to end plundering and transform our current condition We have an urgent agenda that repairs our inheritance and our planet." The We website is launching in January 2009 as a place "to connect, organize, develop campaigns, and launch actions that influence the political process and enable your collective voice to be heeded." Sign the We Declaration at www.gen-we.org.

GREEN GIFTS

* A \$1,000 or \$5,000 Share in O.U.R. EcoVillage, for your grandchildren. See www.ourecovillage.org.

* *A Year on the Garden Path – a 52 Week Organic Gardening Guide*, by Carolyn Herriot. Grow your own food! www.earthfuture.com/gardenpath

* Green Gifts from Victoria's The Good Planet stores, www.goodplanet.com

* A Subscription to YES! Magazine full of change, hope and sustainable happiness. www.yesmagazine.org

* *Building an Ark: 101 Solutions to Animal Suffering*, by Ethan Smith/Guy Dauncey. www.earthfuture.com/ark

* \$49 holiday box of local organic fruit and veggies. Foodroots fund raiser for the pocket market project. Call Lee at 250-385-7974 for a pickup on Dec 20/21 or to donate a box to the Salvation Army or Transition House. www.foodroots.ca

DEBRA BARR

Debra Barr was always a wonderful source of warmth, love, hope, smiles, encouragement, and dreams of a beautiful world, but on October 13th she left us, after a sudden heart infection. Debra was an archivist at Royal Roads, a staunch supporter of the new Robert Bateman Art and Environmental Education Centre, a birder, runner, gardener, hiker, spiritual survival researcher – and with her life-partner Ian Barclay, a great friend of EcoNews. So many of us say *thankyou*, and then *thankyou* again. For a remembrance of her life, see www.tinyurl.com/6b553t.

ACTIONS OF THE MONTH

1: ANCIENT FORESTS PETITION

The Wilderness Committee has 24,000 signatures on its petition to end old-growth logging on Vancouver Island and ban raw log exports – and they want 30,000 by December 15th. Sign on at www.viforests.org, or download a hard copy for friends to sign, or pick one up at 651 Johnson St. 388-9292.

2: FISH FARMING EXPANSION

There is a massive expansion planned for fish farming in the Discovery Islands and Broughton areas, in spite of the disaster it brings to wild salmon. Take the time to read about it at www.georgiastrait.org/?q=node/801, and sign the petition to deny applications for expansion and new open net cage salmon farms, extend the moratorium on fish farms to the entire BC coast, and proceed with the transition of the industry to closed containment.

AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!