



# CANADIAN EARTH INSTITUTE 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

## Highlights of the CEI Year:

December 21, 2009

### 2009 CEI Board

**President:**  
*Nikki Wright*

**Treasurer:**  
*Donna Ogden*

**Secretary:**  
*Beth Cruise*

**Board members:**  
*Henri Lock  
Cindy Moyer  
Eden Jaycock  
Dan Walters*

**Executive Director:**  
*Beth Cruise*

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CEI President  
Nikki Wright

- ◆ Using years of experience in delivering a variety of sustainability education courses, CEI is now expanding and developing its programs to create and live our future - now. Why wait for government, business, and others to change our world into a place that respects and cherishes all species—including humans. We can help each other on the journey towards reclaiming self-sufficiency, basing our lives on real needs, working together effectively and having a deep relationship with all of nature—one step at a time.
- ◆ CEI website in January 2010 will be the first place to discover more about CEI changes.
- ◆ Dick and Jeanne Roy, founders of NWEI and Earth Institute Discussion courses visited Victoria in August and gathered with Beth Cruise, Guy Dauncey, Carolyn Herriot, Jackie Robson (who brought discussion courses to Victoria) and husband Bill.
- ◆ Funding from Gaming Commission allows two part time staff to be hired for year.
- ◆ CEI website now has Donate button for on-line donations.
- ◆ Beth Cruise guested Rick Habgood's radio show "Breakin' Ice" three times.

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Green Moms from RRU and CEI's Healthy Children, Healthy Planet Discussion Course



## RRU Get Outside Conference



## CEI Cob Courses & Projects



## CEI HANDS-ON LEARNING

Look at all these energetic people learning practical, sustainable skills in CEI's hands-on courses. They are part of our society's transition away from fossil fuel and consumerism. It's inspiring how eager people are to change. CEI's courses and participants increased (from 5 to 8 courses and 98 participants up from 87).

Beautiful projects were completed and a heck of a lot of fun was enjoyed by a diversity of people. We are honoured to be advancing climate change resilience and a deep cultural transition.

## Glendale Gardens Cob



**MENU FOR THE FUTURE DISCUSSION  
COURSE PARTICIPANTS EAT WELL!**



Last class celebration at Gabriola Island with group organized by Maureen Wild



Look at that scrumptious, organic, local, and home baked food! Group organized by Pat McMahon



Waiting for the food... Spring 2009 Rest of group organized by Pat McMahon

# Millstream Good Neighbours Project Native Plant Restoration HAT and CEI Collaboration



Salmon-bearing Millstream Creek Watershed covers 26 square kilometers.



There's something special about doing physical work outside with others in a forest of moss and fern covered maple trees. The smell of musty fallen leaves fills your nostrils, fresh cool air brings pink to your cheeks and the background burble of rushing water in Millstream Creek reassures your ears. With all senses alive, twenty volunteers came together to give their time, physical energy, enthusiasm, laughter and thinking on Sunday Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009. A native plant restoration event took place at Atkins Avenue in Langford at CEI's office. It was organized through HAT with Todd Carnahan and the Millstream Good Neighbours Project, the Canadian Earth Institute and Anne Piazza, Climate Champion of HSBC.



CEI Volunteer  
Kimberly Snider



Being connected with each other AND with nature, makes conversations friendlier, laughter easier, and we think better about all species while the work unfolds magically. In four hours, a four foot pile of daphne and periwinkle was cut and re-

Above: Getting ride of invasive Himalayan blackberries by cutting them down and mulching with cardboard/wood chips. Then plant natives in mulch.



Learning about creek habitat.

chopped down to mulched with cardboard and chipped trees; and one hundred native plants were added to the properties backing on Chan Creekside Park. Now that is efficiency.

Add to this, a detailed and colourful explanation about the area systems by Todd Carnahan to start the day and a salmon barbecue wrap up. Could it get any better? Yes. Two weeks later in the same area a coho salmon was seen spawning - we can make a difference.



Left: Pile of removed daphne.

## Networking and Collaboration

In 2009, CEI reached out to develop relationships at these events:

### CEI DISPLAYS



Earth Day April 2009 Mayfair Mall



Organic Island Festival July 4 & 5



ICC Food Festival Fort Rodd Hill

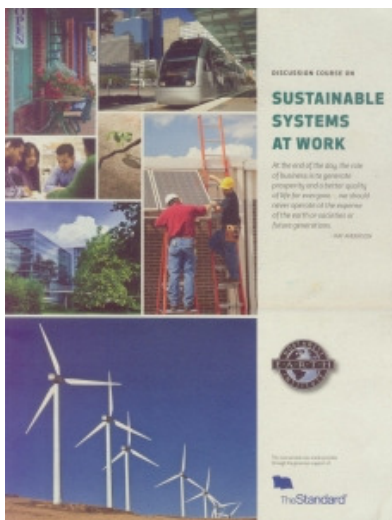
- Jan. 31 UVIC Student Leadership Conference
- Feb. 22 Church of Truth Presentation
- Mar. 6 RRU Get Outside cob Demo
- Mar. 16 International Women's Day
- Mar. 28 Go Local Food Summit
- April 17-22 Earth Day Mayfair Mall
- April. 17 RRU Earth Day
- April. 25 Westshore Earth Day
- May. 31 ICC Food Fest
- July 4 & 5 Organic Island Festival
- July. 14 RRU 2nd Annual Green Drinks
- July. 18 Glendale Gardens Education Fair
- July. 26 Lagoon Art & EcoFair
- Sept. 18 HAT Conservation Connection
- Sept. 30 2nd Annual Colwood Pizza
- Oct. 3 Mill Hill Broom Sweep
- Oct. 18 HAT Native Plant Restoration
- Oct. 24 Climate Action Day/Futurefest
- Nov. 7 Transition Culture
- Dec. 16 Habitat Acquisition Trust AGM

### Northwest Earth Institute News

- ◆ All NWEI & CEI study guides are available for purchase **on-line** at NWEI. CEI gets a small credit when on-line orders tick the affiliates box.
- ◆ Deep Ecology revised, renamed Reconnecting to Earth and available as on-line paperless guide
- ◆ New course Sustainable Systems at Work which has a new approach using consultants.



### New Discussion Course Sustainable Systems at Work



The Province of British Columbia

## How the Year went in Numbers

### Hands On Learning

**Totals: 8 courses 97 participants**

- Introduction to Cob classes
- Cob Demonstrations
- Cob projects (oven/bench)
- Introduction to Permaculture Design

### Sustainability Discussion Courses

**Totals: 15 courses with 115 participants**

- 7 Voluntary Simplicity courses with 58 participants
- 3 Menu for Future discussion courses with 26 participants
- 2 Discovering a Sense of Place course with 20 participants
- 2 Healthy Children Healthy Planet with 10 participants
- 1 Choices for Sustainable Living courses with 3 participants

*Distant courses in Ont. and Alta.*

### New Facilitated Course UVIC

*Deep Ecology and Personal Connections with Nature*

Instructors: Beth Cruise, Camilla Morrow, Alan Drengson—7 participants

### 2009 Event & Signups:

*19 events 135 signups*

### 2009 Members

*30 members*

### 2003 Study guides sold: 67

*(25 MF, 18 VS, 13 HCHP, 7 SoP, 3 CSL, 1 GW)*

### 2009 Inquiries: 30

*17 Local 5 Mainland 8 E. Canada*

## MANY THANKS

To all the dedicated volunteers who help CEI create the future we want — now. And to the generosity of our sponsors...

