

## ECONEWS #206

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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<i>The Money</i>	July	Sept	Oct
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EcoNews by mail: call Guy 250-881-1304.  
By email: [www.earthfuture.com/econews](http://www.earthfuture.com/econews)

### THE ECO-PERSONALS

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

\* **Lovely room to rent**, close to ocean, downtown, \$30/night, 250-382-3810.

\* Mature female pet/house sitter seeks room in Victoria for when not sitting, with use or share of stove, fridge, washer, dryer. Pay per day or barter when present. 250-383-5144 #3007

\* **Mayne Island Rental** 250-539-3195

\* **Sustainable Movies!** Community building with guests and discussion every Monday night 6:30pm at Eric Martin Pavilion theatre, 1900 Block of Fort St. Past movies Mad City Chickens, Sombrio, Strong Coffee, King Corn, One Man, One Cow, One Planet, Garbage Warrior, China Blue can be borrowed from Yo Video 592-5678. [www.moviemonday.ca](http://www.moviemonday.ca)

\* **For rent:** large 1 BR suite in super quiet house on huge forest acreage. Deep Cove, \$850. Long term, NS. 250-656-1312.

\* **Farm-share:** looking for people to share working organic hobby farm, North Cowichan, 37 acres. Lynn 250-597-7300

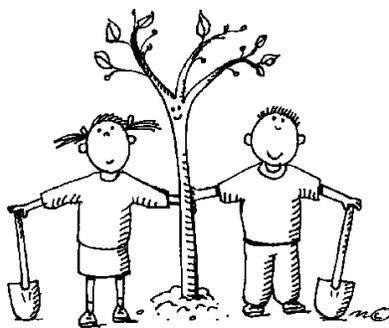
\* **Kildara Farms** in North Saanich Deep Cove needs apple pickers. 250-655-3093.

\* **EcoNews needs envelopes!** Do you have clean regular letter-sized envelopes that you can't use because of an address change? Call Guy 250-881-1304.

### 10/10/10 GLOBAL WORK PARTY AT WOODWYNN FARM

Where are we at on global action against climate change? It's a big depressing mess when it comes to global treaty making. The next UN conference is in Cancun, Mexico, this December, but no-one is raising much hope. Every single republican candidate standing for election

to Congress in November is a climate denier. To balance this, there is an incredible upsurge of grassroots action. On Sunday October 10<sup>th</sup>, 350.org has called for a Global Work Party to reduce our carbon emissions - and 5,127 events have been registered in 127 countries. (See [www.350.org](http://www.350.org)). Here in Victoria, there's a work party to plant 350 fruit and nut trees at Woodwynn Farm, the therapeutic community for homeless people. We need a LOT of volunteers to plant 350 trees! We also need \$50 per tree to pay for the trees and their transport. Can you sponsor a tree? See [www.10-10-10-woodwynn-work-party.weebly.com](http://www.10-10-10-woodwynn-work-party.weebly.com) or call Christine Lintott at 250-384-1969. The Sierra Club is also organizing an eelgrass restoration work party on Oct 10<sup>th</sup> - see Green Diary.



Delicious, Nutritious & Educational!

### FRIDAY NIGHT COMMUNITY DINNER

Regional & Seasonal Cuisine, \$40 + HST  
Every Friday from Oct 15<sup>th</sup> 7-9.30 pm  
Nourish Bistro, Glendale Gardens,  
Quayle Road, Saanich.  
Reservations 250-588-2405

### GERMANY'S GREEN PARTY

The Green Party in Germany was formed 30 years ago, and has been gradually moving towards mainstream acceptance. Across the country, they are polling at 22% support, and in Berlin and Baden-Wurtemberg they are polling close to 30% - the same as the Liberal Party of Canada. Elected under Germany's proportional voting system, they have 68 seats in the Bundestag (out of 622), 160 seats in regional parliaments, and 14 seats in the European Parliament. They are now in a position to envision a Green being appointed head of a state government, and are preparing to become a ruling party. Germany's current goal is to have 100% renewable electricity by 2050: the Greens want it by 2030, while also closing down the nuclear power plants. For transport, they are committed to

creating interconnected mobility, including rail, transit, car-sharing, not just a shift to electric cars. They insist on gender balance in all their senior positions, and have more than 50% women in all their elected posts.

It is frustrating in Canada to have a culture that is much more European than American, and yet to be locked into traditional "first past the post" voting that excludes this current of thought from political representation.

In Britain, which shares the same frustrating reality, Caroline Lucas has just become the first Green Party MP (Brighton and Hove) ever elected to Parliament under "first past the post". This shows it is possible - and raises the hope that Elizabeth May, who is running for Saanich-Gulf Islands, can achieve the same. To help her campaign, go to [www.elizabethmay.ca](http://www.elizabethmay.ca)

### THE TWO BLOCK DIET

Hot on the heels of Carolyn Herriot's best-selling book *The Zero Mile Diet* comes the Two Block Diet in East Vancouver where two years ago, two women wanted to grow food, but rather than just digging in, they first decided to invite their neighbours on East 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> to join them. They circulated a flyer, and 13 people showed up to a meeting. Working together, they started a sprouting station to grow tomatoes from seed, built a greenhouse to protect the seeds, and did weekend work-parties in each other's yards. Chickens and bees soon followed. As a neighbourhood, they share tools, and order seeds, compost and rentals together to lower the price, celebrating with an annual block party. Kate Sutherland has written a two-sided sheet on how they did it, emphasizing shared leadership. ([www.vancouver.sun.com/pdf/twoblockdietmanual.pdf](http://www.vancouver.sun.com/pdf/twoblockdietmanual.pdf)). She writes, "We've all been blown away by how simple, effective and fulfilling this has been. We can't imagine going back to the way things were before our mini garden revolution. Funny that talking to your neighbours has become an act of rebellion." Who's up next? Let me know, and I'll do a story in EcoNews.

### MYRECYLOPEDIA

It's a long word, but my, it's a good one! The Capital Regional District (CRD) has created an amazing website that tells you about anything and everything you might want to reduce,

reuse or recycle, and where to take items that can't go in the Blue Box. Batteries? Milk cartons? Compact fluorescent light bulbs? They're all there, along with the environmental story for every item. For some things, such as asphalt shingles, the sad news is "nothing possible yet", but for everything else, it's an amazing resource, supported by the CRD Hotline at 250-360-3030 in case you're *really* stumped. See [www.myrecyclopedia.ca](http://www.myrecyclopedia.ca).

So you've recycled it - but where does it go? That's something many people wonder. For the Blue Box items, here's the low-down, straight from the CRD:

**Cardboard** goes to Norampac Paper in Burnaby and the Port Townsend Paper Corp, for conversion into new cardboard, cereal boxes, and medium paper rolls. Some is also shipped to China through the company America Chung Nam. I don't know how much goes where.

**Newspaper** goes to the 100% employee owned and managed Blue Heron facility in Oregon City, where it is turned into newsprint, packaging, cellulose insulation and glyproc paper.

**Mixed Paper** goes to the Norampac Paper facility in Burnaby and to America Chung Nam for export to China. It is converted into boxboard, duroid shingles, pressed packing material and corrugated cardboard liners.

**Aluminum Cans** go to Pacific Metals in Vancouver; **Steel Cans** go to Steel Pacific Recycling in Victoria. They are smelted down to make new cans.

**Glass** goes to Lehigh Northwest Materials on Bay St, Victoria, to become road aggregate and concrete products.

**Plastic containers** go to Merlin Plastics, in Delta, where they are sorted and converted into pellets or flakes for sale to other manufacturers. Plastics #2 are made into detergent, shampoo and oil bottles, shipping pallets and grocery bags; plastics #1 to #7 are made into "super wood" plastic lumber.

**Soft Plastics via Pacific Mobile Depot** go to West Coast Plastic Recycling in Richmond, where it is processed and 95% exported to China, where it is turned back into plastic film. So there you have it!

### THE MARINE HOLOCAUST

It is the absolutely appropriate word. As a result of the world's uncontrolled and unrestrained fisheries practices, since 1950, our industrial fishing has reduced the populations of large predatory fish such as tuna, marlin, swordfish and cod by 90% or more. We have reduced the

world's shark populations by 99% or more. And it's still going on, with industrial fishing ships clearcutting what's left of the ocean and the ocean floor with no oversight, no policing, and almost no-one complaining when their predatory, holocaustic cargoes are delivered to the dainty fish-markets and sushi restaurants people love to patronize.



For every fish caught, so many other fish and marine creatures are killed and discarded as "bycatch". The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration estimates that globally, 27 million tonnes of by-catch are discarded each year, compared to 77 million tonnes of landed catch. In the Gulf of Mexico, US commercial fisheries discard up to 9 million tonnes of by-catch every year - twice the commercial and recreational catch.

Along the way, the fishing boats kill untold numbers of birds, turtles and other marine animals, and rip up the ocean floor, destroying corals and sponges and leveling whole ecosystems.

So what's the solution? On a personal level, you can stop eating fish - a good vegetarian or vegan diet will give you all the nutrition and calories you need, with incredible taste and deliciousness. If you want to keep eating fish, at least use Canada's Seafood Guide, prepared by SeaChoice, endorsed by the Sierra Club, CPAWS, Living Oceans and the David Suzuki Foundation, also available as a wallet-sized folder and an iPhone App that you can access right there in the restaurant. See [www.seachoice.org](http://www.seachoice.org).

But what's the *real* solution? There's a United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, and there are global efforts to control overfishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, but it seems as if this is trying to put patches on a hugely leaky regime. The real solution comes in two words - Marine Reserves. When an area of

ocean is set aside for permanent protection from all extractive and destructive uses, including fishing, marine life bounces back remarkably quickly - or at least it has so far in the handful of reserves that have been created. Globally, Greenpeace has integrated a mass of data, mapping the oceans into small cells, and come to the conclusion that to sustain ocean species and ecological processes in perpetuity, between 20% and 50% of the seas must be protected. In *Roadmap to Recovery, a Global Network of Marine Reserves*, they call for the protection of 40% of all habitats and biogeographic zones in the oceans (see [www.bit.ly/djOGWD](http://www.bit.ly/djOGWD)). Less than 1% of the world's oceans are protected at present.

Time is short, however, and Greenpeace is insistent, asking the United Nations to take urgent action to establish such a network.

For Canada, Marine Reserve #2 (North Atlantic) includes most of the waters outside our exclusive zone from Newfoundland to Europe; Reserve #23 (Gulf of Alaska) includes waters off Vancouver Island and Haida Gwaii; and there's also need for an Arctic Marine Reserve. But is the Canadian government listening? Only six Marine Protected Areas have been established in Canada, covering only 2,536 sq. kilometres - 0.0005% of the 5 million sq. km of marine environment under Canadian jurisdiction.

### ACTION OF THE MONTH OCEAN MARINE RESERVES

On its website, Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans says that it recognizes the threat that overfishing and IUU fishing pose to global food security, and acknowledges that the ocean fishery resources are under incredible pressure. Canada is working to try to stop IUU fishing, but if we are to save the world's fisheries, we need to aim for the only goal that can achieve this - a global network of Marine Reserves.

**Action:** Write to the Minister of Fisheries & Oceans. Invite her to read the Greenpeace *Roadmap* report, bring it to the UN's attention, and urge action.

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