

ECONEWS

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Promoting the Vision of a Sustainable Vancouver Island

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THE GLORIOUS OPEN PLAINS OF HOPE

As long as we breathe, and the mystery of life pulses through our being, we have the opportunity to dream of amazing things, and work to make them happen.

Only pessimism, blame and negative thoughts stand in the way like soggy dark trenches, making us wonder why each step is so difficult.

So set them aside, and step instead into the splendour of your pure being, where every cell of your body carries the memory of the incredible spiritual and evolutionary journey that has brought you this far, and carries your hope for the journey ahead.

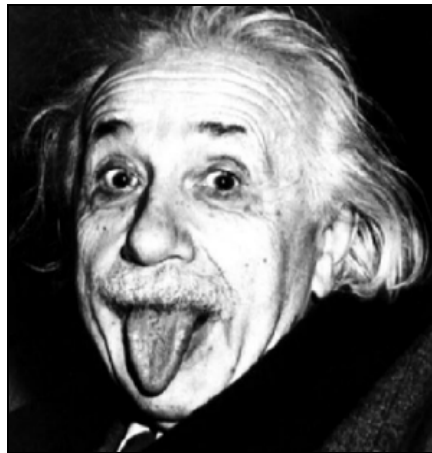
What might be possible as we look out onto the far-reaching horizons of a fresh new year? What miracles that begin as the tiniest stripling of an idea might stand tall in their full glory?

There may be a Canadian federal election this year. So let us hold up the dream of an open-hearted meeting between Michael Ignatieff, Jack Layton and Elizabeth May, resulting in an agreement that the Liberals, NDP and Greens will work together to defeat the Conservatives, restore majority rule, and reform Canada's voting system to make it fair and proportional.

The wide open canvas of a new year allows us to dream that all of the many organizations that are working on the climate emergency - environmental groups, governments, mayors, business leaders, bankers, students and religious leaders will unite under a single banner to insist on a firm commitment to the reductions needed at this year's Durban Conference in December 2011, to oppose every climate-denier, and to convey the powerful vision of a green, sustainable world that can flourish without fossil fuels.

Here's another dream. Inspired by a social movement on Twitter and Facebook, people will pop up on every street and organize a street party on a

weekend in July or August when neighbours greet each other, and talk about ways they could improve life on their street, and build a stronger, more sustainable community. Maybe there's a slogan brewing here - Sustainability Starts on the Street Where You Live.



Imagination is more important than knowledge. We need a new way of thinking if mankind is to survive and move to higher levels. - Albert Einstein

Another dream stands up - a Canadian Pledge to End Homelessness. Leaders from all levels of government make a joint commitment to end homelessness by 2020, in partnership with local organizations - backed by the financial commitment to make it real. Should it be so very hard to remove this shame on our civilization?

Here's another dream ... all across the world, school students, united in determination that their hopes for the future should not be destroyed by the greed and blindness of their elders, use social media to organize a worldwide uprising, walking out of their classes to organize discussions on a global shift to a sustainable, nature-loving culture, demanding that their schools teach them about the dangers that threaten their future, and how they can tackle them.

In the Middle East, a new dream arises. A song composed by four young

people from Israel, Palestine, Syria and Iran catches the public spirit and becomes an anthem for peace-lovers everywhere, being sung in schools and on street corners all across the Middle East. How can one song change the world? Because it sings of the power of linking hands together.

The song gives birth to a powerful new movement supported, by millions around the world that compels the region's leaders to resolve their long-standing conflicts. It forces the extremists to one side, where they can no longer dominate with violence and hatred. It might seem unrealistic - but backed by a host of practical proposals for joint initiatives on solar power, electric vehicles, bicycles, organic farming, water conservation, business development, and joint education for Israeli and Palestinian children, it catches people's hearts and becomes the pathway to peace.

And there are more ... a new organization for green accountants ... a green certification standard for small businesses ... a "Let's Grow Food" movement on every street ... a monthly group where people can share their ideas, and learn how to organize to make them happen...

Where do such dreams come from? It has been my personal experience that when the heart is open to the need for love, the imagination is unrestrained by pessimism or blame, the mind is well-informed about the practicalities of change, and the will is strong, dreams like these arise easily, and are available for anyone to embrace.

We just have to believe, and not lose faith that incredible things are possible. Who are we to doubt? We know so little about how this amazing universe really works. Look at what we have achieved so far. Why should these things not be possible?

Guy Dauncey