

REAPS



REPORT

Hotline 250-561-7327

September 2006

COMING EVENTS

- Sept (every Saturday) Farmers Market @
Wilson Square 8:30 a.m.—2 p.m.
- Sept 6 & 9 Build Your Own Vermicom poster or Backyard Composter @ Compost Demo. Garden @ 2 p.m.
- Sept 8 & 9 BC Communities in Bloom Provincial Awards & Conference
- Sept 16 International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
- Sept 24 BC Rivers Day @ Fort George Park
- Nov 1st 3rd Annual Rotten Pumpkin Festival @ Exploration Place
- October is Waste Reduction Month**
- Oct 16 World Food Day
- Nov 18 REAPS Annual Recycle Toy

2006 BC Communities in Bloom Awards

The City of Prince George is pleased to announce that it has been chosen to host the 2006 BC Communities in Bloom Awards & Conference scheduled for September 8th & 9th at the Coast Inn of the North.

The event will feature seminars, keynote speakers and the distribution of Provincial Community In Bloom Awards.

The Communities in Bloom Host Committee is pleased to announce that renowned horticulturist, entrepreneur, best selling author and syndicated gardening columnist Brian Minter

will be the keynote speaker at the event.

“The weekend will bring together competition participants from around British Columbia to celebrate successful community gardening across the Province,” says Anne Martin, Chair of the Prince George Communities in Bloom Committee. “The collective efforts of volunteer groups, working with municipal leaders and financial partners, are transforming the appearance of communities, helping to beautify them and fostering civic pride. We look forward to welcoming the delegates and sharing in-

formation and ideas about improving the quality of life in our communities.”

Additional information on the event’s activities will be made available as they are confirmed.

For conference information, to register or to get contact information please contact the City of Prince George by calling 561-7600 or visit the City’s website at www.city.pg.bc.ca and click on the Communities in Bloom logo.



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Gardening with Pete

If at any time of the year you have a bare patch of ground in your garden and don’t intend to sow another crop there, you might try planting a “green manure” crop to help improve the soil. This is a crop where you give back to the soil rather than taking from it.

Any number of plants can be considered green manure crops – even weeds such as pigweed, or chickweed or others as long as they do not go to seed. The most common ones are alfalfa, buckwheat, peas and winter rye. Because alfalfa, buckwheat and peas are members of the “Legume” family, they have the added benefit of taking nitrogen from the air and adding it to the garden soil as they decompose.

Any green manure crop helps not only by adding nutrients and organic matter to the soil but also protects the soil from water and wind erosion. Bare soil is asking for trouble!

Green manures can be allowed to grow until just before they go to seed or they can be mowed a few times. The tops can be added to the compost pile

or they can be left on the ground to decompose in place. The word “green” manure comes from the practice of turning in the crop while it is still growing. Many folks use the tiller to turn under a green manure crop. For small areas, a hoe can be used to chop the tops and incorporate them into the soil.

At this time of year (fall), you can still plant a crop of “fall rye” which will germinate and grow a bit this fall before the frost comes and then grow more in the early spring so there is a lot of organic matter to turn under before planting next year’s garden. It is best to turn under any green manure crop a few weeks before you plan to plant your garden crops.

To plant the green manure crop, just prepare the soil as for any other crop, broadcast the seeds quite thickly and rake them into the soil. You can plant between two and four pounds of buckwheat, oats or rye per thousand square feet. Alfalfa and clover are usually broadcast at around ½ to 1 lb

per thousand square feet. There is no problem if you sow any green manure crop thicker and it has the benefit of choking out weeds if they have been a problem on that patch. You can spread a light layer of straw over them to help hold in the moisture and speed up germination if the soil seems dry.

If you plant one of the legume green manures, it is usually better to follow it with a crop that requires a lot of nitrogen. Lettuce, greens, cabbage or other leafy vegetables would be fine. If your leafy greens are bitter or if the fruiting plants such as tomatoes have great amounts of leaves and no fruit, you more than likely have too much nitrogen in that area already.

All this extra humus and organic matter turned into the soil gives better water retention, better drainage, nutrients for both the plants and soil organisms and is a great attraction for a gardeners favourite soil builder – worms! Try some green manures and your garden will reward you with better and healthier vegetables.

R.E.A.P.S. NEWS

Web Pick of the Month

The USDA Forest Service recently launched the new Celebrating Wildflowers web site.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/>

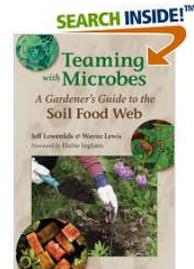
The web site includes modules including Wildflower News, Just for Kids, Coloring Pages, Teacher Resources, Pollinators, Native gardening, Wildflower Ethics, Invasive Plants and Wildflower Links; listings of wildflower events, wildflower viewing areas and Plant of the Week. Of particular interest is a module entitled "Beauty of it All" a series of in-depth articles exploring the remarkable adaptations of wildflowers to diverse environments and specialized habitats.

Book of the Month

Teaming with Microbes: A Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web

by [Jeff Lowenfels](#), [Wayne Lewis](#)

Discover how to create rich, nurturing, living soil—without resorting to harmful synthetic chemicals.



Product Care Stewardship Plan Public Consultation Meeting

REAPS to participating in the public consultation on product care stewardship.

The Recycling Regulation requires that Product Care's existing stewardship plans be amended, as needed, in order to comply with the regulation.

Product Care Association has scheduled a regional public consultation meeting in Prince George on **Tuesday September 5, 2006** noon – 3 pm Ramada Hotel 444 George Street

Interested individuals/parties should register by contacting Product Care by fax (604-592-2982) or via email [con-tact@productcare.org](mailto:contact@productcare.org)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The contribution from volunteers are fundamental part to in 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. 10 hours every 2 months.

DUMPY THE OVERFED LANDFILL— is REAPS mascot which attends school presentations and community events. Approx. 2 hours a month.

GARDEN GNOME— to assist with weeding, harvesting fruit, spring and fall clean up at the Compost Demonstration Garden. Approx. 4 hours a month April to October.

RECYCLE TOY DRIVE— assist with the sorting, packaging and delivering of items received Nov. 18, 2006

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

COMPOSTABLE BAGS FOR THE FALL

The City of Prince George is giving away compostable bags to residents for promotion of Fall composting of yard and garden wastes. These bags can be picked up from the REAPS Compost Demonstration Garden Monday to Sunday from 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Residents would be required to drop off the bags to the appropriate composting locations (Foothills Landfill, Vanway Transfer Station or Quinn Transfer Station). Bag and all can be tossed, residents do not have to remove the bags as with the typical garbage bag!

2006 Waste Reduction Week in Canada: October 17-23

Recycling Councils across Canada are gearing up for the 6th Annual Waste Reduction Week (WRW) which will once again have the theme of "Too Good to Waste". Since 2001, a coalition of non-government, not-for-profit environment groups, from each of the thirteen participating provincial and territorial jurisdictions have organized Waste Reduction Week in Canada. WRW aims to motivate Canadians by providing practical activities that contribute to the solutions to waste-free living. REAPS is hosting an School Waste

Reduction Challenge to promote the idea of reducing waste in schools. The challenge is open to all classrooms in School District 57 during the week of October 16-20, 2006! The classroom with the least amount of garbage during Waste Reduction week will receive **\$100.00!** Each classroom that takes on the 'Challenge' will receive a special "surprise". Get your containers ready! Register Now!

LOCAL NEWS

2006 Update on the Prince George Northern Sustainable Landscape Initiative by: Dr. Annie Booth

2006 has been both an exciting and challenging second year. In addition to support from the City of Prince George and MOT, we received three new grants. The Vancouver Foundation grant will allow converting the space in front of Studio 2880 into a second display garden. Work will begin in Spring 2007. Dollars from the Northwest Invasive Weed Council will allow new weed control trials (we are testing vinegar and the use of goats; donkeys were not terribly successful). Finally, a \$206,000 Green Municipal Fund grant will allow two more years of research. These funds are matching (every dollar a partner contributes can be matched by a grant dollar) and we are looking for additional partners and projects.

Unfortunately, we have had negative findings on some sites. Seeding on University Way and Massey Drive suffered almost complete failure. A new research partner has suggested that seeding in large, uncontrolled areas has poor success, so we will be trialing plants on these sites. University Way will again receive native

plants and Massey Drive will have new trials on weed suppressing perennials. One finding is that our green cover crop, fall rye, appears to have weed suppressing capabilities. Our planting on Highway 97 also had poor success. The cause is unknown, but this is a challenging site. We will be re-planting with hardier choices of plants and trees. All species of roses planted, however, have done very well, suggesting this is a useful choice for difficult sites.

The sustainable garden at the Bentley Centre at UNBC is blooming, literally, and demonstrates different plants that require less care. We encourage people to come see for themselves. A new test garden, which will be open to the public, is in progress at UNBC. Our ground cover trial beds have been re-located to this site and we can safely state that barren strawberry, ornamental strawberry, false strawberry and different ornamental thymes seem to take anything from poor soils to occasional drought. Others are faring less well, but will be given second chances.

Our in-laboratory salt tolerance trials have suggested certain species of roses and the common daylily survive exposure to salt and we will be installing test beds at the CN Centre. Salt applications of Prince George roads remains a challenge for city horticulturalists and we will be examining all our plantings for tolerance.

Public opinion work on sustainable landscaping will begin this fall. An early survey suggests that the public supports sustainable landscaping for environmental reasons on city properties. On private property appearance remains the biggest concern, but the second concern was environmental health, which might suggest concern over herbicide and pesticide use. This we will be following up.

The project owes its thanks to several partners and individuals, including REAPS, Mark Fercho and Cynthia Reberman at the City of Prince George, The Prince George Regional Corrections Centre and UNBC. We also owe the public thanks for bearing with a messy and experimental project.

SPARWOOD COMMITS TO BIODIESEL FOR CLEANER AIR

source: BC Environmental News @ http://www.gov.bc.ca/bvprd/bc/home.do?navId=NAV_ID_province

SPARWOOD – Sparwood is leading British Columbia in the use of alternative fuel by committing to service its municipally owned vehicles with locally produced biodiesel to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality in the community, Environment Minister Barry Penner announced today.

“Congratulations to the people of Sparwood for demonstrating leadership in protecting the environment and supporting a new local company – Agri Green Biodiesel,” said Penner. “This bio-diesel facility will improve air quality and reduce our footprint on the environment, while creating jobs at the same time, showing that looking after the environment can also be good for the economy, and vice versa.”

Sparwood will use a B40 biodiesel blend (40 per cent derived from renewable vegetable oils) produced by Agri Green Biodiesel to service 17 pieces of machin-

ery – graders, gravel trucks, loaders, backhoes and various other vehicles.

Biodiesel as a renewable fuel blend reduces greenhouse gas emissions and most air pollutants. It can be used either as a substitute for conventional diesel, or as a blend. In both its pure and blended forms, biodiesel reduces vehicle exhaust emissions, CO₂, particulate matter and carbon monoxide.

“Council sees the use of biodiesel as an excellent way to become more environmentally friendly and emit fewer pollutants into our air,” said Sparwood Mayor David Wilks. “We also hope to see the life of our vehicles extended, benefiting the taxpayers of Sparwood. We are pleased to be working with Environment Minister Barry Penner and hope that other communities will follow suit.”

“This is truly a good news story for the environment, for the town of Sparwood

and for an East Kootenay company that is at the forefront of ecologically friendly technology,” said East Kootenay MLA Bill Bennett.

Penner and Wilks toured the new \$400,000 Agri Green Biodiesel manufacturing facility, which opened this spring, produces 20,000 litres a month and employs three people.

“As a government, our objective is to support the development and commercialization of alternative energy. We want to lead the world in sustainable environmental management,” said Penner.

The B.C. government is supporting the development and use of biodiesel as a sustainable fuel alternative by removing the fuel tax to increase its market potential and has invested \$75,000 over the past three years in market research and development.



AROUND BC

Composting horse manure can be a 'win-win' situation

By David Clements Jul 19 2006 Langley Times - BC, Canada Google Alert

There are more horse farms in Langley than anywhere else in B.C., earning us the name "horse capital of B.C." Even people who are not "horse people" (like me) can appreciate the horses playfully decorating Langley's pastures. It is estimated that the horse industry brings in well over \$100 million for the local economy each year.

Our love affair with the horse goes back a long way. The Trojans were enthusiastic horsemen, and so more than willing to receive the "Trojan horse." My son Luke built a replica of this famous gift horse recently for a school project.

Horses have served in war from Attila the Hun to Alexander the Great. Even as late as 1943, the Cossacks stunned German tank forces by staging a lightning cavalry raid on the steppes of the Ukraine.

Horses have played many other roles in

our history — think about stage coaches, cowboys, the RCMP, rodeos, work horses, show jumping, horse races. The "horsepower" of your fossil-fuel powered vehicle hearkens back to a time when horses set the standard for transportation, and quite an environmentally-friendly standard.

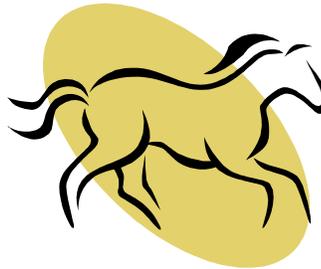
The large number of horse farms in Langley (about 1,000) does produce environmental challenges, because like us humans, horses are major consumers and also major waste producers.

The Langley Environmental Partners Society (LEPS) is developing a new program for horse farmers that will "turn

your 'problem' into 'black gold,'" as the brochure explains.

Jennifer Grenz, LEPS' agricultural stewardship co-ordinator, is an equestrian herself. She says that "the all-too-familiar growing mountain of manure seen on many horse properties is becoming less acceptable and we, as an industry, have been so tight-lipped about this issue for so long that little has been done."

However, on-farm composting can be a win-win solution for farmers and the environment. Grenz says that "many property owners are surprised just how easy it is to farm while using environmentally sound land management practices" and she is "excited to be able to help horse property owners make strides toward improving their manure management practices with on-site assistance that they can trust."



Plastic Recycling comes to Lower Mainland Regional District

PENTICTON - Full recycling of residential container plastics came to the City of Penticton and the rural Penticton area. After July 1st, 2006 all residents receiving residential recycling in these areas will be able to place out clean container plastics over 4 inches / 10 cm in size.

Container plastics make up a significant portion of household waste including yogurt containers, detergent bottles, shopping bags and condiment bottles. Clean plastics will be sorted and sold to make new products such as furniture and plastic lumber.

Beth Cavers, RDOS Solid Waste Management Coordinator, sees this as a major improvement to the curbside recycling program.

"Residents concerned about recycling have been clamouring for this for some time," enthuses Cavers. "We can take almost all clean plastic containers including plastic bags and those containers with no recycling number on them. We

unfortunately cannot take Styrofoam or items under 4 inches / 10 cm in size. As well we can't take hazardous material containers such as pesticide or motor oil bottles."

For those homes in the rural Penticton area, which includes West Bench, Naramata, Kaleden and Heritage Hills, all colours of glass will be collected separately in boxes that will be distributed to each home by the collection contractor. The glass boxes should be placed at the curb with residential blue bags. Residents should not place glass in blue bags after July 1st, as it



tends to break, contaminating the other recyclables.

As of July 1st, the contractor for garbage and recycling collection in the Rural Penticton area will switch to Waste Services Inc (WSI). WSI currently manages the City of Penticton's curbside garbage and recycling program. WSI has committed to maintaining the current pickup days for residents in this area but residents are cautioned that pickups may occur at different times. All residents should place out their materials by 7:00 am for pickup on their scheduled garbage and recycling day.

For more information on changes to the Regional District program, please contact the Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen at 490-4129; toll-free at 1-877-610-3737; email info@rdos.bc.ca; or visit the RDOS website at www.rdos.bc.ca.

AROUND THE WORLD

Public Doesn't Understand Global Warming

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.

Recently, the David Suzuki Foundation conducted a focus group about global warming to see where people are at in their understanding of this complex and challenging problem. The results? Let's just say they were disconcerting, to say the least, says Dr. Suzuki.

Have you ever been to a focus group? They're very odd. Often used in marketing research, these small selections of randomly chosen people are brought together as a sampling of public opinion to gauge how folks feel about a particular product or issue.

Recently, my foundation conducted a focus group about global warming to see where people are at in their understanding of this complex and challenging problem. The results? Let's just say they were disconcerting, to say the least.

Simply put, most people don't have a clue. The majority felt that global warming was a very important problem and they were quite concerned about it. But when pressed as to why it was a problem or what caused the problem, all heck broke loose.

Apparently, according to the average Joe, global warming is happening because we've created a hole in the ozone layer, allowing the sun's rays to enter the atmosphere and heat up the earth - or something like that. The cause of the problem is cars, or airplanes, or aerosol cans. No one really knows for sure.

This is really quite remarkable. I would have thought that such confused understandings of the issue would have been commonplace five or six years ago, but with global warming being in newspapers on practically

a daily basis this spring, on the front cover of magazines, in theatres (An Inconvenient Truth), and a hot political issue as well, surely people would get it by now.

Apparently I was wrong. People don't get it. This is a big problem, because if people don't get it, then they don't really care, so politicians and CEOs don't really care, and status quo rules the day. And blindly we march into the sunset.



But while science magazines are all talking about carbon sequestration and climate-forcing mechanisms, the average person is still trying to decipher the nature of the problem itself. True, few citizens need to understand the complicated nuances of atmospheric science or the various mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol, but people cannot care about things they do not understand. If our leaders are to take the issue seriously, the public must have at least a basic understanding of it.

So, to clarify - the ozone layer is a part of the atmosphere way up high that helps shield the earth from the sun's most harmful rays. A couple of dec-

ades ago, scientists realized that some of the chemicals we were using in our industries and homes were finding their way into the upper atmosphere, reacting with the ozone and destroying it. Scientists were concerned that if this continued, it would thin the vital protective layer, leading to increased skin cancers and crop damage. They sounded the alarm bell, the international community responded with the Montreal Protocol to phase out ozone-depleting substances, and today the ozone layer is gradually healing itself.

Global warming is a quite different phenomenon. Again, it's a human-made problem, but this time it's due to the heat-trapping gases we are putting into the atmosphere from our industries, cars and homes. These gases act like a blanket, keeping more heat near the earth's surface. More heat also means more energy in the atmosphere, which means more frequent or severe extreme weather events like droughts, storms and floods.

With each new piece of research, the expected effects of global warming become clearer, more urgent and more disturbing. Scientists say this will be one of the biggest challenges humanity will face this century. Right now we are not tackling the issue fast enough or direct enough to escape the most severe consequence.

So if you understand what global warming is, and what it isn't, please tell your friends. Please speak up and help ensure that we don't continue to grope blindly into the future, searching in the darkness for a light switch. Because at this rate, by the time we finally reach it, it may no longer work.

Fall Fix-its by Kaleena Ross

The worst way to start off the spring is by saying, "I should have taken care of that in the Fall!" Here are some quick fix-it tips to get you, your yard and your garden through the winter and into a healthy spring.

The Last of the Leaves: Promise yourself not to put away those rakes and leaf blowers before the last leaves fall. Even though grass may go into a "resting" period over the winter, it stills benefits from exposure to the sun. That final raking, no matter how excruciating it may be, will be worth it when your lawn comes back green, lush and perky in the spring. Another idea is to mulch the leaves onto the grass.

The Final Cut : One last cut to your lawn, not a buzz cut mind you, is a great idea. Cut 1/3 of the blade. Leave the clippings on your lawn.

Put away the tools: Being the gardening enthusiasts that you all are, it's just about time to put your tools away. But, before you do, it's important to look them all over and get them cleaned. Knock off all the crusted dirt

and get them all clean. Using a cloth, lightly coat the metal with vegetable oil and the wood with linseed oil. Thoroughly wipe them clean afterwards to avoid them getting sticky over the winter!

Don't forget about the hose! Disconnect it from the spigot and try to get all the water out, as water expands when it freezes. Any left over water in the hose will likely split it. Ideally, put your hose on a reel and store it indoors in a garage or shed. If you have no reel, hanging it on a hook or laying it on a bench is preferable to leaving it on the floor.

Bring it back in: Bring summer vacationing houseplants back indoors while the windows are still open. This will give them a chance to adapt to the house again. Check carefully for hitchhiking pests. Remember to bring in all your gardening accessories and decorations before the winter. Don't forget to clean your gardening tools before storing.

Clean up: Start fall clean-up in the flower beds, cutting back anything

that has finished blooming or is diseased. Mulch them with the leaves to protect from snow compaction.

Keepsakes: Photograph your gardens and containers for a record of the year's triumphs and frustrations. It will be a great inspiration for you for the spring.

Decontaminate: Dispose of any diseased or infested plant debris, to avoid overwintering the problem.

Compost! Fall is a great time to start composting! This is the perfect time for a final turn. Collect your leaves off your lawn and store them for use as a brown source next spring. They will be ideal for layering and the sticks strewn about the yard will be perfect for aeration. The leaves will provide you with a cover for your kitchen wastes.

Remember to follow the guidelines and to complete your own fall clean up checklist and you can expect to sail through to the spring without saying "I should have done that in the fall!"

Here's How to Make Your Halloween Green By: Christina Larabie

Aside from Christmas, I would say that Halloween is probably the holiday that produces the most garbage. Think about all those candy wrappers, disposable decorations, and trick-or-treat bags, not to mention the costumes themselves. Usually Halloween costumes are a one-time use item - you can't show up wearing the same costume two years in a row now can you? - or chances are they'll have out grown their costumes by the time October comes around again.

Faced with the challenge of coming up with a new costume each year, many people have resorted to buying their garb from the local box stores, which conveniently stock a wide variety. Most of the time these costumes are way over priced but nonetheless continue to be a huge commercial success for vendors. This is probably because these store-bought costumes are the only option for parents whose children are dead-set on being the latest DC comic character to hit the big screen. Today we have access to a plethora of novelty costumes and thanks to the box stores anyone can be Superman for the

day on Halloween.

You've probably guessed this was coming...the big "but". Ok here it is - these store-bought costumes are awesome for both adults and kids with high costume ambitions and a tolerance for the even higher cost of the product. Unfortunately, as in most cases, the financial cost is not the only one that we rake up by choosing a more convenient holiday solution. While we pay in money or charge to our credit cards, our environment fronts a much bigger bill from the manufacturing process and disposal of these costumes: "Many Halloween costumes available on today's market contain conventional toxic dyes that pollute waterways, and petroleum-based products that require oil drilling. The more people buy such products, the greater the pollution and depletion of natural resources (www.care2.com)."

Understandably, not everyone can be Martha Stewart-esque and hand sew their own costume and their kids' costumes every year. Nonetheless, even though everyone is really busy and still recovering

from the chaos of back-to-school by the time Halloween hits us, it's well worth the time to give the do-it-yourself (D.I.Y.) alternative a try. It sets a positive example for kids, can be a fun family activity or personal project and is a great way for children to channel their oozing creativity (the trick-or-treat candy works as a pretty good incentive too). Not to mention, making your own costumes it is a much more eco-friendly way to enjoy the end of October than rushing out to Wal-Mart to swoop up some outfits

To ensure that you have a truly original Halloween ensemble, try to incorporate recycled pieces in your costume. If you're not sure exactly how to go about putting together a particular costume, the internet is crawling with ideas. Basically, the main components to all D.I.Y. costumes are recycled cardboard boxes, clothes, and left over craft supplies. If you have access to any combination of these, the sky is the limit for your costume.



GIVE YOUR WORN-OUT SNEAKERS A FRESH START—THEY DESERVE IT!

by: Christine Larabie

Here at REAPS we offer a school presentation to classes called “Ellie the Elephant”. This program teaches children about how plastics are made and recycled into new products. One of the most popular points in the presentation, aside from the infamous goop making activity, is when we tell the group that most of them are wearing recycled plastic on their shoes (the Velcro straps in particular)! This epiphany is usually followed by an overwhelming chorus of the students’ Velcro straps being unfastened and then stuck back into place a few times over, as if the process confirms to the children that our claims are not unfounded and that this taken-for-granted shoe technology is indeed made from recycled plastic.

So far in my experience with this presentation, none of the children have asked us about what happens to this plastic once the shoes wear out, and to be quite honest, I hadn’t really given it much thought either – that is, until I found this message posted on the Prince George Free Cycle website at the end of May:

Recycle Your Tired Sneakers
We’ve found a good use for your crummy old sneakers. Unlikely as it may seem, Nike wants them.
The company’s Reuse-A-Shoe program collects worn-out athletic shoes, grinds them up, and ships them off to be used in surfacing athletic courts and playgrounds in underserved communities. It takes about 2,500 pairs of shoes

to build a tennis or basketball court, and 15 times that number for a running track or soccer pitch. Imagine what we could do if every Flybaby kept his or her family’s shoes out of the landfill. Check out Nike’s Web site for a list of shoe stores that accept donations
www.nikereuseashoe.com. All brands of footwear are welcome.
Or ship your cast-offs to: Nike Recycling Center, c/o Reuse-A-Shoe, 26755 S.W. 95th Avenue, Wilsonville, OR 97070. Talk about fancy footwork.

Looks like athletic shoes are not the end of the road for our plastics after all thanks to this outstanding waste reduction initiative.



According to their website, Nike started “Reuse-A-Shoe” in 1993 and as of today it has expanded internationally with programs in the U.K., Australia and Japan in addition to the American chapter. Although a Canadian chapter has not been established as of yet, Reuse-A-Shoe does accept mail-in donations to the address listed above, so essentially the program is accessible to everyone who wishes to take advantage of this great recycling opportunity.

Since its inception, donations of used athletic shoes from around the world to Reuse-A-Shoe have contributed to the

completion of over 170 sport surfaces. To do this, donated shoes are taken apart and divided into three groups: textile & leather uppers, midsoles, and outsoles (which are also combined with recycled manufacturing material). Each group is ground-up and used to create a specific type of playing surface.

Fabric from recycled uppers is used as padding underneath hardwood basketball floors.

Foam from recycled midsoles can be found in synthetic basketball courts, tennis courts and playground surfacing.

Rubber from recycled outsoles and manufacturing material is combined to make baseball and soccer fields, golf products, weight room flooring and running tracks.

According to its website, the Reuse-A-Shoe program helps, “to close the loop on the life cycle of literally millions of pairs of old, worn-out or otherwise unusable athletic shoe material”. And here I was thinking that the loop was already closed once the plastic re-entered the marketplace in shoes – what a waste that would be. In Prince George, even with our limited recycling facilities, we are currently able to divert 86% of household wastes from our landfill through recycling and composting - just think how much that number could rise if we all start to recycle our shoes on top of everything else!

RECYCLING FACTOIDS— Did you know?

1/ by recycling one tonne of paper you save:

- 17 trees
- 6953 gallons of water
- 463 gallons of oil
- 583 pounds of air pollution

2/ 70% of landfilled waste could be either re-used or recycled.

3/ Canadians produce approximately 7 million tonnes of organic waste each year. 2/3 of our household waste can be composted.



4/ Recycling one aluminum can saves the amount of energy to light one 100 watt bulb for 20 hours or run a TV for 3 hours.

5/ making one tonne of recycled paper uses only about 60% of the energy needed to make a tonne of virgin paper.

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)

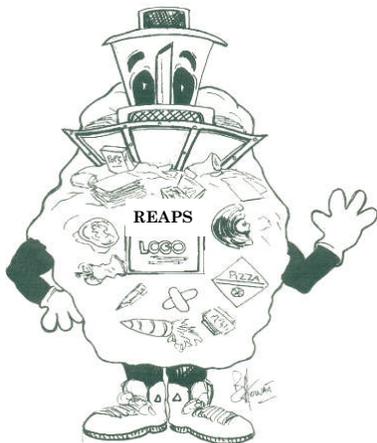
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Deadline for submission is two weeks prior to publication date. Articles, suggestions for articles, or comments in general can be submitted to the R.E.A.P.S office @ garden@reaps.org

Dumpy's tip of the month:

Re-use washed zip lock bags for sandwiches and snacks rather than using plastic wrap.



RECYCLE CRAFT CORNER

Bleach Bottle Halloween Cat

Instruction:

1. The large plastic bleach bottle is used for the base. Weigh it down with plaster of Paris or pebbles.

2. Cut the fabric softener or hand detergent bottle, as shown below, for the head. The dark area of the illustration below are the ears. Insert neck into base.

3. Spray paint. Add painted facial features. Decorate as desired.



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)

'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