



David
Suzuki
Foundation

SUMMER 2006

findingsolutions



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SOLUTIONS ARE
IN OUR NATURE

www.davidsuzuki.org

VANISHING SPECIES

Tens of thousands of species face
extinction from global climate change

BY DOMINIC ALI

In April, a groundbreaking new study published in the scientific journal *Conservation Biology* found that climate change will cause an unprecedented extinction of tens of thousands of species around the world.

"Climate change is rapidly becoming the most serious threat to the planet's biodiversity," said lead author Dr. Jay Malcolm, an associate forestry professor at the University of Toronto. "This study provides even stronger scientific evidence that global warming will result in catastrophic species loss across the planet."

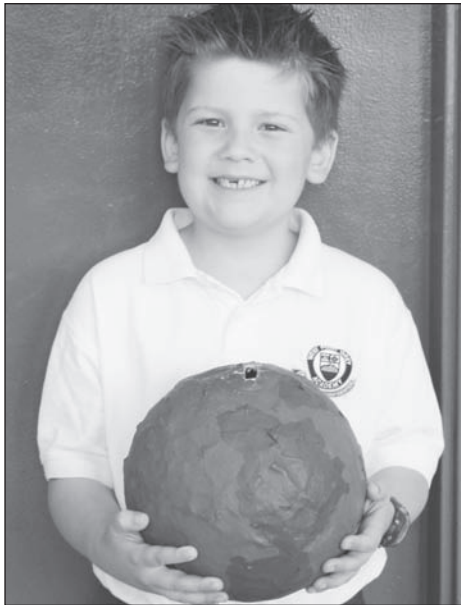
This pioneering study, titled *Global Warming and Extinctions of Endemic Species From Biodiversity Hotspots*, was funded by the David Suzuki Foundation, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Conservation International, and the Canadian National Science and Engineering

Research Council (NSERC). This study is the first of its kind to document the vulnerability of biological hotspots around the world to the effects of climate change.

Dr. Malcolm and other scientists studied habitat changes in 25 global biodiversity hotspots - areas that are home to a disproportionate number of the world's species. Covering just one per cent of the earth's land, these areas are home to 44 per cent of the world's plants and 35 per cent of its vertebrates.

The study projected the amount of global

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Matthew Stephens, 6, has been raising money for the Foundation.

Matthew Stephens is a modern day Renaissance man. He's a cellist, a soccer player, a tennis player, and a committed environmentalist who has delivered speeches to hundreds of people. Not bad for a 6-year-old.

This kindergarten student at Vancouver's West Point Grey Academy recently became a supporter of the Foundation. He was inspired to protect the environment after studying the rainforests in school. "I saw the rainforests being cut down and I wanted to stop it," he says.

Matthew counts Jacques Cousteau and David Attenborough among his heroes. So what does Matthew want to be when he grows up? "The next David Suzuki," he blushes.

To raise money for the Foundation, Matthew held a garage sale and organized

bottle drives with his friends and church group. According to his mother, Ruth Stephens, he collects up to 350 bottles a week. Matthew has also spoken to hundreds of classmates at his school about the need for environmental conservation.

During his fundraising efforts, Matthew carries a hollow handmade globe piggybank that he fills with money. His goal is straightforward: to fill the earth to save the earth.

So what's the best part of his work?

"Getting people to help," he whispers. "Because it makes it bigger." 🌱

Suzuki Society Are you concerned about the world we are leaving for future generations and want to be part of the solution? You can join the Suzuki Society — a group of special individuals who are taking action to protect nature by leaving a gift to the Foundation in their wills or through other types of future gifts. This type of gift will enable you to leave a generous legacy to future generations without affecting your current income. For more information, contact Katie Loftus at 604-732-4228, 1-800-453-1533.

donorswrite



Jillian and James Cleary were married on Earth Day.

CELEBRATING LOVE AND NATURE

We were married on April 22, 2006. Since this was Earth Day, we didn't want to contribute to tacky party favours, so we were happy when my sister suggested we make a donation to the David Suzuki Foundation in honour of our marriage. The Foundation provided place cards — on recycled paper, of course — so that each guest would have a reminder of Earth Day. The idea that we were giving back to the environment on such a special day was very well received by our guests. Thanks for all the help!

Jillian and James Cleary
Toronto, ON

BRILLIANT BAKERS

(sent with gift)

This year we are doing projects to save the world. I chose to save the Spotted Owl. During second term, the other members of my group and I decided to join another group and hold a bake sale. A week before our bake sale we posted posters and made announcements to our school on the P.A. system. On March 29th, we successfully held our bake sale. We raised \$147. We would like you to split the money, half to the Spotted Owl and the other half to pollution.

Emma Harries, Asia Winter, Christian Favreau, Thierry Bahuch, and Rahim Moosa
Grades 5/6, Trafalgar Elementary School, Van., BC

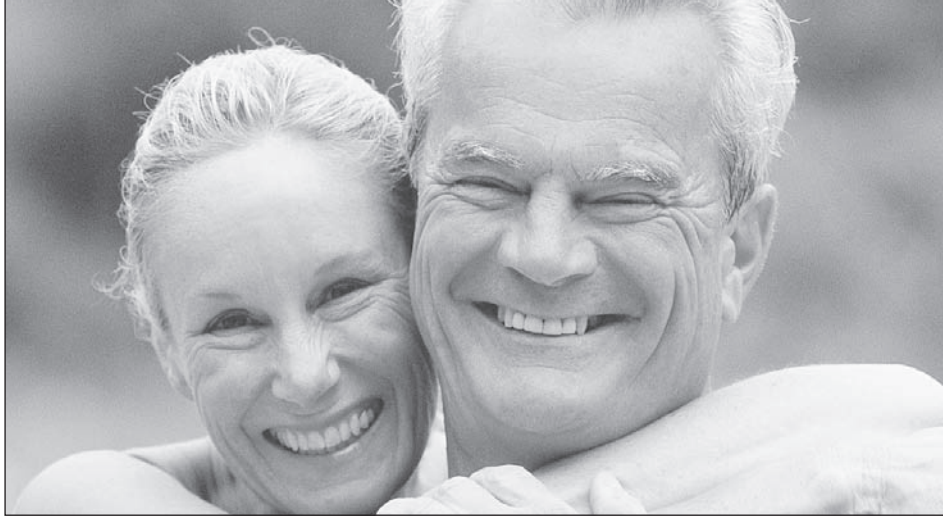
WONDER TWINS

(sent with gift)

This year we sold our used bikes and clothes at the Twins' Club sale and are sending you \$50. Please use the money to help forests and wild lands.

Rachel and Sarah Harrison
8-year-old twins
Brooklin, ON





GIVING STOCK

New tax change benefits donors

The federal government recently eliminated capital gains tax on gifts of appreciated publicly traded securities. This means that donors no longer pay capital gains tax when they give shares to a registered charity.

This is great news for donors who'd like to leave a lasting legacy to future generations. In addition to the tax break, donors

also receive a tax receipt for the fair market value of the securities.

If you'd like to increase your support of the Foundation but don't want to rely entirely on a cash gift, consider donating a gift of securities. To arrange a gift of stock or for more information, contact Katie Loftus at 604-732-4228, 1-800-453-1533, ext. 277, or <kloftus@davidsuzuki.org>.

Upcoming seminars on charitable giving tax benefits

By making a special gift to the Foundation you can help protect the environment. Sign up for our free seminars in Toronto or Vancouver, featuring a financial consultant who will review simple, innovative

strategies and explain the tax benefits of leaving a gift in your will, life insurance, gift annuities, RSP/RIFs, and securities. Space is limited – sign up today!

TORONTO – SEPT. 12

7 to 8:30 p.m.
Rosedale United Church
159 Roxborough Drive

Contact: Simone Hicken at
(905) 319-5665 or
<simone@davidsuzuki.org>.



**Simone
Hicken**

VANCOUVER – SEPT. 14

7 to 8:30 p.m.
Arbutus Club
2001 Nanton Ave.

Contact: Katie Loftus
at (604) 732-4228,
1-800-453-1533, ext. 277,
or <kloftus@davidsuzuki.org>.



Katie Loftus

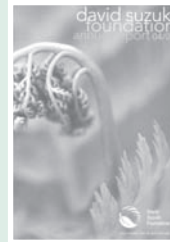


You just never know
who'll stop by the David Suzuki
Foundation. Environmentalist and
actress Daryl Hannah (Splash, Kill
Bill, Bladerunner, Roxanne) came by
to interview Dr. Suzuki for her online
video blog at <www.dhlovelife.com>.

briefs

Annual report ready for download

The David Suzuki Foundation's latest annual report is now available. The publication outlines our activities



and highlights for 2004 to 2005, including the Four Great Rivers project in Tibet; our renewable energy report which made several suggestions adopted by the

Ontario government; and our work to prevent oil and gas exploration off the B.C. coast. Have a look at how we're putting your donations to work. Download your copy at <www.davidsuzuki.org>.

Roads across the river

In March, the David Suzuki Foundation investigated a gravel extraction operation on B.C.'s Fraser River. A temporary road had been built across a river channel to access a large mid-river gravel bar. The road acted as a dam, causing water levels to drop more than a metre in the channel downstream and exposing thousands of salmon nests to air. An estimated 25 to 30 million salmon eggs may have died as a result. The Foundation is currently working with regulatory agencies to ensure this does not happen again.

Gateway project

When the B.C. government proposed a doubling of the highway across greater Vancouver's Port Mann Bridge corridor, warning bells sounded. The proposed plan would encourage urban sprawl, worsen traffic congestion, and generate even more air pollution in the area. The Foundation is working with municipal governments in the greater Vancouver area to develop practical transportation alternatives that will effectively reduce traffic and pollution while maintaining the region's livability. Discussions are continuing.



VANISHING SPECIES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

warming expected to occur by the end of the 21st century, and assumed a conservative estimate that production of greenhouse gases would double over the next 100 years.

The authors used computer modelling to project how habitat in the biological hotspots will change under a doubling of CO₂ in the atmosphere and the likely consequences for plant and animal species that inhabit these areas. The authors found several areas particularly vulnerable to climate change, such as the tropical Andes, the Cape Floristic region of South Africa, Southwest Australia, and the Atlantic forests of Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina.

"Although Canada wasn't included in the study, the results serve as a warning of the kinds of effects climate change will

have on our wild species," said Dr. Faisal Moola, the David Suzuki Foundation's director of science. "Many of the factors that the study found to increase the risk of extinction due to climate change are of great importance right here at home."

The study found that so-called "endemic" species - animals and plants highly restricted to where they can live - are especially at risk.

This report has special meaning for Canadians, since this country is one of the world's largest per capita emitters of greenhouse gases which cause climate change and is home to a number of endemic

Climate change is rapidly becoming the most serious threat to the planet's biodiversity

species, which may be particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

"Because these species are found nowhere else on the planet, Canada has a global responsibility to ensure they don't disappear due to climate change," said Dr. Moola. 🌿



The fight to keep Canada in Kyoto

BY SARAH MARCHILDON

The global warming debate is heating up again. This time the debate isn't about whether or not climate change is happening. It's about what Canada is doing about the problem. Or, more specifically, what Canada *isn't* doing.

Most of the countries that signed the Kyoto Protocol are on track to meet their targets, but Prime Minister Harper says Canada isn't even going to try to meet ours. Instead, we're going to ignore our promise and our international responsibility.

Canada has been pushing to replace Kyoto's mandatory targets with a voluntary plan. But the Canadian government has yet to announce anything that will significantly clean the air or reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Canada currently has no real plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at all. Instead of ramping up climate change programs, the federal government is shutting them down. The most recent casualty is the Partnership Fund, a billion dollar federal funding program intended to help provinces with climate change projects.

"In stark contrast to Canada's foot-dragging on this issue, most developed countries are on track to meeting their Kyoto targets," said Dale Marshall, a climate change policy analyst with the David Suzuki Foundation. "Canadians want our government to take action on global warming. The Kyoto Protocol is alive and kicking. It's not too late for Canada to step up and take real leadership on this issue."

Visit <www.davidsuzuki.org> and send an email to the prime minister urging him to keep Canada in Kyoto. 🌿

PROTECT ENDANGERED SPECIES



According to the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, there are **more than 500 plant and animal species at risk in Canada**. Here are some things you can do to protect species at risk:

- Grow native plants in your garden, making sure to buy them from producers that do not harvest them directly from the wild.
- Don't support urban developments that destroy the habitats of species at risk.
- Reduce your greenhouse gas emissions by using alternative transportation.
- When travelling abroad, avoid bringing back souvenirs made from endangered plants and animals.

PHOTO: SHARON TOOCHIN, WCWC FILES

LAND GRAB

British Columbia's widely heralded sustainable land use policy is under attack as developers target farmland

BY DAVE TAYLOR

An icon of sustainable land use in Canada is under pressure from development and needs to be reformed, according to a new report by the David Suzuki Foundation.

Forever Farmland: Reshaping the Agricultural Land Reserve for the 21st Century looks at British Columbia's celebrated province-wide agricultural zoning system. Established in 1973, the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) was designed to protect B.C.'s best farmland in perpetuity. It is widely considered one of the most successful policies in North America to protect farmland and reduce suburban sprawl.

However, in recent years subtle changes to the governance structure of the ALR have threatened the integrity of the process. These changes, combined with inconsistent direction from the provincial government and vague language around the policy, have resulted in valuable agricultural land being removed from the reserve for dubious reasons.

"B.C.'s best farmland is essentially facing death by a thousand cuts," says Ann Rowan, director of the David Suzuki Foundation's sustainability program. "Without decisive leadership from the province, more and more of our farmland could be paved over."

Pressure to remove land from the reserve is greatest near major population centres where the most productive farmland is located. Although the size of the ALR has actually changed little since 1973, the agricultural value of the land has declined because of a loophole that allows land in different regions to be swapped. As a result, 90 per cent of the land added to the reserve has been in the province's less-productive north, while 72 per cent of the land lost to development has been in the more fertile southern regions.

"It appears the ALR's commission has conceded to regional pressures for economic development," says Ms. Rowan, who points out that under the rubric of "community needs" good farmland has been turned into industrial parks, subdivisions and resorts.

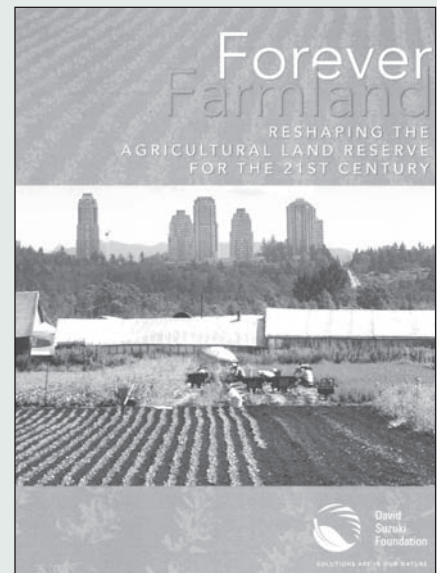
"Developers usually lead the charge to convert farmland for other uses," Ms. Rowan says. "And it's tempting for municipalities to allow it – even if it isn't in their long-term best interests. We need to strengthen the ALR to remove that temptation."

"B.C.'s best farmland is essentially facing death by a thousand cuts"



Ann Rowan is the director of the Foundation's sustainability program

Having high-quality agricultural land near urban centres is valuable for a number of reasons: It provides consumers with ready access to healthy, fresh produce. It reduces the energy needed to transport food over long distances. It protects the habitat of many beneficial plant and animal species. And it creates jobs and boosts the economy.

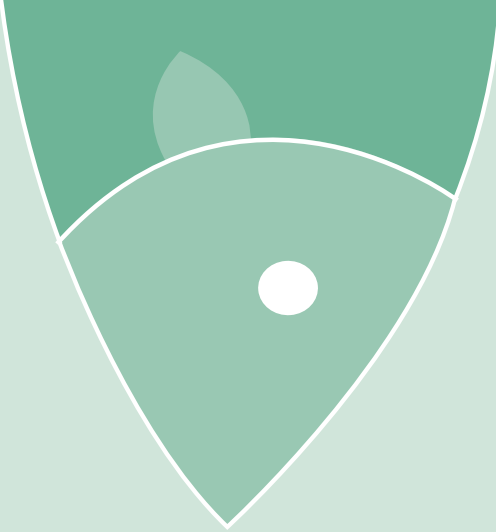


Forever Farmland looks at threats to B.C.'s agricultural zoning system.

For example, Dave Van Seters, CEO and president of Spud Home Delivery service says he depends on local farms to run his business. "Local food is fresher, more environmentally-friendly and better for the economy. Without a strong agricultural reserve system, we are at risk of losing access to some of the best crop-growing regions in B.C."

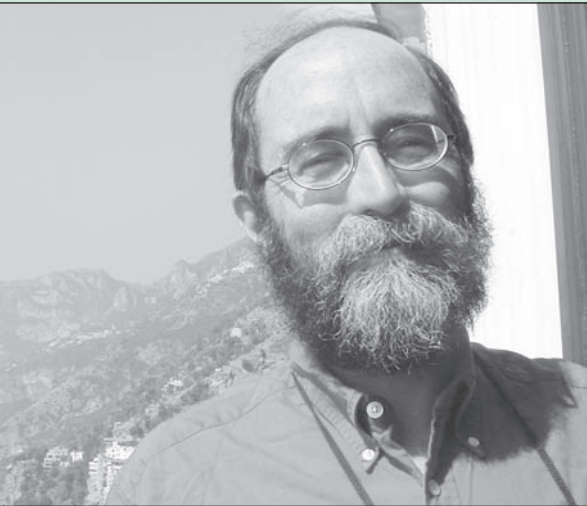
Forever Farmland was partially funded by the Endswell Fund and the Footprints Fund at Tides Canada Foundation. It has already inspired Pat Bell, B.C.'s Minister of Agriculture and Lands, to request a review of its recommendations. Those recommendations are two-fold: the province must give clear, comprehensive direction to the land commission to remain focused on the long-term; and the land commission must be enabled to carry out its original mandate of agricultural preservation. In addition, the province must develop policies that support the viability of farms and farmlands.

"Our vision is to make Canada a leader in sustainability by 2030 and strong agricultural practices are a critical part of this equation. When we protect our farms, we ultimately protect our quality of life," says Ms. Rowan. "B.C. has a model approach to conserving farmland that other provinces would do well to emulate. And it's not something we want to lose." 🌱



One famous environmentalist. One marine biologist.
One celebrity chef. 300 concerned citizens.
Combine in a theatre in downtown Toronto
in late-May. Blend. Serve fresh.

Sustainable seafood starts in the kitchen



Renowned marine biologist Dr. Ransom Myers.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RANSOM MYERS

BY JASON CURRAN

The David Suzuki Foundation hosted a sustainable seafood event called Fish Forever. This interactive evening in May included inspiring presentations by life-long fisherman, broadcaster and scientist Dr. David Suzuki; renowned marine biologist

Dr. Ransom Myers; and Christine Cushing, host of the popular Food Network Canada program *Christine Cushing: Cook with Me*.

These three experts enlightened an audience of more than 300 with personal stories, facts about the state of the world's oceans, and advice on how smart seafood choices can save our marine ecosystems.

Ms. Cushing called for consumers to choose their fish and shellfish wisely. As people who love to eat, we need to take responsibility in deciding what we eat, and by extension, exercise the power of the consumer, she said.

Dr. Suzuki also offered advice to concerned consumers on how to choose sus-

tainable seafood options - for the good of our oceans and ourselves.

"Sustainable seafood options do exist. And it's up to all of us to ensure our fisheries are managed in a way that maintains this incredible natural resource for the future," Dr. Suzuki said.

This event raised awareness about bottom trawling, one of the most destructive fishing practices known. Bottom trawling destroys marine life and habitat by dragging nets weighted with heavy rollers and trawl doors along the ocean floor. Biologically rich underwater mountains, where deep-sea life concentrates, are being devastated by this practice.

Ms. Cushing called for consumers to choose their fish and shellfish wisely



Christine Cushing and Ransom Myers.

JERROLD LITWINENKO PHOTO

marine biologist.
izens.
onto

tchen



JERROLD LITWINENKO PHOTO

Dr. Suzuki makes an impassioned plea for the world's oceans.

Several countries, including Canada, are facing pressure from conservation organizations to sign a UN resolution calling for a moratorium on high seas bottom trawling. The high seas comprise 64 per cent of the world's oceans.

Although Canadian fishermen are not active in deep-sea fisheries on the high seas, Canada has been reluctant to support the moratorium. In highlighting the global demise of fish stocks, Dr. Myers, who holds the Killam Chair in Ocean Studies at Dalhousie University, referred to Canada's "stupid stance" on bottom trawling.

"A UN resolution to halt high seas bottom trawling is an opportunity to make significant changes to current fishing practices," Dr. Myers told the Toronto audience.

Dr. Myers encouraged the crowd to take action, calling on each individual to contact the Prime Minister's office and demand that Canada support the moratorium.

Audience member Carolyn Spavor took her consumer responsibility to heart. Upon learning which fish were sustain-

able choices, Ms. Spavor marched down to her neighbourhood butcher the following day and ordered some sustainable, North American farmed catfish. "I'll give it a try and hopefully so will some of the others who shop at the store."

For more information about sustainable seafood visit www.davidsuzuki.org. 🌿

Meet Scott Wallace

New DSF sustainable fisheries analyst

The David Suzuki Foundation welcomes Scott Wallace as its newest sustainable fisheries analyst on the marine conservation team. In addition to working as an instructor at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre on Vancouver Island, he was also a former marine science advisor to the B.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club of Canada.

With degrees from Queen's and Dalhousie universities, as well as a Ph.D in conservation biology from the University of British Columbia, Mr. Wallace brings a wealth of knowledge and credibility in the area of sustainable fisheries to the Foundation.



Scott Wallace is a sustainable fisheries analyst with the Foundation's marine conservation program.



ONTARIO CREATES CLEAN ENERGY PLAN

Will provide smart incentives to small-scale renewable energy projects

BY SARAH MARCHILDON

The Ontario government's decision to allow renewable electricity producers to plug into the grid is an exciting and bold step forward, says the David Suzuki Foundation.

"This is a visionary decision that puts Ontario on a new path toward a more sustainable electricity system," said Dr. David Suzuki, scientist and broadcaster. "This is exactly the kind of political leadership we need if we are serious about cleaning up Ontario's poor air quality and summer smog."

Ontario's new program of "standard offer contracts" will subsidize renewable energy production, including small-scale wind and solar projects. That means municipalities, homeowners, private businesses and farmers can set up a wind turbine or put solar panels on their roofs and be paid a fixed premium to feed that electricity into the grid. They will be paid a rate of 42 cents per kilowatt hour for solar energy and 11 cents per kilowatt hour for all other forms.

The government hopes the program will generate 1,000 MW of clean power over 10 years – enough electricity to power 250,000 homes. The plan will help reduce air pollution and ease the strain on Ontario's electricity system.

While countries such as Germany, Spain and Denmark – all world leaders in renewable power – have had similar policy mechanisms in place for years, Ontario is now the first jurisdiction in North America to adopt similar measures.

"Ontario is at the absolute forefront in North America on clean, renewable energy."




Ontario hopes to generate 10 per cent of its power from renewable energy by 2020.

"It's exciting because it will make it that much easier for Ontario to adopt renewable energy on a large scale," said Dr. Suzuki. "Ontario is at the absolute forefront in North America on clean, renewable energy."

Setting standard rates for renewable power is part of the Ontario government's plan to build a clean, affordable and sustainable energy supply. The province wants to generate 10 per cent of its power from renewable energy by 2020.

Standard offer contracts eliminate two of the most important obstacles inhibiting renewable energy development: the ability to connect to the grid and market uncertainty. It will also help attract new renewable energy manufacturing facilities to the province, creating jobs and boosting the local economy.

It also creates an opportunity for farmers who can put wind turbines on their land or build biomass facilities.

"Farmers will be able to harvest two crops now," said Dr. Suzuki. "The one they grow in the ground and the one that comes from the wind." 

Nuclear energy is bad news



Jose Etcheverry

IN JUNE, Ontario Energy Minister Dwight Duncan announced the province would spend more than \$40 billion to refurbish old and build new nuclear plants.

"This is a huge step backwards," said Jose Etcheverry, a Toronto-based climate change policy analyst with the David Suzuki Foundation. Nuclear power is riddled with dangers. It isn't an environmentally or financially viable way to produce energy, and there aren't any accepted methods of disposing of radioactive waste.

Nuclear energy is also prohibitively expensive, said Mr. Etcheverry. The last plant constructed in Ontario, the Darlington nuclear generating station, went billions of dollars over budget when it was completed in the mid-1980s. In addition, mining uranium for nuclear power is extremely energy-intensive, meaning that it is a considerable source of greenhouse gases.

THE NATURE CHALLENGE GOES TO SCHOOL

Foundation gets ready to launch its environmental education program



Randi Kruse-Ferdinands is the Nature Challenge specialist.

BY DOMINIC ALI

When the school bell rings this September some lucky students in British Columbia will get a new topic in their school curriculum: the Nature Challenge.

The David Suzuki Foundation has developed a curriculum project for students

in grades four to seven. The lesson plans will be available on our website by September. The 20 classroom-ready lesson plans take students through the 10 steps of the Nature Challenge and were created in accordance with the B.C. provincial curriculum.

“We’re looking forward to educating a new generation of Canadians about conservation, empowering youth to make choices that consider long term consequences,” said Randi Kruse-Ferdinands, the Foundation’s Nature Challenge specialist.

The lesson plans were designed and tested by Passion for Action, a B.C.-based consultancy that helps organizations engage people in making sustainable choices. Passion for Action’s Marnie Olson is proud of the lesson plans. “I can see the classrooms buzzing because the activities are fun and thought provoking.”

This pilot project was developed with funding from the Vancouver Foundation, Canada’s largest community foundation. If successful, the David Suzuki Foundation hopes to launch the program nationally in the future. 🌱



On the road with David Suzuki

Over 18,000 came to see Dr. Suzuki during his three-month book tour.



BY DOMINIC ALI

To support his latest best-selling book, *The Autobiography*, Dr. Suzuki visited more than 30 cities across Canada over a three-month period. In each city, Dr. Suzuki presented a slide show about his life and career as Canada’s foremost environmentalist. He spoke to more than 18,000 audience members in total. And the Foundation has been right along with him.

Lindsay Tomy, outreach assistant for the Foundation’s sustain-

ability program, accompanied Dr. Suzuki on tour. For Ms. Tomy, the tour has been an amazing opportunity to talk to thousands of Canadians.

“It’s been an eye-opener to learn how informed people are about climate change and the need for sustainable development,” she says.

During the tour Ms. Tomy met with groups and individuals to talk about how Canada could become an environmental leader by the year 2030. She also wrote an online journal detailing her on-the-road adventures, which can be found at <<http://suzukitour.blogspot.com>>.

Along the way Ms. Tomy distributed more than 20,000 pre-printed postcards urging the prime minister to adopt the nine goals in our groundbreaking report *Sustainability Within a Generation*.

“It was really great to see people from all walks of life coming to hear about Dr. Suzuki’s life. And it’s even more inspiring to see everyone take action to make Canada a better place.” 🌱



Lindsay Tomy accompanied Dr. Suzuki on a three-month tour.

THINGS THAT GO VROOM

Rage against the machines

So I says to the guy...

BWAAAA!

...and he turns to me and...

ROOAROOM!

...but...

BWAAAAAA!

Ahh! I can't even tell a bad joke on my deck without the sound of a neighbour's gas-powered lawn implement drowning out the punch line. Friends may think this is an improvement, but it's killing my style and driving me to distraction.

Lawn implements – you're on notice! Gas lawn mowers, weed eaters, edgers, leaf blowers, trimmers and whatnot. Things that go vroom on lazy Sunday afternoons... you're going down!

It's time to rise up against our oppressors – the loud, the obnoxious, and the polluting. Cast off the shackles of lawn servitude. Throw off the yoke of leaf indenture. Emancipate yourself from weed enslavement. Feel the joy of silent freedom.

A little extreme? Perhaps, but gas-powered yard thingies drive me nuts. Not to mention, they're bad for us. In fact, because most of these tools lack modern pollution controls, they account for five per cent of urban air pollution according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Oh, and did I mention they're really loud?

Look, I'm no technophobe. I love technology and have a lawn of my own. I even have a little electric weed whacker. I just don't see the point of all those big, noisy machines – so I have a push mower. Here's what it sounds like: *sniksniksniksnik*. That's it.

My hardship? Sometimes I have to go over a difficult spot more than once. Oh woe is me.

Seriously, push mowers today aren't the heavy, brutish things your grandfather lugged around. They're quiet, lightweight, non-polluting, require little maintenance and don't threaten to chop your toes off. And I'm pleased to say they're becoming increas-

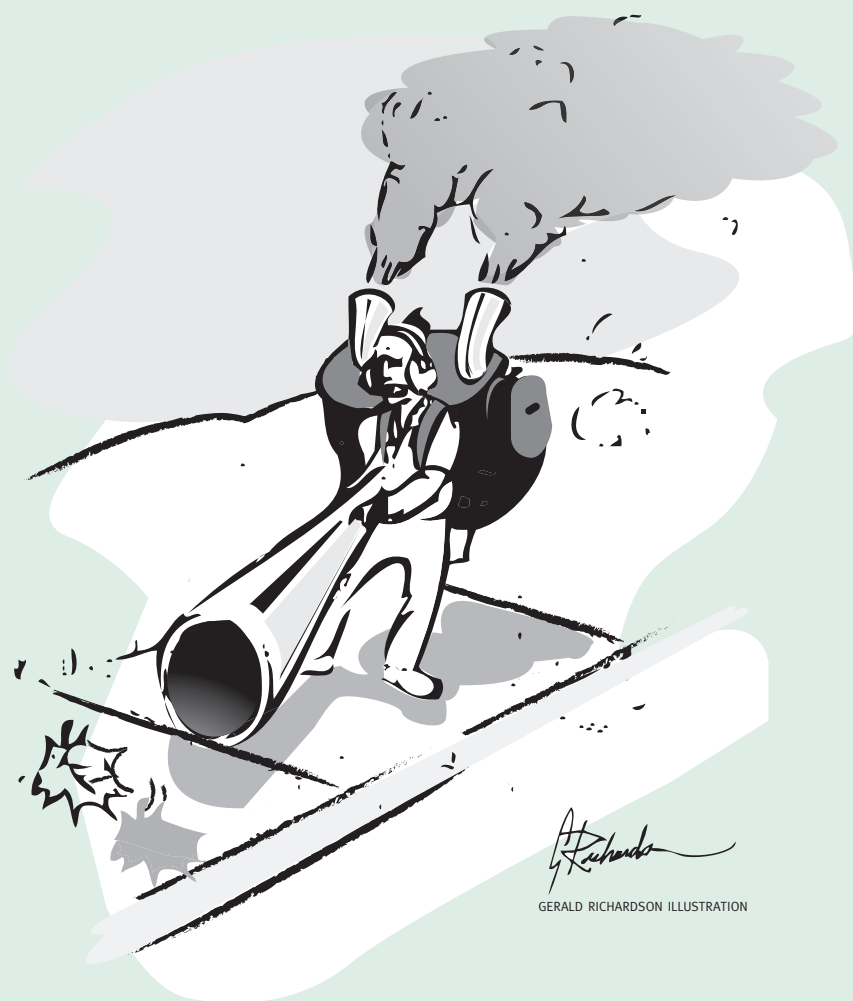
Throw off the yoke of leaf indenture. Emancipate yourself from weed enslavement

ingly popular. If enough people start using them, they develop cachet, and pretty soon the gas-guzzlers start looking like what they are: 20th century relics.

Sure, some people may still need a gas mower. But for most of us, I bet a push mower would do just as well. And don't even get me started on leaf blowers. Surely we can relegate those horrid contraptions to the dustbin of history. Rakes and brooms, now those are technologies that never go out of style – simple, elegant and, above all, silent.

My one powered weakness is my weed whacker. I really need that sucker to get into the hard-to-reach corners. But even then, it makes a buzzing sound more akin to a pesky mosquito than a low-flying bomber. I can live with that, and I think my neighbours can too.

I know I'm raging against established machines. But one day I hope we can rise above them in a quiet revolution – take back our yards, our peaceful afternoons, quiet conversations and bad jokes. They are only machines, after all. And we can always turn them off. 🌿



GERALD RICHARDSON ILLUSTRATION



findingsolutions

A publication of the David Suzuki Foundation, a registered Canadian charity working through science and education to protect the diversity of nature and our quality of life, now and for future generations.

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Green.tv

For those with a broadband internet connection and the appropriate software, <www.green.tv> should be required viewing. It's billed as the first website to bring together films, filmmakers and environmental organizations from around the world.

Films are categorized by subject, under topics such as air, land, water, climate change, technologies, and people. The best part is that they're free to view. There's even a kids section for young environmentalists. The green revolution, it turns out, will be televised after all.

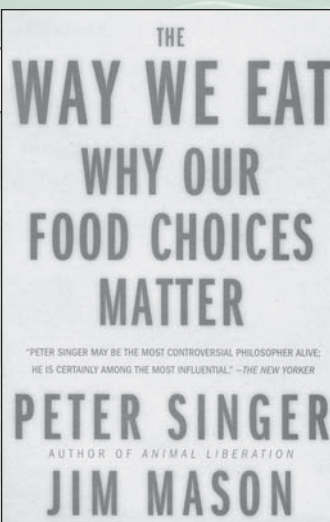


The Way We Eat: Why Our Food Choices Matter

By Peter Singer and Jim Mason
(Rodale Inc. 2006)

Renowned bioethicist Peter Singer and former farmer Jim Mason trace the eating habits of real families. Say you eat beef twice a week. What are the environmental and health consequences?

The Way We Eat follows your dinner from its production to its long-term impacts. This book is a powerful read on the dramatic difference we can make through our food choices. You'll be thinking about what's for dinner for a long time to come.



An Inconvenient Truth

An Inconvenient Truth is a passionate and inspirational look at Al Gore's fervent crusade to halt global warming's deadly progress in its tracks by exposing the myths and misconceptions



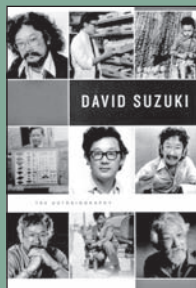
that surround it. Gore, who, in the wake of defeat in the 2000 election, re-set the course of his life to focus on a last-ditch, all-out effort to help save the planet from irrevocable change.

This film is both an eye-opening look at the science of climate change and a poignant portrait of Gore and his "traveling global warming show."

GONE FISHIN'!

For future public speaking dates, visit:

http://www.davidsuzuki.org/About_us/Dr_David_Suzuki/Appearances.asp



Dr. Suzuki recently completed a three-month book tour to promote his latest bestseller, *The Autobiography*. This summer he's taking a break to go fishing and rest up before embarking on an Australian book tour from September to October.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT



JERROLD LITWINENKO PHOTO

Our food is directly linked to our environment.

THE FOUNDATION RECENTLY organized an event in Toronto called Fish Forever, all about the importance of eating seafood from sustainable sources. I was honoured to share the stage with chef Christine Cushing, star of the show *Christine Cushing: Cook with Me*, and renowned marine biologist Dr. Ransom Myers. [For more information, see pages 6-7.]

It was inspiring to see so many people turning out for this event. During my recent book tour I noticed that people from all across the country are taking an interest in where their food comes from. We all should.

Our food is directly linked to our environment. Food production requires water, energy, and land. One of the items we stress in our

Nature Challenge is the importance of eating meat-free meals once a week. Producing 10 ounces of beef, for example, requires 85 times more water to produce than 10 ounces of potatoes. By thinking carefully about the meals we eat, we can get the nourishment we need and protect our resources for the future.

Along with thinking about the types of food we eat, we also need to consider where our food comes from. The average meal in North America travels about 2400 km from the field to your dinner plate. This food transportation produces an incredible amount of air

pollution and greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change.

Nowadays, it's taken for granted that we can walk into a grocery store and buy oranges from Florida, bananas from Mexico, and fresh apples from New Zealand. But this is a relatively recent phenomenon. For centuries, humans lived in harmony with the natural systems by eating seasonal produce. By altering our diets to incorporate more seasonal food, far less greenhouse gas emissions come from food transportation.

Eating locally is growing in importance. One movement I appreciate is the 100-mile diet, where meals are prepared using ingredients harvested within 100-miles of the dinner table. If you want to undertake the 100-mile diet, try shopping at local farmer's markets and groceries that carry a lot of local produce. Although this might be difficult to do in the middle of winter, it's possible to accomplish this feat in most parts of Canada at this time of year.

By becoming more aware of the food we eat, we stop thinking about the "global village" and start thinking locally. Shopping locally, eating locally, and helping our own communities not only makes our immediate surroundings better, but it improves our own day-to-day life. And we can make this happen, simply by giving some thought to the environmental impacts of the food we put on our plates each day. 🌱

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