

ECONEWS #196

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.

Many thanks to everyone who responded to my urgent appeal for donations in such a generous manner. Thanks to your generosity, we're back on track! Eleanor Joy, Christine Johnson, Susan Scott, Daphne Wheeler, Max Halber, Ocean Lum, Susan Martin, Joyce Buxcey, Olive Boorman, Arnold Raneris, Joyce Hale, Marian Kemp, Elisabeth Boshier, Patrick and Jane Fawkes, Gwyneth Sproule, Leslie Kenny, Eva Kerr, John Azar, Anthea Archer, Gail Muzio, Merv Wilkinson, Margaret Hutchinson, Donald Trapnell, David Stott, Kathleen Woodley, Marlene Rice, John and Susan Smith, Martin Weideman, Phillipa White, Rodney Polden, Wholife Journal, Judith Cullington, Patricia Badcock, Andrew Pringle, Nancy Boorman, Bo Martin, Marshall Rosen, Richard Pearson, Miriam Thorn, Allen Milne, Salt Spring Seeds, Ruth Masters, Marie Bohlen, Mike Isbrucker, Anita Galitzine, Elinor Powell, Christine Morrison, Rainey Hopewell, Dana Griffith, Alison Prentice, Johanna Poll, Share Organics, Bob McMin, Kathleen Gibson, Christine Browning, Barbara Scott, Brian Pinch, Eileen Kenwood, JJ Kenwood, Daphne Taylor, Barbara Harling, Jocelyn Braithwaite, Sherri Hohert, Nina Raginsky, Penny Furnes, Whiteaker & Associates, Patricia Lane, Jean Crowder MP, Peter Lamb & Jean Gelwicks, Jack & Heide Martin, Blaise Salmon, Ann Gower, Thermomax Industries, Frank Arnold, Ginny Neale, Bimal Mehta, Jan Carroll, Sharon Rogalsky, Kim Feltham, Frank Martens, Dan Schubart, The Watershed Sentinel, Pierre Iachetti, Bob Willard, Louise Irwin & Dave Finlay, Joan Churchill, Zaida Gilchrist, Roberta Hower, Lorna Medd, Focus Magazine, and Ian Graeme.

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* **Holding space...** bearing witness to the blasting of the little sister of Moss

Rock. Every Wednesday at noon at Moss Rock Park. Call Marianne Sämann-Wyss, 250 382-3582

19 BREAKTHROUGH IDEAS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Last month, we featured the first 12 "Breakthroughs for the 21st Century" that Britain's Sustainable Development Commission thought the strongest in their ability to create some kind of shift in the next three to five years. Here are the other 7 ideas. There is a video on all 19 ideas here: <http://bit.ly/nXQeg>

13. CAP AND SHARE

This is a new idea in the carbon taxes vs. "cap and trade" debate. In the proposed scheme, permits are created that fossil fuel producers must buy before they are allowed to sell their fuel, and every year, the number of permits is reduced. They are issued to every citizen, who can either sell them to a fossil fuel producer, or decide not to, in which case that much CO₂ is removed from the annual account. This puts a price on carbon, and also imposes a hard cap. This idea needs more airtime! See www.capandshare.org.

14. KYOTO 2

This is another climate solutions proposal. "Kyoto 2" would define a steadily declining global cap on carbon emissions, and control the emissions 'upstream' at the oil wellhead or coal mine. Emissions permits up to the cap would be sold in an open worldwide auction, subject to a reserve price. The income, some \$1 trillion a year or 1.5% of the global economy, would be invested in climate solutions and adaptation, with special emphasis on the needs of the most vulnerable. This requires a high level of global organization, but makes enormous sense. See www.kyoto2.org

15. PERSONAL CARBON BUDGETS

The idea here is that every individual is given a Personal Carbon Budget with an electronic card that records each purchase of fossil fuel. If you live within your budget you'll have spare quota you can sell; if you exceed it you'll need to buy more to cover your excess. It sounds fine in principle, but success would depend on public support, a solid IT foundation that could not be cheated or corrupted, and a simple management structure that does not need a million bureaucrats to

administer it. It is being trialed in Britain by Sustainability South West with 1900 supporters, at an initial annual budget of 3.9 tonnes per person (compared to Canadians at 19 tonnes). See www.fairsharesfairchoice.com



16. GREEN BONDS

Green bonds are designed to raise capital for energy efficiency projects and low carbon energy generation. When a building that uses oil or gas for heat is upgraded for greater efficiency, there's a 4-7% return on the investment. Green Bonds allow individuals to invest in climate solutions, backed by a government guarantee. A version for institutions might have 15 years maturity and a fixed interest rate; individuals 5 years maturity and a market interest rate. This is really needed, and needs to be included in all government budgets.

17. THE ROYAL BANK OF SUSTAINABILITY

This idea is specific to Britain, and any other country where the government has been forced to bail a bank out with public money. As a result of its careless gambling habits, 90% of the Royal Bank of Scotland is now owned by the state, but run with a "hands off" approach. The idea is for the government to become much more "hands on", converting the bank into one that invests in a sustainable low carbon future, from large transport and industrial projects to green loans for households. See www.carbonweb.org

18. A TRULY SUSTAINABLE LABOUR MARKET

This idea is to regenerate deprived areas by building a low-carbon sustainable community, generating a host of green collar jobs in building upgrades, growing food, community renewal projects, etc. There's plenty of work to be done - it just needs a focused effort including local governments, labour unions and private contractors. In Britain, leadership is coming from www.groundworks.org.uk. In the US,

it's coming from Green for All (www.greenforall.org). In Canada, there's a gaping black hole....

19. ALGAE CAPTURE AND SEQUESTRATION

You may be familiar with "carbon capture and storage", by which coal, oil and gas companies propose to capture their CO₂ emissions and store them underground. It has never made much sense, financially or ecologically. This is a lot smarter. Instead of burying it, you pass the CO₂ through a series of bioreactors in which light, nutrients and seawater encourage different kinds of algae to grow quickly, absorbing the carbon. You then use the algae to make biofuel, foodstuffs and pharmaceuticals, and mix the residual biomass with organic wastes to create useful biogas and compost. You're still using fossil-source CO₂, but the multiple products offset other more polluting forms of energy, while giving the CO₂ producer an income stream to offset the costs. If the approach is used to capture CO₂ from a biomass plant, you get carbon-negative energy, where the more you use, the more emissions fall. There are several companies working on this technology, including in Vancouver.

GARRY OAKS ARE US

From the grand to the local. Here in Victoria, the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team has completed another busy year, working hard to ensure that our much-treasured Garry oak ecosystems survive and thrive in face of the many pressures they face. Just look at this list: in 2008-9 GOERT's staff and 80 volunteers have:

- * Contacted more than 160 landowners with species at risk on their land; 52 species at risk surveys were completed.
- * Contacted 10 local governments about species at risk in their areas, and held three workshops for their staff.
- * Been in touch with 5 local First Nations, and held a workshop for 50 student, teachers, land managers and elders in the Cowichan Tribes.
- * Met with numerous developers and local governments on tree protection bylaws, development proposals, Official Community Plans, transmission line and road developments, always advising and helping on how to protect more Garry oak habitat and species at risk.
- * Quickly installed 6 nest boxes in two City of Victoria parks in response to neighbourhood sitings last winter of the

western bluebird, which they thought had vanished locally. Welcome back, bluebirds!



- * Completed Native Plant Propagation Guidelines for 72 local native species, that are available for anyone to use at www.goert.ca/propagation - includes Garry oak, Doug fir and arbutus trees.
- * Been praised by the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects for *The Garry Oak Gardener's Handbook* - a great gift for anyone with oaks. www.goert.ca/at_home_garryoak_gardener.php

All this work continues - as does that of the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society, which has just celebrated 17 years of service. Now is the time to be planting acorns. They germinate rapidly in warm moist conditions, take ten years to grow to a metre in height, and can become huge. So plant wisely! Many thanks to both societies for your important and much-valued work.

Patricia Lane* Lawyer/Mediator

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IN THE HEART OF FAIRFIELD

Building community in the neighbourhoods where we live is one of the most valuable things we can do. In the heart of Fairfield, neighbours who met at the Chapman/Linden Street Party in September 2008 want to take things further and create a strong Moss Street Village. They hope to create:

- * A stronger sense of community, with more block parties, potlucks, and seasonal celebrations;
- * Improved safety, through traffic calming and crime prevention;
- * Joint stewardship of common areas - boulevard and community gardening, creating public and art benches;
- * More renewable energy, alternative transport, and local purchasing;

- * More local food production, neighbourly sharing, and earthquake preparedness;
- * Improved access to affordable housing through secondary suites, small-suit 'eco-villas' and co-ops;
- * More opportunities for youth, including art, recreation and business. Do you live nearby? Contact mossvillage@gmail.com or 920-7826.

Island Family Counselling Centre

Sheri Hohert, MSW, RSW, RCC
Individuals, Couples, Families
#130-1105 Pandora, Victoria
www.islandfamilycounselling.com
250-598-0544

MADRONA FARM - FINAL PUSH!

The Land Conservancy is entering the final push to save Madrona Farm in the Blenkinsop Valley, so that this jewel of a farm can be assured a permanent future. Thanks to many donations, a pledge from the Farmlands Trust, and the success of the 2nd Annual Island Chefs' Survival, TLC is on its way to success, but help is needed to raise the remaining \$857,000 by January 2010. If you can, please donate to Madrona Farm today! 250-479-8053

ACTION OF THE MONTH THE CRD PARKS LEVY

Back in 2000, the elected Directors of our Capital Regional District voted to establish a Land Acquisition Fund, financed by a \$10 annual levy on every household. This raises \$1.7 million a year, which, by working with partners such as TLC who put in 38% of the purchase price, has been used to safeguard 2,958 hectares of regionally significant green space, valued at \$27.8 million.

The levy ends in December, and it's really important that we tell our elected CRD Directors that we want to see it renewed - and increased to \$15 or \$20 per household because of the increasing price of land. On Wed Nov 18th, at 9:30am, the CRD Parks Committee will discuss and vote on a renewal; it's open to the public, so please attend if you can. To speak to the Parks Committee, see <http://bit.ly/3cNIQq>

Action: There are 23 Directors, and they each need to hear from us. If you write a short letter, you can cut and paste it into the CRD's web-based email system for each Director here: www.crd.bc.ca/about/board/directors