

REAPS



REPORT

Hotline 250-561-7327

March 2007

COMING EVENTS

MARCH

- 21 World Forest Day
- 22 World Water Day

APRIL

- 22 Earth Day
- 22-28 Earth Week
- 29 City Wide Spring Clean Up

MAY

- 1 Compost Demo. Garden opens for the season
- 26 REAPS Annual Plant Sale 10 a.m.—2 p.m.

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PRINCE GEORGE SCORES BIG AT 'WINTERLIGHTS'

Prince George won five stars in their population category as well as the award for the best 'on site' community display at the 2006 edition of the National Winterlights Celebrations Symposium and Awards Ceremony. Prince George Winterlights committee chair, Trudy Swaan, attended the symposium and awards banquet in February in Ottawa, Ontario.



"I was so proud to be there to represent our community and it was so exciting to network with other communities and share our successes and see how others do it in other parts of Canada." says Trudy Swaan, Prince George Winterlights Committee Chair. "It is in winter when Prince George truly comes alive, through the excitement of our winter sports, festivals and cultural events enjoyed against a background of white and lights sparkling throughout."

The City of Prince George competed nationally against other communities including the City of Niagara Falls, ON; City of Brampton, ON; Halifax Regional Municipality, Nova Scotia; City of Kelowna, BC; City of Oshawa, ON and City of Vaughan, ON in the 50,000 plus population category.

Now into its sixth edition, Winterlights Celebrations is the winter edition of the popular Communities in Bloom Program. During December, Prince George hosted trained volunteer judges that evaluated our

community in Visual Presentation, Festive Season Celebrations, Winter Pleasures, Good Will Programs and Tourism & Promotion.

WinterLights Celebrations fosters civic pride, neighborhood celebrations and winter pleasures through community involvement and the challenge of a national competition.

2007 REAPS MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW DUE

- if interested in receiving newsletter by e-mail STATE on your renewal form found on back page or e-mail garden@reaps.org

R.E.A.P.S. NEWS

Web Pick of the Month

<http://www.onedayvancouver.ca/about.php>

Connects you to information and resources about sustainable living and the small steps we can take to help. It focuses on Vancouver, but the information can be applied to where ever we live.



Book of the Month

Gardening with Heirloom Seeds

Tried-and-True Flowers, Fruits, and Vegetables for a New Generation by: *Lynn Coulter*

ISBN 0-8078-5680-0

Heirloom seeds are more than the promise of next summer's crookneck squash or jewel-colored zinnias. They're living antiques handed down from one generation to the next, a rich inheritance of flavor and beauty from long ago and, often, far away.

REAPS - 2006 Stats

Our programs, through the schools and community outreach continue to be well received and in demand. We had a very diverse and busy year. Some of our accomplishments are listed below.

- 2496 kg of compostables collected
- 3110 visitors to the garden
- 997 hotline calls
- 190 school presentations
- 155 workshops offered
- 100th issue of CASTINGS school newsletter was produced

Welcome the 2007 executive board :

President: James Spankie

V.- President: Paul Sanborn

Secretary: Bev Martin

Treasurer: Erica Drew

Director: Jeff Ollis

Director: Elizabeth MacIssac

Program Manager: Terri McClymont

VOLUNTEER

OPPORTUNITIES

The contribution from volunteers are fundamental part to every community. Exciting opportunities are available with REAPS, join others in promoting the 3Rs and providing Environmental Education in our community.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR— responsible for newsletter that is published 6 times a year. Use your creative writing skills to reach our members. Approx. 4-6 hours every 2 months.

DUMPY THE OVERFED LANDFILL— is REAPS mascot which attends school presentations and community events. Approx. 1.5 hours a month.

GARDEN HELPERS— end of April volunteers will be needed at the Compost Demo. Garden to assist with spring cleanup, preparing for the plant sale and planting the vegetable gardens.

DISPLAY BOOTH ASSISTANTS—volunteers needed for Pine Centre Mall display on April 20th.

Interested in one of the above, contact Terri at 561-7327 or e-mail volunteer@reaps.org

PARTNERING FOR OVER 12 YEARS

For the past 12 years REAPS has partnered with the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George (RDFFG) to provide waste reduction / education services throughout the community and in schools, operate the Compost Demonstration Garden and deliver home composting support. We are very pleased that once again the RDFFG Board has approved the negotiation of a 3 year contract with REAPS. This means that, once this contract is in place, REAPS will be ensured of operational funds to continue its community and regional based environmental programs for three more years. This allows us to do long term planning and programming which will benefit the residents and communities in the Regional District.

We would like to thank the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George for their confidence in our program deliver and their continued support. Thanks also need to go to all our volunteers, board members and community supporters and most of all our Program Manager, Terri McClymont who has been the backbone of our programs.

LOCAL NEWS

WASTE STUDY

In May 2006, the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George Board approved the undertaking of a Waste Characterization Study at the Foothills landfill facility. This study was conducted last month (February 2007) at the landfill. The purpose of the study was to detail the composition of the waste stream which will provide valuable information regarding the effectiveness of existing waste reduction programs including the multi-material recycling systems (grey bins) and products included in the provincial Extended Producer Responsibility Regulation (beverage containers, tires, oil and car and rechargeable batteries). Once the final report has been received it will be useful in identifying new waste reduction initiatives.

SPRING CLEAN UP on EARTH DAY

Celebrated every April 22nd, Earth Day is the largest, most celebrated environmental event worldwide. Earth Day provides the opportunity for everyone to get involved in positive actions and results. This year from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm Prince George residents will be taking part in the annual Spring Clean Up. The activities include picking up litter from neighbourhood parks, schoolyards, boulevards, and along trails and streets.

Everyone is invited to participate. To register and receive garbage bags and gloves visit the City's website at www.city.pg.bc.ca and click on the Spring Clean Up logo, or call 561-7600 to register over the phone.

Last year Prince George residents picked up over 18,980 kilograms of garbage from city streets, parks and trails. This year get together with your neighbours, favorite club members, church organization, or work colleagues and help pick up litter on April 22nd.

LOCAL THRIFT STORES - Providing quality items with a 2nd chance!

Several non-profit groups run thrift stores in Prince George. They are another way to keep usable items out of the landfill while providing a service to the community.

Bibles for Missions. 1210 - 3rd Avenue. Phone: 564-3345. Monday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Hospital Auxiliary. 277 George Street. Phone: 564-7707. Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saint Vincent de Paul. 1180 - 3rd Avenue. Phone: 562-5136. Monday to Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.;

Thursday to Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Salvation Army. 1905 Victoria Street. Phone: 563-7475. Monday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. If possible phone ahead before bringing in items.

Second Chance Thrift Store & Quality Rags. 555 George Street. Phone: 564-8644.

Hospice Resale Store 3051 McGill Cres. Phone: 964-1505 Saturday to Wednesday 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Thursday and Friday 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM - SEEKING LOCAL CULTURAL GROUP

CIB is seeking interest from a local cultural group(s) that would be interested in creating an International demonstration garden in one of the plots at the Community Gardens on Milburn Street. The garden would preserve their cultural history through an edible horticultural display. The garden would highlight their heritage through the planting of vegetables which would be used to educate, feed and help bridge communities within Prince George.

REAPS would provide sponsorship of the garden plot rental, seeds and compost.

If interested and for more information contact Terri at 561-7327 or garden@reaps.org.



AROUND BC

INDUSTRY GETS BEHIND THE WHEEL

After 16 years BC's Scrap Tire Recycling Program will shift from a government led program to an industry run program on January 01, 2007 called the Tire Stewardship BC (TSBC)

Tire Stewardship BC is a not for profit organization formed to manage the scrap tire recycling program on behalf of tire retailers in the province. Consumers will continue to pay an eco-fee on new tires and will be able to return used tires for recycling and further processing. An increase from \$3 to \$4 per tire will be applied when consumer pur-

chase new tires. The revenue generated by TSBC will be used exclusively to support tire collection and recycling.

Additional highlights of this new program include:

- an R&D program focused on market development to ensure environmentally effi-



cient and economically viable markets for products from scrap tires.

- A public education program to communicate the benefits of reduction, reuse and recycling, along with the specific tire-related benefits associated with improved vehicle and tire maintenance.
- A stockpile clean-up program to ensure that stockpiles are remediated.

Don't let 'em go to waste—Milk Containers Now Recyclable.

This voluntary milk container recycling program is delivered to you by the dairy industry effective January 8, 2007 in Prince George. Services are provided by Encorp Pacific (Canada), the leader in environmental stewardship programs. Encorp, manager of the successful Return-It system for all beverage containers, is dedicated to providing recycling programs that recycle items in our communities into viable products, thus keeping them out of our landfills.

All empty milk, cream, and milk substitute (soy & rice) beverage containers (plastic, cartons, and

jugs) are included in this voluntary industry-run program. Cartons include both polycoated and paper board containers like tetra packs or aseptics and gable top cartons. Containers need to be CAPLESS, CLEANED and CRUSHED.

Return-it Centres:

BBK Bottle Depot 2629 Vance Rd.

Nechako Bottle Depot 1922-1st Ave.

Hart Return-It Centre 6665 Hart Hwy.



AROUND THE WORLD

Dell Launches 'Plant A Tree For Me' Campaign

SOURCE: Reprinted with permission from GreenBiz.com: The Resource Center on Business, the Environment, and the Bottom Line (www.GreenBiz.com). © Green Business Network. All rights reserved.

LAS VEGAS, Jan. 10, 2007 — Dell Computer has announced a global carbon-neutral initiative that plants trees for customers to offset the carbon impact of electricity required to power their systems.

"The customer experience starts with receiving the best value and continues with the knowledge that we are working with our customers to protect the environment throughout the life of their system," said company chairman Michael Dell at the Consumer Electronics Show here. "Programs like 'Plant a Tree for Me' and our global recycling efforts empower our customers to participate with us in making a difference. It is our hope that other companies in our industry will join us to improve the environment that we all share."

Dell says it is the first global tech-

nology company to offer customers the opportunity to offset the emissions associated with the electricity used to power their computers through its 'Plant a Tree for Me' program. Dell is partnering with The Conservation Fund and Carbonfund.org, nonprofit organizations that will use the funds to plant trees in sustainably managed forests, absorbing carbon dioxide released in the atmosphere from generated electricity. The company said that 100 percent of the donations received by the "Plant a Tree for Me" program will be used by partners to facilitate planting trees.

A customer donation of \$2 for a notebook and \$6 for a desktop will go toward the planting of trees which will absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, offsetting the equivalent emissions resulting from the production of electricity used

during the average three-year use of a computer.

The program is available now to Dell's U.S. consumer customers making new computer purchases. It will be available to any U.S. consumer for any brand of computer in February and available to global consumers in April.

Dell also launched a new Web site, www.dell.com/earth, which highlights its environmental responsibility programs. The site contains information on Dell's approach to environmental leadership, links to in-depth information on environmental programs and policies found throughout dell.com. The site also contains an "energy counter" that tracks the accumulated energy and carbon savings impact enabled by Energy Smart features on Dell products.

UN report says climate change man-made

The warning from a top panel of international scientists was blunt and dire: "warming of the climate system is unequivocal," the cause is "very likely" man-made, and the menace will "continue for centuries."

Authors of the 21-page report released Friday February 2nd by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change placed the onus on governments to stop prevaricating and take action.

The report and the scientists who wrote it called the document conservative. It used only peer reviewed published science and was edited by representatives of 113 governments that also had to agree to every word, including those opposed to measures like the Kyoto Protocol to limit greenhouse gas emissions.

Among other things, the report highlighted "increases in

global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and (a) rising global mean sea level."



It said man-made emissions of greenhouse gases can already be blamed for fewer cold days, hotter nights, killer heat waves, floods and heavy rains, devastating droughts and an increase in hurricane and tropical storm strength — particularly in the Atlantic Ocean.

For full article go to:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20070202.wclimate0202/BNSStory/International/home>

New Funding Sends Eco-Recycling on a Global Mission

SOURCE: Reprinted with permission from GreenBiz.com: The Resource Center on Business, the Environment, and the Bottom Line (www.GreenBiz.com). © Green Business Network. All rights reserved.

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. Feb 8, 2007 -- ECO2 Plastics, the eco-friendly recycling company that is changing the way plastics are recycled worldwide, today announced that it has raised \$10 million, for a total of \$13 million, and is ready to launch its recycling operations in California.

The company intends to use its financing to ramp up its recycling plant in Northern California to full-scale operation and begin development on a second plant in Southern California. ECO2 Plastics longer-term plan is to own and operate plastic recycling plants worldwide. Their proprietary technology gives them the ability to produce high-quality recycled plastic flake at a low cost, while minimizing environmental impact.

"With its unique technology, strong management team, compelling business model, and commitment to revolutionizing recycling, ECO2 Plastics is an outstanding addition to Roaring Fork's portfolio of investments," said Eugene McColley, co-founder of Roaring Fork Capital Management, one of ECO2's investors. "We see tremendous potential for ECO2 Plastics and are excited to play an important role through its

next stage of growth."

ECO2's typical recycling plant can produce 9,000 lbs. of clean plastic flake per hour. A similarly sized water-based plant consumes up to 4,500 gallons of



water per hour, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, then disposes the water, chemical contaminants, paper and plastic residue back into the environment. ECO2 uses no water and delivers the same high quality recycled plastic flake without the waste or chemicals found in existing water-based processes.

"ECO2's goal is to establish its clean technology as the standard for all plastics recycling in the United States and ultimately worldwide," said Rod

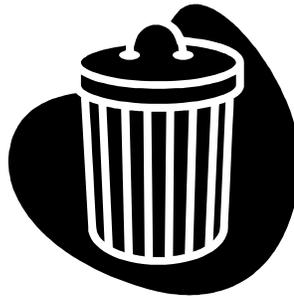
Rougelot, CEO of ECO2 Plastics. "With this Financing we have a strong balance sheet and an aggressive growth plan that will drive the Company through its next stage of growth. We believe that 2007 will be the year that plastic recycling truly exhibits its potential through fiscally and environmentally sound operating practices."

ECO2's patented and patent-pending recycling process enables the Company to be the lowest-cost producer of recycled plastic flake, affording it the highest profit margins. The Financing, combined with ECO2's higher profit margin per pound, positions the Company to grow rapidly, invest in the state-of-the-art equipment, and ride out commodity market cycles, even in volatile market conditions.

"As the only recycling solution that does not use water or pour harmful pollutants down the drain, ECO2 Plastics has the technology to change the way plastic is recycled worldwide," said Lawrence A. Krause, Principal of KW Securities Corporation. "We are pleased to have the opportunity to deepen our financial and business relationship with the Company."

Waste to Energy Facility

Edmonton will see a \$29 million injection from Alberta's Energy Innovation Fund to help design and build a facility to convert municipal waste into electricity. Building and operating the facility is the third and final phase of a project led by the City of Edmonton's Waste Management Branch and Alberta Energy Research Institute. The facility will be used to evaluate the performance of gasification technologies using different feedstocks and to demonstrate the commercial viability of the optimized system.



Nearing 60% Waste Diversion

Just four months after a regional waste diversion program was introduced to more than 130,000 households in Pickering, Ajax, Whitby and Oshawa, Ontario, these four municipalities have surpassed the region's residential target of 50% curbside waste diversion and are approaching Ontario's provincial 60% diversion target. This is a vast improvement over the 31% average for 2005.

The increase in waste diversion is primarily attributed to the implementation of the new Green Bin food waste composting program, weekly Blue Box recycling and every other week garbage collection service.

Source: Composting Council of Canada

GARDENING WITH PETE

STARTING SEEDS

I would like to share how I start the plants and point out a few cautions you may want to take.

You can buy a commercial starting mix or you can mix your own if you plan to use a lot. I make a mixture of 1 gal of sifted compost, 1 gal of sand, 1 gal of sifted year-old manure, 1 gal of sifted peat moss, 1 gal of vermiculite or perlite. To this I throw in a few tablespoons each of bloodmeal, bonemeal, kelpmeal, dolomite lime, and wood ashes. I don't worry about the exact measurements. The aim is to have a light, well-drained starting mix, which holds moisture without getting soggy.

I use commercial "cell-packs" (1201's) to start my plants but you can use any container about 2" deep with good drainage holes in the bottom. Fill the containers to the top and tamp them down so they are about ¼ to ½" from the top. Sprinkle the seeds on this firm surface and cover them with starter mix no more than three times the thickness of the seed. Read the seed package instructions, as some seeds do not germinate well if they are covered! As soon as you have the container planted, label it!!



Then I move the planted containers to my soaking tray which has 1 ½" of water in it and soak it for 2 hours or so. I find bottom watering gives me much healthier plants. When they are drained well, move them to a warm place with constant heat around 70-75F (20-22C) as most seeds need constant warmth to germinate. I have a heat cable, which keeps them at this temperature. Once again, read the package as a few prefer cooler temperatures at night. Other plants prefer darkness for germination so you can cover the container with a small sheet of cardboard.

The greatest problem with starting seeds is the damp-off fungus.

As soon as the seeds begin to germinate, give them as much light as you can or they will grow tall and leggy. If you can't give them 12-14 hours of bright light per day, you can invest in a fluorescent fixture or lower the temperature to give them more stocky growth.

The first set of leaves to come up are called "seed leaves". These will eventually turn yellow and die so don't worry! When the plants get their first or second set of "true leaves", it is time to transplant them into larger containers. Remember, lots of light, not too damp, and lots of air circulation around the little ones!

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call at 968-4334.

SPROUTING...

With the days getting longer, I'm sure there are thousands of little plants sprouting up on windowsills and under grow lights from Prince George to Alberta.

As soon as the new plants sprout, be sure to remove any plastic or glass covers and get them to as bright place as possible. If you have a bright South window, you may manage with that. If not, it is best to use a fluorescent light. The ideal light situation is about 14 hours per day but don't forget to turn them off as plants do best with a 6 to 8 hour dark period. A low priced timer is the easiest way to go. It can be set to turn on around 4:30pm and off at 10:30pm. The lights will give the extra 6 hours of light we need at this time of year. I have found that you can use one "regular" tube and one "cool white" tube in a fluorescent fixture instead of the "grow lights". You get the same light spectrum at a much cheaper cost.

When the plants are small, the amount of water is crucial to the little ones. As I mentioned last week, I prefer to bottom water as they get a more even soaking and there is no chance of ripping the little seedlings out of the soil with a sudden gush from the watering can.

Let the soil become quite dry between waterings to encourage good root growth. Remember, roots need air as well as water or they will rot!

For the first few weeks, the plants need little if any fertilizer or you will push them on to tall leggy growth. For the next while, I use half-strength fish/seaweed mix. This can be mixed in the "soaking water" if you bottom water. Others use a fine watering can or a sprayer for "foliar feeding" as the leaves can take in nutrients as well as the roots. If you wet the leaves, don't leave the plants in the hot sun until they are well dried or you will have burned leaves. Once again, try to water in the morning so the little plants don't go to bed wet!!

If you do use lights, the top of the plants should be no more than 2 to 4 inches below the lights or they will reach for the lights and become leggy. Remember to rotate the containers every few days. Under lights, the plants directly below the bulbs will get the strongest light. On the windowsill, turn the container every few days so the plants don't become lop-sided.

If your plants become tall and leggy, you have to find them more light and/or put them in a cooler place to slow down their growth until the days become longer. In any case, try to have the plants cooler at night (60F or 15C) as they will have much stockier growth.

By now, it is good to have the following planted: ageratum, begonia, celery, celeriac, columbine, dianthus, dusty miller, leeks, lobelia, nicotiana, pansy and violas, parsley, peppers, petunias, snapdragons, tomatoes, rosemary and thyme.

RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLANNING SOCIETY

Mailing address:
PO Box 444, Prince George, BC V2L 4S6

Compost Garden and Office Location:
1950 Gorse Street

Phone: 250-561-7327
Fax: 250-561-7324

Recycling and Environmental Action Planning Society,

(AKA R.E.A.P.S)

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.

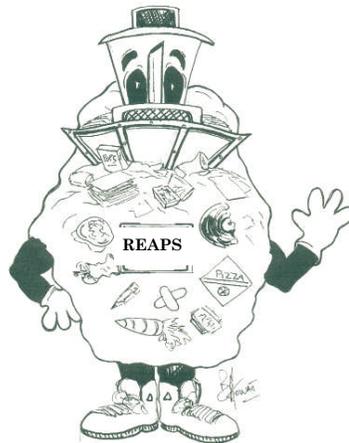
Articles, originals or reprinted with permission, are submitted by members and represent the opinions of the authors only, not necessarily those of the Society, Board, or members as a whole.

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

Dumpy's tip of the month:

CHANGE YOUR SHOWERHEAD

Take one day this week to switch your shower heads to low-flow ones. It is a one-time effort that pays off for years to come. Heating water requires a lot of energy and therefore money. A family of three that showers daily can save \$200 per year by making the switch.



RECYCLE CRAFT CORNER

Easter Baskets

What You Need

- 1 strawberry basket
- Pipecleaners for handle, optional
- Colored paper or ribbon strips
- Scissors
- To fill basket: 'grass', shredded paper, etc.



How To Make It

1. Weave strips of paper or ribbon in and out of the holes in the basket.
2. Make the handle out of pipecleaners, if desired.
3. Fill with some Easter 'grass' or shredded paper, then add some small goodies.

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

MEMBERSHIPS DUE JANUARY 1ST