

ECONEWS #193

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.

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EcoNews by mail: call Guy 250-881-1304.
By email: www.earthfuture.com/econews

THE ECO-PERSONALS

\$1 a word. maximum 5 lines. Non-profits and low-income free. 1" box ad \$50.

* **Wanted:** volunteer to update and print EcoNews address labels each month. Computer needs MS Access, parallel port. Printer provided. 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

* **Eco-minded health professional** seeks clean dry suite or cottage, private, bright, garden for edible landscaping. NS, no pets. July 15/Aug 1, Central Saanich. Tatha@uvic.ca 250-744-0141

* **Calling all shutterbugs** and ocean lovers! Georgia Strait Alliance 'Show us your Strait Shot' 2009 photo contest. www.georgiastrait.org/photocontest. Closes Aug 31. 250.753.3459

SUMMER HAIKU CONTEST

We have three runners-up, and we have a winner, chosen in a close vote by the green-fingered organic gardening students at The Garden Path. And the winner is - Rick Juliusson, who farms near Duncan. Many thanks to you all!

*fleshy, rich moistness
crumbled through my trembling hands
farmer is lover*

GREEN DRINKS

What can be better than a gathering of green-inspired people from all walks of life, where all you have to do is talk and drink? This is the successful formula behind Green Drinks. Within every conversation there may be a spark that leads to a new project, a green home reno, or a green romance. On Tuesday July 14th, 6-8pm, Victoria goes over the top with Green Drinks at Royal Roads on the Hatley Castle terrace (my dear), where we will enjoy displays, food, and probably a teeny bit of speechifying. Try to get there as greenly as you can! The Galloping Goose runs right by Royal Roads, as do buses 39, 51 & 61. See www.greendrinksvictoria.ca or email Chris.info@greendrinksvictoria.ca



*Twittering with a muzzy brain
as summer wakes beside me:
I could miss the longest day
- Brian Mason, Fernwood*

SAN FRANCISCO RECYCLING

Our goal in Victoria is to recycle 60% of our wastes, but we are nowhere near it, and our annual rate is falling. San Francisco's goal is simple: Zero Waste by 2020. They have already achieved 72%, and their goal for 2010 is 75%.

They divide their wastes into three bins - blue for all recyclables, green for food and yard waste, which is composted, and black for the rest. They have banned the use of plastic bags and styrofoam food containers, and businesses pay by weight for the garbage they throw out. To move things along, the city's recycling department is staffed with social activists, rather than engineers. When the garbage collectors see recyclables in someone's trash, they leave them a tag to gently remind them so. Of the waste that San Francisco still sends to the landfill, 36% is compostable and 31% recyclable, so the city is now *requiring* everyone to separate their compostables, with a potential \$100 fine for not doing so. If all recyclables and compostables were diverted, the city's

recycling rate would jump to 90%. Personal freedom? Yes - but we happily part with the freedom to drive on the wrong side of the road because of the harm it does to others.

Zero waste matters. The Institute for Local Self-Reliance has found that when it comes to the greenhouse gases that fuel global warming, eliminating the waste sent to landfills and incinerators in the US would be like closing 21% of America's coal-fired power plants.

ISLAND RIDESHARE

We drive - my, how we drive! And so unnecessarily, much of the time. That's all changing if you live on Denman, Hornby, or in the Comox Valley. Thanks to a grant from Eco-Action Canada, Renewable Energy Denman Island has created an easy-to-use website for lifts offered, lifts wanted, and help with small errands such as returning a video. People sharing rides negotiate their own requirements as to stops, etiquette, and cost-sharing. Every litre of gas we burn releases 2.4 kg of CO₂ to the atmosphere - and 20% of it will remain there for millennia.



www.islandrideshare.com

STREET LIGHTING ON DEMAND

Ever wondered why streetlights are left burning all night? A few years ago, people in the small village of Dörentrop, 100 km from Hanover in Germany, asked the same question and came up with an answer called Dial4Light, for which they now have the patent. The streetlights go off at 9pm, and if you need them on you dial a central number and provide a six-digit code for the area wanted, which are posted on the lamp posts and the Dial-4-Light website. Within seconds, the lights switch on, last for 10-15 minutes, and then shut off. It may not work in large cities, but it can in smaller communities, and the local council will save tens of thousands of Euros a year. For the Canadian license, email Bernd.Klemme@dial4light.de. Dark nights and starlight - here we come! See www.dial4light.de.

MADRONA FARM

Awake! There's trouble on the land. The beautiful Madrona Farm, a 27-acre ecological and agricultural treasure in Victoria's Blenkinsop Valley, is in danger of being lost. The young farmers, David and Natalie Chambers, have only until the end of July to raise \$300,000 towards the reduced cost of \$1.7 million to pay David's two uncles who own the farm with his father, who need to sell.



The land is zoned Agricultural Land Reserve, but that carries no requirement that it will remain in food production. Once sold, it could easily become a hobby farm or gentleman's estate. David and Natalie are true eco-farmers, who – as well as providing fresh produce for 3,500 homes in the Greater Victoria region (over 100 varieties of vegetable, 12 months a year) and training young people in sustainable farming methods – have gone out of their way to integrate farming with the natural environment, protecting Douglas fir and Garry oak ecosystems, and a wooded wildlife corridor to Mount Douglas Park.

When the land is bought, The Land Conservancy will own and protect it in public trust for all future generations. Do you know a large-hearted person who might help create a gift that could last a thousand years? And might you help Madrona with a donation yourself? See conservancy.bc.ca/donatetomadrona and madronafarm.com/site.php

ECUADOR'S HOPE

Last September, EcoNews reported on the plight of the Yasuni people in the Ecuador rainforest, one of the most biodiverse places on the planet, which has the misfortune to sit on top of hundreds of millions of barrels of oil, worth some \$6 billion, which the big multinational oil companies are trying to prise open. The government of Ecuador said that if the international community would pay it \$350 million a year for ten years to create a legacy fund for sustainable

development and renewable energy, they would leave the oil underground forever.

The deadlines came and went, and things seemed hopeless, but now the governments of Germany and Norway have shown interest, along with the European Parliament, and there is a new July 2009 deadline. Germany has pledged the first contribution to a yet-to-be-created international fund. Oh, that Canada should be there too, if we were not ruled by Big Oil itself. See www.yasunioregold.org.

Greenpeace Germany's Forest Campaign has calculated that \$48 billion could secure the future of all rainforests, worldwide – something that is urgently needed both for the nature within them and to protect the immense amounts of carbon they store. 20% of the world's CO₂ emissions come from the world's forests, as they are burnt or cut down. Shared by the world's 1 billion not-so-poor people, that's \$48 each, or \$1 a week if we paid it all in one year. What will it take, to wake us from our sleep?

*Why cut the branch we
are standing on together?
Why not let it grow?*

- Margaret Hantiuk, Fernwood

HOPENHAGEN

Hopenhagen is a new PR initiative designed to create a global wave of pressure in the run-up to the most important conference – the UN Climate conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009. It is then that the world's nations must sign a new global treaty to protect our climate against global warming. www.hopenhagen.org



All around the world, people are organizing. On October 24th there will be an International Day of Climate Action when over 1,000 groups of people in 56 countries will act to promote public pressure in advance of Copenhagen around the number 350 - because 350 parts per million is considered a "safe" level of CO₂ in the atmosphere, in contrast to the current 388ppm, which is rising inexorably by 2ppm a year as we continue to burn fossil fuels, eat meat, and destroy rainforests. Every second of every day, we release 1,000 new tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere.



In Ottawa, students are organizing "100,000 on the Hill" to demand strong and effective climate action on October 24th, inspired by David Suzuki's interview on The Hour in which he recalled the words of a former prime minister that the way to achieve legislative change is to get 100,000 students on Parliament Hill. www.100000onthehill.com

The United Nations is organizing a "Seal the Deal" Climate Week from September 20th-26th, designed to galvanize public support in 100 cities around the world. They have created a global petition we can all sign which will be presented to global leaders - see www.sealthedeal2009.org.



In Vancouver, *Bridge to a Cool Planet* will be a major event on Sunday September 27th on the Burrard Street Bridge, with activities and festivities of every kind to demonstrate public support for bold leadership by Canada at Copenhagen, and celebrate what we can do individually and collectively to reduce our emissions and energy use at work, home and in our neighbourhoods. (Call Kevin Washbrook 778-848-8278 kevin.washbrook@vtacc.org)

Locally in Victoria, Nadia Nowak, a student from Pender Island, is setting off on Friday July 3rd as part of Pedal for the Planet, which will see cyclists from all across Canada converge on Ottawa on September 20th. You can support her on the Legislature Lawn at 10am. See kyotoplus.ca/pedal



*Dry sand, bright clear skies
Sip smoothly, breathe the silver sighs
Glow hot life-giver.*

- Norma Alison, Victoria