

REAPS REPORT

RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLANNING SOCIETY

Hotline 250-561-7327 Box 444, Prince George, BC V2L 4S6 www.reaps.org January 2006

Recycle Toy Drive – BIG SUCCESS

Eight years ago the conception of a recycle toy drive was born through REAPS members and their community partners. After a discussion of the needs seen in the community and incorporating the 3R's (reduce, reuse, recycle) the recycle toy drive was born.

The community of Prince George joined in the spirit of giving this past holiday as seen in the success of REAPS 9th Annual Recycle Toy Drive. A call for quality used toys were hit the local papers, radios and bulletin boards at the beginning of November Children of all ages went to their closets and toy rooms to participate in the third R – **RECYCLE**.

Over 100 bags and boxes of toys were distributed to local children organizations throughout the City of Prince George. Play kitchens, work benches, games, stuffed animals, puzzles, dolls, videos and electronic games to name a few of the articles received were delivered in time for distribution during the holidays.

As in 2004 REAPS collected donations for the SPCA. Old towels, dog house, toys, balls, and animal cages were dropped off at the Recycle Toy Drive for the SPCA.

A big thank you to the twelve volunteers who assisted with: poster distribution, collecting boxes set up, sorting, boxing,

labelling and delivering of the toys to the 13 organization.

Next year, the 9th Annual Recycle Toy Drive will be held on Saturday, November 25, 2006. Mark your calendar to donate and/or volunteer at this community recycle event.

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R.E.A.P.S . News

Sustainable Landscaping Initiative – the first year

This initiative was conceived as a five year collaboration between University of Northern British Columbia, REAPS and the City of Prince George with the following objectives:

- To determine that ecologically sound landscaping can be undertaken in a northern ecosystem and a resource dependant community;
- To determine which planting combinations and maintenance regimes are most appropriate for different site requirements;
- To determine which planting combinations provide the most net ecological benefits; and
- To increase public awareness of, interest in, and knowledge of ecologically sound landscaping.

Project Results for 2005

University Way/Massey Drive: the conversion of approximately 200 square metres of land along these sites was begun. The sites represent three different types of localized ecotones. These areas are testing for roadside stress, salt tolerance, and public's perception of certain plant mixes' aesthetic value of a variety of sustainable plant species.

Regional Corrections Centre: forty-four types of ground cover were planted and will be monitored over the next three years to determine success rates in Prince George's climate and soils.

University of Northern BC: a Sustainable Landscaping Demonstration Site was installed in the Bentley Centre Courtyard. The display garden was planted with northern and northern adapted plants.

A bog and swale beside the Enhanced Forestry Laboratory (EFL) was installed to demonstrate natural water flow control methods. As well as a sedums trial plot planted in front of the EFL's entrance to study slope stabilization methods.

A Botanical Reserve on the unused UNBC lands was developed by a trail which winds by several unique botanical features of the area and will allow us a spot to trial different tree species.

Highway 97 (John Hart Bridge): A wide range of plants, trees, shrubs and ground covers were planted on the south side entrance to the bridge to create a heavy root

system on the slope to assist with erosion and soil stability.

BC Ministry of Forests Building: is a test site for survival of plants under winter conditions along high traffic routes with deposition of salt and debris. The ground was prepared with the use of newspapers to eradicate the grasses. Planting of different cultivars of Kinnickinnick will be in the spring of 2006.

Studio 2880: A beautification project begun on the hanger building located behind the studio. A trench was dug and lined with posts as the future flowerbed. A trellis will be erected for 22 species of Clematis in the spring of 2006.

Moore's Meadow: The 12 acre meadow was divided into thirty meter sections in a plan to eradicate or stunt the growth of thistle through cutting and mowing regime. The area was mowed 3 times and proved to be very labour intensive with weed trimmers. The sections that were mowed had a later date of pollination, and far less blooms on the thistles. Continuation in the spring 2006.

Salt Tolerance Study: As many areas along Prince George roads have severely high concentrations of road salt in the soils, lab tests of different species' salt tolerance to confirm our field tolerance tests were conducted at UNBC EFL during the summer and fall of 2005.

Tree Inventory of Prince George: A preliminary inventory of native and non-native trees currently growing in the City of Prince George was completed.

Education and Outreach: A display was constructed and used at a number of events and venues. Two demonstrations were held at REAPS Compost Demo Garden. Presentations were given to community groups and the public. To enhance public awareness a website was developed and project signs have been installed at all of the landscaping sites.

Check the project website for details at:
<http://web.unbc.ca/sustainablelandscape>.

Condensed from Year End Report – 2005 prepared by Dr. Annie Booth, (UNBC)



ROOTS CANADA – moved to action

In September 2004 Vice-President of REAPS Paul Sanborn sent a letter (see REAPS REPORT November 2004) to ROOTS Canada regarding his recent purchase of a ROOTS Brand watch and his dismay at the amount of packaging material that weighed more than the watch he purchased.

ROOTS Director of Communication and Public Affairs responded shortly after (see REAPS REPORT November 2004) stating that he would bring the matter up with their supplier and will be in touch with Paul regarding the outcome.

REAPS is very proud to have commitment from a large manufacturer to take steps to ensure an environmental approach to future packaging.

7 November 2005

Dear Mr. Sanborn,

As you'll recall, we were previously in contact after you wrote to us about the packaging of Roots watches.

At the time, I mentioned to you that we would take the matter up with the company who produces the watches for Roots under our licensing program.

In any case, I just wanted to let you know that I recently met with senior executives from the company about this issue. They were understanding of the need to make the packaging as environmentally friendly as possible and to minimize the amount of material used. At the same time, they mentioned there is a need to have a certain amount of protective material given the fragile nature of watches.

They assured me that in 2006 there will be new packaging in place which should be more to everyone's satisfaction from an environmental point of view while at the same time ensuring the protection, convenience and value of each Roots watch to meet the needs of customers.

Thank you again for your concern on this matter.

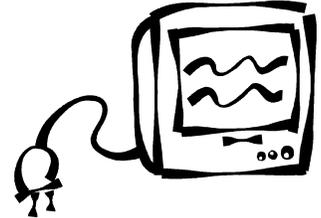
Kind regards,
ROBERT SARNER

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Third Annual E-waste Collection

On April 22, 2006 REAPS and E-waste Recycling of BC Association will be hosting the third annual E-waste collection. Details to follow in March issue of the REAPS REPORT.



E-Waste Recycling of BC Association is committed to preventing all electronic waste from going into BC's landfills where it contaminates the environment with lead, cadmium and many other toxins. They are finding productive end uses for all electronic equipment through research, collection and re-use strategies. E-Waste BC can be reached at 962-9126 or by email ewastebc@ewastebc.ca. Visit their website at ewastebc.ca.

Member Benefits

2006 members are invited to a monthly recycle craft afternoon starting in April. A schedule and details of each monthly craft will be published in the next newsletter.

Non members welcomed for a drop in fee of \$5.00.

Saturday May 27th at 3 p.m. members are invited to a Backyard Composter Construction Workshop. Participants will take home their own customized built backyard pallet composter at the end of the day. Registration required.

Non members welcomed, a \$15 registration fee will apply.

April to September members can receive 1 - 10 kg bag of REAPS homemade compost while supplies last. Call to arrange for pick up.

REAPS and Program Manager Nominated

The Northern British Columbia Natural Resources Forum and Business & Technology Trade Show have informed REAPS and our very own Terri McClymont, Program Manager that they have been nominated for an award in the category: Environmental Friendly Technology Award.

REAPS is very proud to be recognized for our contributions to industry, technology and our community

by our peers. Awards ceremony will be held on January 12, 2006 at the PG Civic Centre.

2006 R.E.A.P.S. AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Northern Interior Health Unit on Edmonton St. (across from the hospital) on Saturday, January 4, 2006. The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. in the auditorium.

A review of 2005 will be presented and election of the 2006 executive will take place. Members are encouraged to have a look at the Board positions, and consider how they can participate out in the coming year. It is a small commitment and a very satisfying experience.

Following a break and light refreshments, there will be a feature presentation. This year we are very pleased to bring you a well known northern gardener Peter Amyoony presenting "Preparing for Spring – starting your garden indoors". Pete has been gardening for decades northern BC, and is widely regarded as one of our local gardening masters. Peter is a knowledgeable and engaging speaker and will tackle those gardening questions and provide tips to success.

We look forward to seeing everyone at this annual opportunity to get together and celebrate another successful year of R.E.A.P.S. making a difference in the community.

R.E.A.P.S Executive & Board Positions

All positions are for a one year term, and all positions are open to election. All Board members work and coordinate with the Environmental Educator (a paid staff position) to achieve R.E.A.P.S's mandate and goals. All Board members actively participate in and promote delivery of R.E.A.P.S. mandate and programs, and are expected to attend most, if not all, monthly Board meetings. The positions are as follows:

President: presides at meetings and supervises the Environmental Educator and the other officers in the execution of their duties. Assists other Directors in fulfilling their duties.

Vice-President: carries out the duties of the president during his/her absence. Actively seeks candidates for the Executive Positions prior to each AGM.

Secretary: keeps minutes of society meetings, conducts the correspondence of the society, and files society's records and documents at the office.

Treasurer: keeps the financial records, provides financial statements monthly at the executive meeting, assists with preparation of a yearly budget to be presented at the AGM

and completes a year end statement to present at each AGM.

Fundraising Coordinator: plans and organizes fundraising activities. Actively searches for funding and submits funding proposals and grant applications.

Promotion, Advertising, & Special Events: plans and organizes special events; places advertisements and encourages media coverage of the society's activities.

Membership & Volunteer Coordinator: maintains the register of members and canvasses volunteers and members for the society and for events.

Newsletter Editor: prepares, publishes and distributes "R.E.A.P.S. Report" at six times annually.

Directors at large (4): Assist where needed, and work on special projects according to their talents and interests.

Your participation is encouraged. If you are interested in any of the above positions or helping out with any of R.E.A.P.S. activities, please come to the Annual General Meeting or call 561-7327.

Web Picks of the Month

The Impacts of Cleaning on Indoor Air Quality

Source: The Ashkin Group

This article, which appeared in the December 1997 issue of *Services* magazine, offers an excellent backgrounder on the connection between the cleaning products you use and the air you breathe. Includes tips on greening your cleaning process according to the 5 R's: Re-evaluate, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Renew.

For the full article go to:

http://www.greenbiz.com/toolbox/reports_third.cfm?LinkAdvID=65262

<http://www.northerngarden.ca/>

Northern Garden is devoted to gardening tips and landscaping ideas in a northern climate. If you live in Alaska, the Canadian prairies, northern US states or on the coast of Newfoundland, anywhere summers are short and winter limits your choice of plants, this site is for you. Garden design is more difficult in a northern garden and Diana has the right ideas to make your garden and your landscaping ideas come alive. *Editor* Diana Roberts, Burns Lake, BC

<http://www.best-garden-care.com/>

Best Garden Care is devoted to providing gardening tips and information.

Book of the Month

Growing With Gardening: A Twelve-Month Guide for Therapy, Recreation, and Education by: Bibby Moore

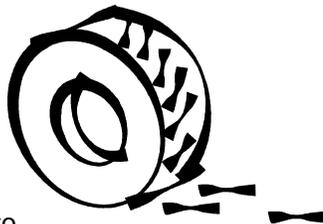
Step-by-step guidance in planning a year-round horticultural program for therapy, recreation, or education. Developed under the auspices of the North Carolina Botanical Garden, it features more than 250 activities, organized by month, ranging from designing a raised plant bed and building a wheelchair-accessible garden to constructing a plant press and creating crafts from natural plant materials. More than 200 illustrations complement the clear, concise text.

Publisher UNC Press
Pub. Date May 1, 1989
ISBN 0807842427

Around B.C.

TIRE RECYCLING IN BC

Western Rubber Products/Pacific Shredding has ceased accepting tires until further notice effective December 10, 2005. This turn of events has serious implications for municipal and regional districts that have relied on these organizations to divert scrap tires.



In 2003 the BC Government asked industry to take over administration of the BC Scrap Tire Stewardship Program. The industry has agreed, but transition has been delayed a number of times by the Government - apparently their target transition date is now Jan 1, 2007.

Some interim relief funding has been provided (the province funnels part of the tire levy to a Sustainable Environment Fund for other programs), but the overall effect of the delay has been hardship and uncertainty for BC's scrap tire processors - particularly Western Rubber, who process more than 80% of BC's scrap tires.

"Another issue is that the bulk of Western Rubber's products are sold to US markets, so they've been hammered by the strong appreciation of the Canadian dollar." states Bill McIntosh, Principal, CLEAN COMMUNICATION

Further Note: The Ministry of Environment has issued an addendum to the Intentions Paper on Adding a Schedule for Tires to the Recycling Regulation. The addendum addresses the Ministry's proposal to add a retailer registration requirement to the proposed schedule for tires.

Copies of the addendum, and the Intentions Paper, can be downloaded from the Ministry's web site at <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/ips/recreg/index.html>.

The deadline for submissions on the addendum is January 30th, 2006.

ATTENTION

Are you interested in joining our e-mail hotline to be notified of upcoming events and/or volunteer opportunities? Contact us at events@reaps.org or volunteer@reaps.org respectively.

Would you like to submit an article for the newsletter or suggest articles? Contact us at newsletter@reaps.org.

Around the World

Microsoft and Other Companies Join Effort to Phase-out PVC Plastics

Microsoft, Other Major Companies to Complete Phase-Out of PVC Plastic

Source: GreenBiz.com

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9, 2005 - Microsoft, along with Kaiser Permanente, Crabtree and Evelyn, and others, have joined the fast-growing ranks of major corporations demonstrating concern about the environmental health impacts of their products or packaging by phasing out PVC plastic (polyvinyl chloride or vinyl). Hazardous chemicals are used and released in this commonly used material, the second highest selling plastic in the world. Studies show links between chemicals created and used during the PVC lifecycle and cancer, reproductive and immune system damage, and asthma.

A coalition of 60 organizations coordinated by the [Center for Health, Environment & Justice](#) (CHEJ) worked with these companies to convince them to eliminate PVC packaging or products voluntarily, thereby helping build markets for safer substitutes. Health Care Without Harm works with healthcare institutions to promote safer substitutes to products such as PVC plastic in health care. The Healthy Building Network is leading the campaign to accelerate the transition away from PVC building materials in favor of safer, healthier alternatives.

cont'd on pg. 6

New PVC phase-out developments include the following:

- Microsoft announced that by the end of 2005 it will have completed its PVC packaging phase out, which has already resulted in the elimination of 361,000 pounds of PVC since July, 2005.
- Crabtree & Evelyn, an international manufacturer and retailer of personal care products, toiletries, home fragrance products and fine foods, has announced it will phase out PVC in its packaging. Crabtree & Evelyn has already begun to phase out PVC in existing and all new product lines, and is developing a complete PVC phase out timeline.
- Kaiser Permanente, the largest non-profit health care system in the U.S., has announced phasing out PVC wherever possible in millions of square feet in new construction to be built over the next decade. Kaiser vendors have developed PVC-free wall protection products and PVC-free carpeting.

Other recent PVC phase-out announcements include the following:

- Catholic Healthcare West, a healthcare system with 40 hospitals, announced on Nov. 21, 2005, it awarded a five year, \$70 million contract to B.Braun to supply CHW with PVC-free and DEHP-free IV systems.
- HP announced on Nov. 1, 2005 that it plans to eliminate its remaining uses of PVC as safer alternatives are available. The company has removed PVC from all external case parts. In correspondence with HP, they noted that they will be out of all PVC packaging in two months. The Computer Take Back Campaign has worked with HP and other electronic companies to replace PVC and other harmful materials of concern with safer alternatives.
- Wal-Mart announced on Oct. 24, 2005, it will phase out PVC in its private label packaging over the next two years. Environmental health advocates welcomed Wal-Mart's PVC phase out however stressed it's only a small step, and the company needs to address major outstanding environmental and labor concerns.
- Firestone Building Products Company, the world's largest manufacturer of commercial roofing, closed down their PVC line in late 2005 in favor of safer materials. This represents some six thousand tons of PVC production annually.
- Shaw Industries Inc. ran its last production of PVC carpet backing at the beginning of 2005, replacing it with EcoWorx, a cradle-to-cradle

product that can be sustainably recycled, has less embodied energy than PVC carpet tiles, and maintains equal or greater performance.

- Johnson & Johnson announced it has set a goal to eliminate PVC in their primary packaging, and is actively engaged with suppliers to identify alternatives to replace existing PVC packaging and avoid PVC use in future products.

A New Multi-Industry Trend

These companies join the ranks of other innovators who have already moved to phase out PVC including Adidas, Aveda, Bath and Body Works, the Body Shop, Gerber, Honda, Ikea, Lego Systems, Nike, Samsung, SC Johnson, Shaw Carpet, Toyota, Victoria's Secret, Volkswagen, and Volvo, among others. They are part of a broader economic trend in which US businesses are increasingly incorporating safer, sustainable materials into their operations.

"We are seeing a new trend: major corporations are phasing out PVC and switching to safer and healthier consumer products," said Lois Gibbs, the housewife-turned-activist who led the community effort to relocate hundreds of families away from the infamous Love Canal toxic waste site, and who went on to found CHEJ. "We applaud Microsoft and other innovative companies who recognize that safeguarding our health is not only the right thing to do, but also makes good business sense. Consumers need to support companies that have demonstrated commitments to safer products. Parents should remember the adage 'bad news comes in threes,' and avoid buying PVC products which are marked with a "3" or 3" in the recycle symbol this holiday season.

The national report *PVC: Bad News Come in Threes*, released last year by CHEJ, the Environmental Health Strategy Center, and the national BE SAFE coalition, is available for download in PDF format online.

THE HIDDEN COST OF CHRISTMAS

The Holiday Season is a time for all to enjoy the presence of families and friends and to consider and reflect on what they possess. The Australian Conservation Foundation is urging everyone to put some consideration in for the environment as well. In its recently released report "The Hidden Cost of Christmas", the organization calculates the environmental impact of spending on books, clothes, alcohol, electrical appliances and lollies during the festive season. For the full report, visit http://www.acfonline.org.au/uploads/res_Xmascost.pdf



Cree Village Ecolodge: An Eco-Friendly Inn

The Cree Village Ecolodge has become a northern Canadian tourist destination for those seeking a unique look at the Cree culture as well as an environmental setting indoors and out. By Katherine McIntyre

Cree Village Ecolodge, referred to as Canada's most environmentally friendly inn that is accessible only by water and built at the edge of the sub Arctic, has become a northern Canadian tourist destination. Managed by the MoCreebec Council of the Cree Nation of Moose Factory Island, it offers visitors a rare example of Cree culture.

Inspiration for the project came through a steering committee of the Council spearheaded by Chief Randy Kapashesit, chief of the MoCreebec Council of the Cree Nation. The committee members recognized that to attract tourists to the island, they needed adequate accommodations. Project manager, Rick McLeod of MacLeod Farley and Associates (New Liskeard, Ontario), who specializes in developing as well as finding provincial and federal funds for northern projects, pointed the committee in the right direction. He suggested that they target their market, to the fastest growing tourism segment, the 'ecotourist.' With this in mind, the concept of a completely eco-friendly building reflecting the history and values of the Cree evolved.

Architect Clive Levitt of Toronto, who had worked on other northern projects, met with the committee many times to establish a basic plan. This plan would incorporate their concepts with concepts that would also work both architecturally and economically in the region. Through a consensus of opinions it was agreed that: the building would be a gathering place for the community and a unique tourist destination; it would incorporate as many green features as considered economically possible; the impact on the natural surroundings should be negligible; materials would have minimal environmental impact; low maintenance finishes, no off gassing and require low embodied energy; and finally, appliances and mechanical systems should be low maintenance.

The resulting design includes the focal point of the lodge, a soaring 'Shabatwon' or Great Hall, the reception area, 20 guest rooms on two floors with stair access, and a kitchen component. David Billinkoff of Billinkoff Management (Winnipeg, Manitoba) won the building contract. Construction started in early September and lasted throughout the winter.

The towering Shabatwon, overlooking the ever changing waters of the Moose River, is a 21st century version of

the Cree gathering place, where they would come to share stories, and celebrate the hunt. Traditionally it consisted of two teepees linked by a lean-to, and covered in deerskin or moss. Now the cathedra-like interior is cedar, framed by giant 48-foot poles of lodge-pole pine, mounted in place by an intricate hinge system designed by Keen Engineers of Toronto.

For a building on a site where the winter temperature falls below -40 degrees, water-based radiation heated by propane, is considered a more effective means of heat than forced air. A wood burning, masonry heater, based on a European model, built from local stone complete with imbedded fossils, radiates additional heat.

Comfortable guest rooms face a corridor that extends from the reception area to a bay window with its own view of the water. The rooms facing southwest are stepped back, so each has a corner window, providing natural ventilation. A large picture window with a magnificent river view maximizes the passive solar heat in winter, and a deep overhang shades these rooms from the summer sun.

During the development process, David Anderson of Anderson Group Architects (Plymouth, Minn.) joined the team as consultant for the interior. He paddled the river with Chief Randy Kapashesit as he says, "to get a feeling for the place." His sense of design combined with eco-friendly products and natural materials flows through the building.

The finished lodge features cedar walls or walls painted with low emission paints in soft blending colors. The sturdy furniture is natural-finished hickory trimmed with bark detail; the blinds are slatted birch. Light bulbs, in whimsical lampshades of recycled steel, are low-level florescent.

Natural products are used throughout the lodge including wool carpeting in the corridors and bedrooms. There are organic mattresses, pure wool blankets, and cotton sheets on the beds. Dispensers are supplied for the organic soaps and shampoos. According to the manager Greg Williams, the lodge employees maintain ecological principals by using biodegradable cleaning supplies tested for toxicity.

The Ecolodge opened in summer 2000. Today, visitors from around the globe come to hike, paddle, kayak, fish, snowshoe, cross-country ski and snowmobile, or to just escape from big city tension. They discover the best of the traditional Cree culture, as well as a comfortable bed and excellent meals, all wrapped up in the vast Canadian north in an ecologically friendly building and environment.

This article has been reprinted courtesy of [Environmental Design + Construction](#). It first appeared in the September/October issue of that publication.

R.E.A.P.S REPORT

The newsletter of the Recycling and Environmental Action Planning Society, (AKA R.E.A.P.S)

Box 444, Prince George, B.C. V2N 4S6

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Website: www.reaps.org e-mail: newsletter@reaps.org

The R.E.A.P.S Report is published six times a year, on the first of Jan., March, May, July, Sept., and Nov. of every year.

Articles, originals or reprinted with permission, are submitted by members and represent the opinions of the authors only, not necessarily those of the Society, Board, or members as a whole.

Deadline for submission is two weeks prior to publication date. Articles, suggestions for articles, or comments in general can be submitted to the R.E.A.P.S office garden@reaps.org

RECYCLING and ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLANNING SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone: _____

Annual Membership Fee:

- Individual (\$8.00)
- Family (\$15.00)
- Business (\$25.00)
- Student (\$5.00)
- Senior (\$5.00)

I'm interested in volunteering: Yes No

Things that I would like to take part in are:

- School presentations
- Master Composter Program
- Spring Plant Sale
- General Garden Work
- Information Booths
- Fundraiser Events
- Public Workshops and Presentations
- Board of Directors

Date: _____

Cheque payable to:
R.E.A.P.S.

Box 444 Prince George, B.C. V2L 4S6

RECYCLE CRAFT CORNER

NEED: glass jar old crayons (bright colours)

scissors ribbon

aluminum foil

DIRECTIONS:

1/ Break 2 -3 colours of crayons into small pieces. A larger jar requires more crayons.

2/ Tear off square piece of aluminum foil. Place the foil outside in hot direct sunlight. Sprinkle crayons on the foil.

3/ The crayons will melt quickly, so be ready with jar. Do not wait till the crayons are completely melted or they will blend together to make a muddy colour.



4/ When they have melted, but still lumpy, roll the jar around in the middle of the melted crayons to coat it. When you are happy with the design on the jar, take it to a cool place. The crayons will harden almost immediately.

5/ Tie a bow around the neck of the jar.

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY

5 "The Future of Food" @ Artspace above Books n' Co. 7 p.m.

FEBRUARY

4 REAPS AGM @ Northern Interior Health Unit

MARCH

21 World Forestry
22 World Water Day

APRIL

Recycle Craft Afternoons begin
16-22 Earth Week
22 3rd Annual E-Waste Collection
22 Earth Day Celebrations

MAY

1 Compost Demo. Garden opens for season
27 REAPS Plant Sale 10 – 2 p.m.
27 Composter Building Workshop @ 3 p.m.