



findingsolutions

David Suzuki Foundation

inside

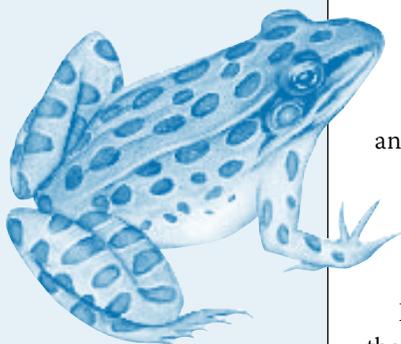
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SOLUTIONS ARE IN OUR NATURE

www.davidsuzuki.org



GEORGE SIMMONS, WESTSIDE STUDIO

Foundation teams up with powerWISE to save energy

The power to save energy is in your hands.

BY GERALD RICHARDSON

If you live in Ontario, you've probably already seen a lot more of David Suzuki than usual this summer.

Starting during the NHL playoffs, a series of television commercials and print ads starring Dr. Suzuki have been running across the province, encouraging people to reduce their energy consumption by replacing incandescent bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescents (CFLs), and by getting rid of old beer fridges that are real energy hogs.

The ads are the result of a partnership between the David Suzuki Foundation and powerWISE, which itself is a partnership between the Government of Ontario and participating local power utilities. PowerWISE's mandate is to reduce electricity consumption in Ontario.

Dr. Suzuki volunteered to do the ads because there's an urgent need to get Ontario – and all of Canada – onto a more sustainable path in terms of electricity. He was not paid for his part in the commercials.

“Crossing the country on our *If YOU were Prime Minister* tour really woke me up to how hungry people are for solutions,” Dr. Suzuki says. “I kept hearing ‘What can I do?’ over and over. I hope these ads will give people a starting point.”

Dr. Suzuki says he hopes the ads will encourage a culture of conservation that could be emulated across Canada. Every province in the country has a different energy portfolio. Some rely almost entirely on large-scale hydroelectric dams for electricity. Others are almost entirely dependent on fossil fuels like coal – which contribute to air pollution and global warming.

Half of Ontario's energy comes from nuclear power. Although nuclear power produces few heat-trapping greenhouse gases at the point of electricity generation, mining and processing the fuels and disposing of the radioactive waste are highly energy-intensive and unsus-

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We caught up with Vancouver realtor **Sayo Nickerson**, who recently became a donor to the David Suzuki Foundation.

What's your favourite experience in nature? Canoeing at my parents' property, "the Frog Pond." I can spend hours quietly looking at all the frogs, snakes, birds and beavers.

What inspired you to donate to the Foundation? I feel as if many of our clients want to help the environment but don't know how to go about it. Now we donate 10 per cent of revenues from every sale. We chose the David Suzuki Foundation because we felt your commitment to sustainability within a

generation will be an important challenge for the housing market.

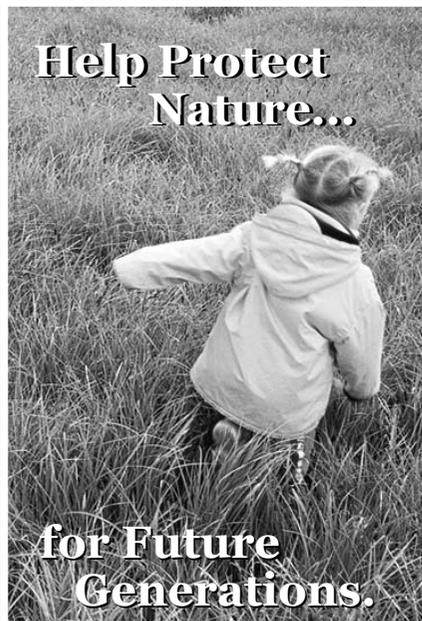
How has being a supporter changed your life? It has inspired us to keep the environment in mind in everything we do. Our clients are very excited that we are doing this and we find we are getting a lot of calls from like-minded people.

What is Canada's biggest environmental challenge? Education. Environmental protection and conservation need to be taught in schools and ingrained in our consciousness.



Sayo Nickerson

What would you do to protect the environment if you were Prime Minister? I would have the price of products reflect the true environmental cost of their production. 🌿



Have you considered leaving a gift in your will to the David Suzuki Foundation? Become part of the **Suzuki Society**—concerned individuals who are taking action through their wills to create a future that will make us all proud.

For more information, please contact Katie Loftus at 604 732 4228, 1 800 453 1533, ext. 277 or at kloftus@davidsuzuki.org.

memberswrite



WHOSE LINE IS IT ANYWAY?

Drying clothes on the line is a simple way to decrease energy usage, particularly on hot days when the pollution index is already high. People who hang their clothes outside get free use of wind and solar energy. Bacteria and other microorganisms in the clothes are killed naturally by UV radiation. Let's start a campaign for clotheslines. I bet drying clothes outside saves more energy than everybody changing light bulbs.

Heather Woodbeck

BETTER BUSINESS

Start lobbying business leaders and get them to push for federal regulations to help obligate their big companies to do their part and spend those dollars to comply and improve. Refocus on the biggest polluters, and stop

harping on politicians – let the business execs do that! It's time for those big polluters to pay back from their profits.

Martha Lewis

SHARK TALE

We need to stop the importation of all shark fins and body parts into Canada. It is devastating our oceans and we critically need these creatures.

Lydia Schaverien

TOPICAL TIPS

Here are some specific tips for other readers.

- **Reuse:** take back your hangers to the drycleaners.
- **Refuse:** stop all your unwanted mail and catalogues.
- **Renew:** try to think of another use for things.
- **Reconnect:** carpooling is a great way to catch up on the latest news, and if everyone took just one more passenger, traffic would be reduced.

Pamela Luck



Ontario's new legislation should help protect the woodland caribou.

ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

Ontario leads the way in protecting endangered species

BY JASON CURRAN

Future generations of Ontario wildlife lovers thank you. Because of the support from our donors, the David Suzuki Foundation joined a collection of environmental groups who pushed hard for a strong Endangered Species Act in Ontario. In May, the Ontario government passed the toughest endangered species legislation in Canada – tougher than any federal species-at-risk law.

“From an ecological perspective, the new law covers the critical bases,” says Rachel Plotkin, the Foundation’s biodiversity policy analyst. “Ontario is home to about 40 per cent of Canada’s endangered species, and the Act sets a high bar for their protection.”

Ontario is home to approximately 15,000 animal and plants species, but out-

dated legislation left the province with more than 200 endangered plants and animals. The new legislation is the first to combine mandatory habitat protection with a science-based approach to listing species for protection. It also requires the development of strategies to help species recover to healthy population levels.

Besides offering protection to species such as the woodland caribou and the spiny softshell turtle, the new legislation in Ontario could easily be modelled by other provinces looking to adequately protect their endangered plants and animals.

For an in-depth look into species at risk in B.C., flip to page 6. 🐟

Police issue tickets

When the 1980s supergroup the Police announced a reunion world tour, tickets immediately sold out. To show their support for the environment, the band donated tickets to the David Suzuki Foundation to be auctioned as a fundraiser. The tickets sold on our online eBay auction for US\$680. (Police lead singer Sting is an honorary board member of the David Suzuki Foundation.) All the money raised will help support the David Suzuki Foundation’s Nature Challenge program.



KEVIN MAZUR

Dr. Suzuki goes to Ottawa

Fresh off his national 30-day, 41-city *If YOU were Prime Minister* tour, Dr. Suzuki brought the environmental messages of the 30,000 Canadians to Parliament Hill in April. In addition to a high-profile press conference, Dr. Suzuki met with Stéphane Dion, Jack Layton and federal Environment Minister John Baird. At a time when the environment is the top concern across the country, all the leaders were keen to hear what Canadians had to say. Among their priorities, Canadians want to build a sustainable and affordable public transportation system, introduce a carbon tax to help meet our Kyoto commitments, and make polluters pay.

DSF online



The David Suzuki Foundation website now features a blog and a podcast. Check out our

webpage for daily updates on the latest environmental happenings. Give your eyes a break by listening to the dulcet tones of Justin Smallbridge, host of our regular audio podcast. (Listen online or download the file for convenient listening on your portable MP3 player.) Each episode features news updates and interviews with our staff. To read the blog and hear the podcast, visit www.davidsuzuki.org.

BRIGHT IDEAS!

BY JENNY SILVER

With Ontario banning Thomas Edison's incandescent bulbs by 2012 and the rest of the country following suit, it's time to take a closer look at compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).

CFLs have been around since the 1980s, but technology has vastly improved over the past few years. Today's bulbs come in many light colours – including the soft glow of incandescents – turn-on time is near instant, and some bulbs work on dimmers or tri-lights and fit into almost any fixture.

As CFLs need a tiny bit of mercury to work, it is important to recycle them properly. Often stores where bulbs are purchased will take them back. Your local hydro company will also know where to send them.

Should the mercury

issue prevent you from using CFLs? Not at all. The amount of mercury emitted by a coal-fired power plant to light an incandescent bulb is considerably higher than that found in a CFL. Not getting your power from coal? Using a CFL reduces smog and prevents large amounts of CO₂ from entering the atmosphere.

Still not convinced? CFL bulbs are 75 per cent more energy efficient and can last as much as 10 times longer – saving you money. 🌿

way, clean, renewable energy can be used to supply future electricity demand."

Low-impact, renewable energy sources include things like wind and solar power, small-scale hydroelectric facilities and geothermal energy. These sources of electricity have much smaller environmental footprints than do traditional sources, like big coal plants and nuclear reactors.

Reaction to the advertisements has been very positive.

"We're getting tremendously positive feedback,

which is great," says David Taylor, communications director for the David Suzuki Foundation. "People seem to enjoy the light-hearted nature of the commercials and the specific actions they can take to make a difference."

Mr. Taylor says that the reason light bulbs and beer fridges were chosen for the

initial ads is because they represent relatively small changes that anyone can make – yet those small changes really add up. Removing an old, little-used second fridge in your home can reduce electricity bills by \$150 a year, while saving hundreds of kilograms of greenhouse gas emissions.

CFL bulbs are also four times more energy efficient than standard light bulbs. These light bulbs do contain a tiny amount of mercury, however, so it is important that they be recycled after use. Fortunately, they last for years – far longer than incandescent bulbs.

Mr. Taylor says the advertising campaign was never meant as an end point, but rather the beginning of a long-term, step-by-step process toward sustainability.

"We have to start somewhere; we have to start somehow," Mr. Taylor says. "What better place than here? What better time than now?"

To learn more about PowerWISE, visit www.powerwise.ca. To learn more about what you can do to conserve energy, visit www.davidsuzuki.org. 🌿



SAMI SHOICHEL ILLUSTRATION

POWERWISE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tainable in the long term. Nuclear power has also proven to be extremely expensive and unreliable.

"If we stop wasting energy we can avoid having to build new coal power plants or nuclear reactors," says Dr. Suzuki. "That

New report says children under six most at risk

PESTICIDE POISONING

BY DOMINIC ALI

Those herbicides and insecticides in our tool sheds and garages seem harmless enough, even after we spray them in the summer to kill bugs and weeds. But these chemicals are actually sinister villains.

A new report by the David Suzuki Foundation, “Northern Exposure: Acute Pesticide Poisonings in Canada,” reveals the surprisingly high numbers of pesticide poisonings in Canada, especially among children under age six.

Authored by Canadian environmental policy expert David Boyd, the report garnered national headlines when it was released. It is the sixth report in a series showing how environmental policies should be strengthened to protect the health of all Canadians.

In an earlier report, “The Food We Eat”, Boyd found that approximately 1,000 commercial pesticides products for sale in Canada can’t be sold in other countries because of health and environmental concerns. “To make matters



David Boyd, Canadian environmental policy expert

COURTESY PIERRE ELLIOTT TRUDEAU FOUNDATION



Acute pesticide poisoning can harm the eyes, the skin, the liver, the nervous system and the kidneys.

worse,” Boyd writes in “Northern Exposure”, “negotiations are underway to further weaken pesticide residue limits in order to harmonize Canadian standards with American standards.”

Mr. Boyd also found that although children under age six represent only 6.4 per cent of the total Canadian population, they experience as much as 46.5 per cent of acute pesticide poisonings. “Thousands of Canada’s most vulnerable citizens, our children, are being needlessly poisoned. If that’s not a wake-up call about the dangers of pesticides, I don’t know what is,” Mr. Boyd says.

Anti-pesticide bylaws have been passed in more than 125 municipalities across Canada because of the health risks involved. But, as Mr. Boyd, points out, more could be done to protect Canadians from unintentional pesticide poisoning.

Aside from the health costs of pesticide poisonings, there are also economic costs as well. In 1995, Health Canada estimated that four per cent of reported poisonings of Canadian children each year were due to accidental pesticide exposure. “Northern Exposure” estimates that these acute pesticide poisonings cost roughly \$16 million each year.

So what can the government do to prevent future pesticide poisonings? Quite a lot, actually. For starters, different levels of government could enact legislation requiring all pesticide products in Canada to be sold in child-resistant containers, ban pesticides for cosmetic purposes, and increase funding to Canada’s poison-control centres.

This report was funded by the Lefebvre Charitable Foundation and can be downloaded from www.davidsuzuki.org/publications.

7 WAYS TO STOP PESTICIDE POISONINGS

Use non-toxic alternatives instead of chemical pesticides. **1**

Store pesticides in locked cabinets that are inaccessible to children. **2**

Keep pesticides in their original containers to prevent misidentification. **3**

Avoid using pesticides when children are nearby. **4**

Find out from your local poison-control centre how to safely dispose of pesticides. **5**

Vote for politicians who support tighter restrictions on pesticides in Canada. **6**

Keep the number for your regional poison information centre near the phone. **7**

BC'S VANISHING SPECIES

BY JASON CURRAN



River Jewelwing - critically imperiled

Welcome to Beautiful British Columbia. As many as 3,600 terrestrial and freshwater species call B.C. home, including 76 per cent of Canada's bird species, 70 per cent of Canada's freshwater fish species, and 66 per cent of Canada's butterflies. **But something is amiss.**

Despite this huge wealth of biodiversity, more than 1,300 plants and wildlife are at risk of disappearing in B.C. What's even more astounding is that only five per cent of these species are protected by law in B.C.

These findings were released concurrently last month in the Foundation report, "Rich Wildlife, Poor Protection," as well as the June cover story in the scientific journal, *Biodiversity*. Using government data, the authors determined that 18 per cent of mammal species in the province are at risk, as are 10 out of the 15 reptile species, for example. Report co-author and Foundation science director Dr. Faisal Moola calls the research a sobering glimpse into the unfortunate state of endangered species in the province.

"B.C. has already lost 49 known species and subspecies, like the western pond turtle and the greater sage grouse, in less than a century and a half. This will continue to happen unless adequate legal protection is put in place," Dr. Moola says.

The report also finds that while endangered species are found throughout B.C., most are clustered into four main hotspots in the province: the South Island region

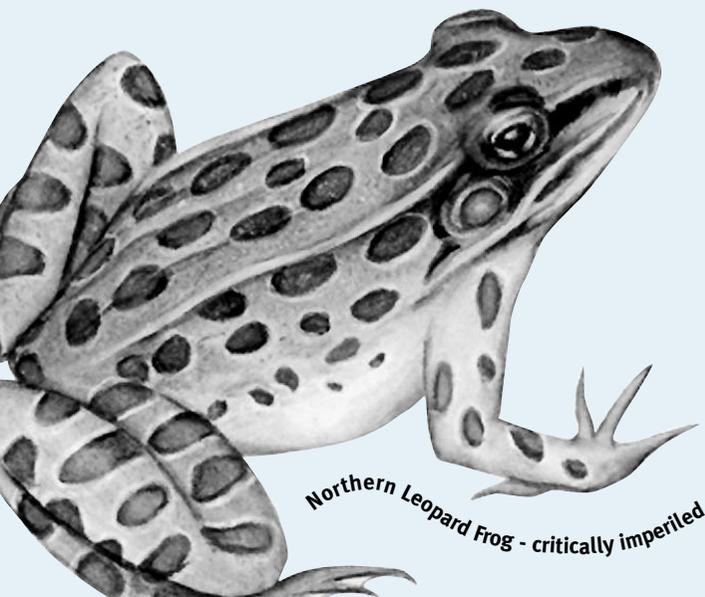
of Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland of southwestern British Columbia, the southern Rocky Mountain Trench, and the Okanagan Valley.

Perhaps the most troubling of all revelations: B.C. joins Alberta as the only province in Canada without endangered-species legislation to protect its wildlife.

"We really stick out as the bad kids on the block," says report co-author and Sierra Legal lawyer Devon Page. "B.C. can be distinguished in Canada for both its biological richness and for the sorry state of its laws to protect this incredible natural legacy."

To address increasing extinction and ensure that threatened plants and animals are preserved for future generations, the authors recommend that B.C. pass a strong law to protect spe-

Tough new laws are needed to protect B.C.'s endangered wildlife and their habitat, argues a new Foundation report



Northern Leopard Frog - critically imperiled



ILLUSTRATIONS BY BRENDA GUILD



Gyrfalcon - vulnerable

cies and their habitat, as Ontario has recently done. Hailed by leading Ontario environmental groups, Ontario's new Endangered Species Act balances a strong, science-based approach to protecting endangered plants and

animals with the flexibility needed to address socioeconomic concerns.

"The local extinction of

many B.C. plants and animals will continue to occur unless adequate legal protection is put in place," Dr. Moola says. "We have a bunch of disparate bits of legislation, which don't offer protection."

The report also marks the beginning of a new education and outreach campaign designed to keep B.C. biologically rich. Lindsay Coulter, the Foundation's conservation policy analyst, will be visiting communities throughout B.C. to raise awareness among residents about this issue.

This report was partially funded by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and Printing House Ltd. Download your copy at www.davidsuzuki.org/Conservation/Endangered_Species/British_Columbia/default.asp.



Lindsay Coulter, the Foundation's conservation policy analyst

British Columbia's biodiversity is unparalleled in Canada. B.C. is home to:

- 76 per cent of Canada's bird species;
- 70 per cent of its freshwater fish species;
- 66 per cent of its butterfly species;
- 60 per cent of its conifer species;
- 56 per cent of its fern species; and
- 41 per cent of its orchids.

Species by the numbers

According to the provincial government's Conservation Data Centre, more than **1,300 species and subspecies living in B.C. are now thought to be at risk of disappearing**. Among the major wildlife groups in the province, the most at risk are reptiles and turtles (**67** per cent), amphibians (**47** per cent) and freshwater fish (**47** per cent).

Many other wildlife groups in B.C. similarly contain high numbers of at-risk species, including:

- 43 per cent of vascular plants;
- 34 per cent of butterflies;
- 33 per cent freshwater and terrestrial molluscs;
- 26 per cent of dragonflies and damselflies;
- 18 per cent of terrestrial mammals; and
- 17 per cent of birds.



Our fridge is covered with postcards from B.C. species worried about their future. Take a look at www.davidsuzuki.org. Then take action to protect them.



Redwood Sorrel - imperiled

WHAT'S THE BUZZ ON THE DISAPPEARING BEES?

COLONY COLLAPSE DISORDER IS A PLAGUE that has hit bee colonies throughout the U.S. Although no instances of CCD have been confirmed in Canada, several recent reports of suspicious losses have been reported in Ontario and Saskatchewan.

The symptoms of CCD are mysterious and bizarre.

The symptoms of CCD are mysterious and bizarre. They include the sudden disappearance of the adult bees in an affected colony, but with no corpses remaining in the hive. Honey and pollen stores remain intact. The surviving workforce is too small for colony maintenance and the remaining bees seem reluctant to feed on either stored honey or pollen. Surviving colonies don't raid those colonies that have been affected by CCD.

Dr. Faisal Moola is the Director of Science for the David Suzuki Foundation.



Such robbing behaviour is typical among healthy colonies.

Scientists think that the root cause of the plague may be stress resulting from the industrial management and transportation of domesticated bee colonies that are used for agricultural pollination purposes. Parasitic mites and other pathogens, as well as pesticides, have also been suggested as possible factors.

Bees, as well as many other insects, provide a critical ecological service called pollination, which is the process by which most plants (including almost a third of agricultural crops) reproduce. Pollinators are also economically important globally because about a third of the food we eat — such as apples, peaches, chocolate, almonds, coffee and berries — are dependent on animal pollinators.

Foundation attends climate change meetings in Germany

BY JUSTIN SMALLBRIDGE

In May, the world's leading climate-change policy makers convened in Bonn, Germany, to discuss what will succeed the current Kyoto Protocol agreements on global warming. The provisions under Kyoto, such as targets for greenhouse gas reduction and efforts at improving energy efficiency, will expire in 2012.

David Suzuki Foundation climate-change policy analyst Dale Marshall attended the meetings. He came away



Dale Marshall, DSF's climate-change policy analyst, attended the conference

with a mixed sense of progress on the global-warming front. While Europe is making excellent progress, the United States continues to lag, only reluctantly admitting global warming is even a problem.

The climate initiatives offered by President George Bush in June mean that the biggest greenhouse gas emitters won't convene in Washington until November 2008 — the same month American voters will choose the nation's next president.

"The citizenry is way out in front of the politicians on global warming in both Canada and the U.S.," says Mr. Marshall.

The next major international meeting on climate change happens in Bali in December 2007.

See the warming for the (lack of) trees

Foundation probes link between forests and global warming

BY JUSTIN SMALLBRIDGE

Forests are key in controlling the planet's temperature. They serve as excellent sinks for carbon dioxide, and convert CO₂ into oxygen via photosynthesis. But forests are also potentially dangerous in the fight against global warming because of the amount of stored carbon they release when they're logged for wood or cut down for agriculture or sprawl.

"We're organizing the first conference in Canada to look at the role forest destruction plays in driving global warming," says David Suzuki Foundation Science Director Dr. Faisal Moola. "Scientists now believe that as much as 25 per cent of the CO₂ currently in the atmosphere is caused by



deforestation and forest degradation."

The conference will bring together many of the world's leading forestry scientists, mainly to communicate the importance of forest preservation to an audience comprising mainly environmentalists, technical people, First Nations delegates and lawyers. The aim of the gathering is to explain the science to the people who can affect policy, in order that they can ensure its protection.

"About a third of the terrestrial carbon

is stored in Canada's boreal forest," Dr. Moola says. "It's not just in the trees, it's also in the deep organic soils, and when you destroy a forest or log it, a lot of that carbon gets released back into the atmosphere, plus the machinery used for logging emits carbon."

Preventing deforestation and premature forest destruction is a relatively easy way to combat global warming, one that doesn't demand major technological advances or changing how we live – two things people are already willing to do and eager to work on.

"Protecting forests is something relatively easy," Dr. Moola says. "We can do it right now. It doesn't cost much; it's using a natural process, and therefore it's an effective means of combating global warming."

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Suzuki edition of *Vancouver Sun* hits the streets

BY DAVE TAYLOR

When David Suzuki was offered the chance to guest edit the *Vancouver Sun* for a day, he jumped at the opportunity. He just didn't realize how much work would be involved.

"It was a humbling experience," he says. "I was honoured to have the opportunity, and I was amazed at the effort that goes into putting together a daily newspaper."

Dr. Suzuki and the Foundation were involved from the outset in creating the "Suzuki edition." In fact, the David Suzuki Foundation assigned a series of story ideas to *Sun* editorial staff

weeks before the May 5th edition hit the streets.

"I was impressed with how the staff took our story ideas and ran with them," Dr. Suzuki says. "I hope we provided them with a new way of looking at stories and a fresh perspective that will last long after this edition is gone from the newsstands."

Stories suggested by the Foundation included a front-page business section feature on "full-cost accounting" where the societal costs of a product are included in the purchase price. In this case, the product was gasoline. The reporter covering the story found that if the societal costs of burning gasoline – things like air



KENT KALLBERG

and water pollution, and global warming – were included in the price, consumers would pay more than \$4 per litre.

"The point of the story was that nature provides us with services that we take for granted and consider free," Dr. Suzuki says. "But when we all take advantage of these free services, we damage them. We really need to start putting a price on pollution." 🌿

AIR CONDITIONING?

IT'S GETTING COLD IN HERE...

BY DAVE TAYLOR

In spite of global warming, I swear summers are actually getting cooler. Chilly even. And we can thank the not-so-modern miracle of air conditioning.

When Willis Carrier invented air conditioning in 1902, he forever changed how we live. As the process became mass marketed after World War II, baking desert regions like Arizona and humid swamps like Florida suddenly became habitable. And people flocked to them.

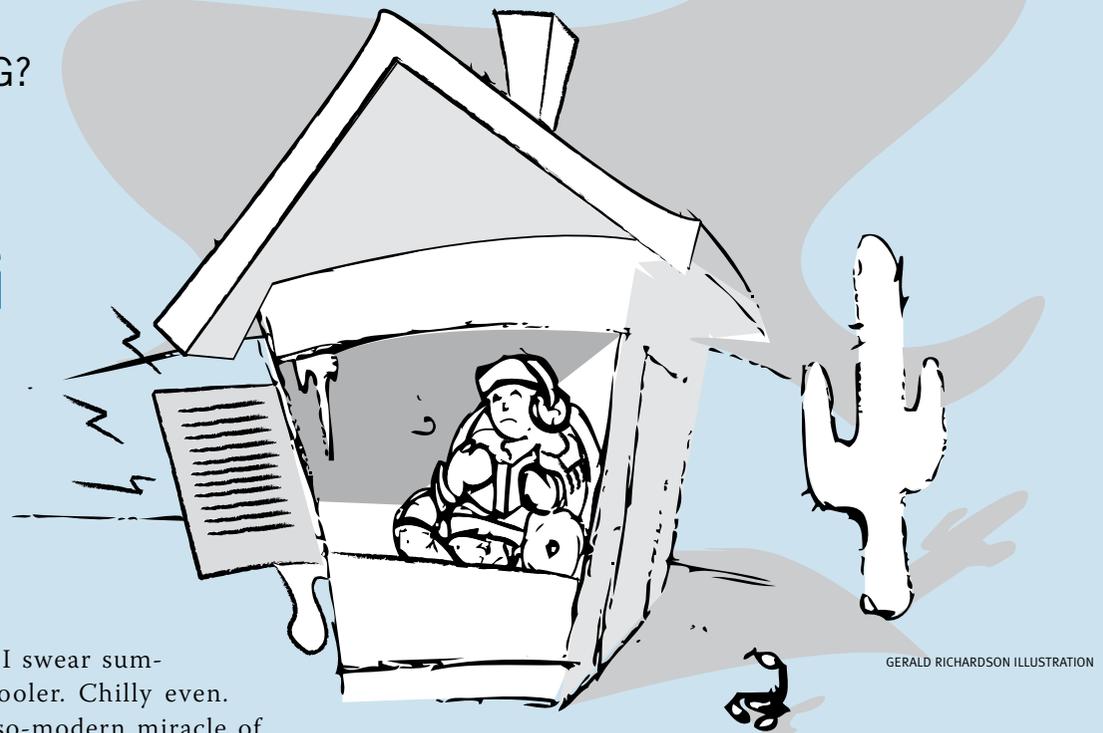
Mr. Carrier envisioned his product making workplaces more comfortable. What he probably didn't envision was air-conditioned outdoor malls, shops open to the street with air conditioning blasting out the doors, and people keeping their homes set to 18 degrees Celsius when it's 32 degrees outside and nobody's home.

Heat waves can and do kill people – especially the elderly. So for some, air conditioning can be a lifesaver. But for most of us, it's not something we think about.

Problem is, air conditioning also uses lots of electricity. In Ontario, energy use for residential cooling more than doubled between 1990 and 2003. Because of this increase, Ontarians now use more electricity in the summertime than during the coldest, darkest stretches of winter.

That's just goofy. And it's a major contributor to air pollution and global warming. Funny thing, this global warming. The hotter it gets outside, the more we crank up the AC. The more we crank up the AC, the more electricity we use. The more electricity we use, the more fossil fuels we burn, and the hotter it gets outside. It's a vicious circle.

Now, I'm all for AC. Love the stuff – in moderation. Who doesn't like the occasional escape into a cool, dark movie theatre



For some, air conditioning can be a lifesaver. But for most of us, it's not something we think about.

on a hot summer Sunday? Who doesn't crank that dial in the car if you get caught in rush-hour traffic, baking on the highway, exhaust fumes billowing in through the windows?

But – and forgive me for sounding like a cranky old dude – I think summer should be hot. Nature provided us with a little something called seasons. They're there for a reason. They're how the planet renews and rejuvenates itself. They mark the passage of time.

Today, it seems that seasons are just getting in the way of modern standardized uniformity. Most of us work the same hours year-round, eat the same food, shop at the same stores, and keep our homes and offices at the same temperatures. Used to be that television networks would hole up for the summer, serving up nothing but re-runs and local news. No more. Now, once the traditional television season ends, the summer television season begins. New shows! Cheap reality entertainment! Stay indoors, turn up the AC and heck – it could be November.

This sameness is more than just really, really boring. It's expensive. And what we pay on the electrical bill is just a small part of the total societal cost of over-air conditioning from air pollution and global warming.

So this year, turn down the AC a notch. Or just go outside and play. The heat may slow you down a bit, but it is summertime after all, and the livin' should be easy. 🌊



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

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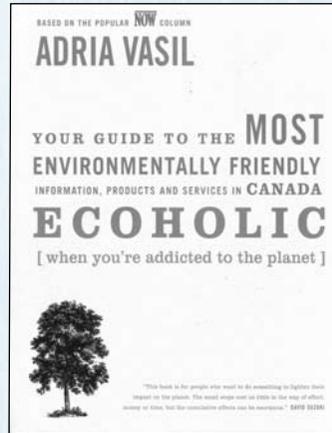
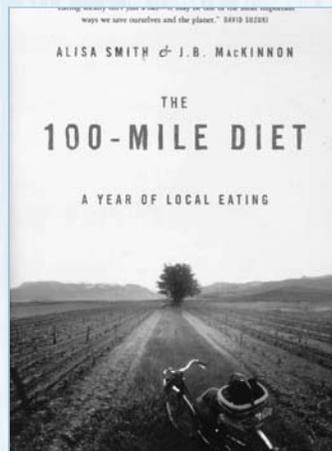
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The 100-Mile Diet

By Alisa Smith and J.B. MacKinnon
(Random House of Canada Ltd.)

Each meal we eat travels, on average, 1,500 miles to our dinner table. In *The 100-Mile Diet: A Year of Local Eating*, Alisa Smith and J.B. MacKinnon invite us on their journey as they spend a year eating within 100 miles of their home in Vancouver. Their story, replete with locally grown potatoes and a distinct lack of wheat, sheds light on how modern society has disconnected us from the past and the food that keeps us alive. It also offers hope – a surprising bounty of unexpected locally grown foods. An added bonus is the insight into James and Alisa's lives, from trials and tribulations through to joy and triumph in the fight to eat locally, from both of their perspectives.



Ecoholic: Your Guide to the Most Environmentally Friendly Information, Products, and Services in Canada

By Adria Vasil
(Vintage Canada)

Ever wonder if it's better to drive 500 kilometres or fly the same distance? How do you make your own homemade fertilizer? What are the top 10 energy-saving cooking tips? The answers to all these questions and more can be found in the new, cheeky Canadian enviro-guide, *Ecoholic*. This fun-to-read resource offers excellent practical tips and products to help you do your part for Mother Earth.

An Enchantment of Birds

By Richard Cannings
(Greystone Books)

Even if you're not the type whose heart flutters at the sight of spring's first northern flicker, you'll find much to enjoy in biologist Richard Cannings's book. Part memoir, part field

recommended

guide, this book educates and enchants with its stories about 30 of the author's favourite birds – each beautifully illustrated in black and white by Donald Gunn. Mr. Cannings describes the birds and their habits and habitat, ponders his connection to them, and discusses the challenges they face in a changing world.



Sharkwater

In movie theatres now
The award-winning Canadian documentary *Sharkwater* takes a new look at the sea's fiercest predators. Instead of evoking images of deadly attacks on bikini-clad swimmers, it focuses on the ancient beauty of sharks and the brutal illegal harvesting of their body parts. With spectacular underwater footage to balance the harsh realities above the surface, *Sharkwater* leaves viewers with a newfound admiration for them...and a sense of outrage at those putting them at risk of extinction.



KENT KALBERG

DOC'S SCHEDULE:

Is Dr. Suzuki coming to your town? Find out!

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

MUNICIPAL MAKEOVER



KENT KALLBERG

Climate change already threatens the infrastructure of Canada's cities and our health. But we can do something about it.

CITIES ARE AMAZING THINGS. Today, more than 80 per cent of Canadians live in them. And as much as three-quarters of Canada's carbon emissions are emitted within municipal boundaries. Our cities are our homes, but they are also huge consumers of energy. That's why the small changes we make in our cities have a tremendous effect on the rest of the country.

Climate change already threatens the infrastructure of Canada's cities and our health. But we can do something about it. Just as we renovate our homes and maintain them, we need to do the same with our cities if we're going to deal with global warming.

It's time for us to apply our ingenuity and creativity to enhancing our cities. I'm proud to report that we don't have to go far to see revolutionary ideas in action.

Toronto's Atmospheric Fund provides grants and loans to projects that combat global climate change and improve air quality. Calgary's public transit C-train is powered by wind energy. And in Vancouver, despite an increase of 50,000 new residents in the past decade, transit trips have increased by 50 per cent.

Small changes in our cities have big effects.

Municipal bylaws are just one example. Bylaws and local regulations address garbage disposal, lighting, road systems, planning and transit availability. Action in these areas educates and informs communities, helps address environmental problems and helps build sustainable neighbourhoods.

Cities can also make a huge difference through smarter purchasing decisions. For example, replacing municipal light-duty cars and pickups with hybrid-electric vehicles saves taxpayers' money and reduces air pollution.

On a larger scale, we also need to rethink our approach to urban planning. Sprawl not only drains our precious free time and expands our waistlines, but requires that drivers spend more time in their cars. Many cities are establishing more bike lanes, which are safer than high-speed expressways. And improved transit options make it convenient for commuters to leave their cars at home.

The ideas are all here. And so is the public will. We need to develop our own visions and actions, work with our residents, and cooperate with other levels of government to make our cities more livable and sustainable, and protect our communities and our health.

Our cities are hotbeds of creativity and innovation, of imagination and vision. Citizens, city councilors, architects and urban planners are all working to make their communities better places to live. And they are role models to the other levels of government. 

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