

# PEI Eco-Net

Weekly News & Events Bulletin

for the Prince Edward Island Eco-Net de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard

May 12-18, 2007

## NEWS

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- 1.2 P.E.I. Green Party introduces slate of 18 candidates
- 1.3 Mushroom farmer makes deal with compost plant
- 1.4 145 P.E.I. farms disappear over 5 years

### NATIONAL

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- 3.2 Whales lost and injured in California inland waterway
- 3.3 EU, Russian Leaders Trade Barbs
- 3.4 Bangkok joins world cities against global warming

## NOTICEBOARD

### MAY

- Download a free copy of Green Teacher magazine (until July 1, 2007)
- Que Research recruiting participants for a focus group
- Environmental Debate (May 24, 2007)
- "From Pearson to Harper. What Happened?" panel discussion on status of Canadian peacekeeping (May 24, 2007)
- National Cancer Prevention Conference (May 24-25, 2007)
- Breaking Through Fear: Realizing Your Potential at Work and at Home (May 25, 2007)
- EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Katimavik Learning Program Manager (Application Deadline: May 25, 2007)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Dandelion Festival (May 27, 2007)

### JUNE

- Asian Heritage Festival presented by PEI Multicultural Council (June 2, 2007)
- Human Rights Accompaniment Training ( June 14-17, 2007)
- Call for Entires: Planet in Focus Film Fest (DEADLINE: June 15, 2007)
- Sierra Club - Atlantic Chapter Annual Gathering 2007 (June 22 - 24, 2007)
- Interim Oil Sands consultation (Submitted by: June 30, 2007)

### JULY

- Otesha Project Bike Tour looking for enviro organizations' help

## Quote

Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it.

~ Mark Twain

## **This week in History**

May 16, 2005 - Kuwait permits women's suffrage in a 35-23 National Assembly vote.

## **NEWS**

### **LOCAL**

#### **1.1 PLAN TO BUILD ROW-HOUSING**

A Summerside couple plans to build some additional accessible housing in the city. Scott and Corinna Costain, owners of Scotcor Construction Ltd., would like to build as many as four single-storey row-house buildings at the north end of Duke Street. The couple sees a need for housing that's accessible —such as for seniors and people with disabilities. Their company has made an offer for 2.7 acres of city land and has applied to have it rezoned from medium to high-density residential. They hope to start the first building this summer and see how things go before proceeding with others. Each building will have 11 rental units. The project is on the agenda for a technical services meeting next week and will then go back to city council for approval.

JOURNAL PIONEER <http://www.journalpioneer.com/index.cfm?sid=29362&sc=118>

05/14/07 – 12:39PM

#### **1.2 P.E.I. GREEN PARTY INTRODUCES SLATE OF 18 CANDIDATES**

The Green Party officially announced its slate of 18 candidates on Saturday for the provincial election campaign now in full swing. Leader Sharon Labchuk acknowledges uphill battle but says party will forge a new path with bold new politicians . The Green Party is relatively new to the provincial stage, registered as an official party in 2005. It has had a long-standing presence in the Island's political framework, however, in federal politics and in activism. Labchuk said being a newly registered provincial party has been an uphill battle. Nova Scotia's newly elected Green Party leader was also on hand for the candidate announcement, throwing his support behind Labchuk and the local party.

CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

<http://www.theguardian.pe.ca/index.cfm?sid=29359&sc=222>

05/14/07 – 12:40PM

#### **1.3 MUSHROOM FARMER MAKES DEAL WITH COMPOST PLANT**

A P.E.I. farmer and the company that runs the compost plant in Brookfield are teaming up to grow mushrooms in Hartsville. Brian Mackay, who owns Red Isle Farms in Hunter River, will put up three buildings in the central Queens County community to house the farm. One will be used to pasteurize the compost, another to grow the mushrooms, and the third to turn spent compost into pelletized fertilizer. The farm is expected to use a truckload of compost a week. Plans for Meadow Fresh Mushrooms farm are currently being reviewed by various provincial departments.

CBC <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/prince-edward-island/story/2007/05/18/mushroom-farm.html>

05/18/07- 9:48AM

#### **1.4 145 P.E.I. FARMS DISAPPEAR OVER 5 YEARS**

The results of a new census on farms in Canada should serve as a wake-up call for Islanders, says the P.E.I. Federation of Agriculture. In a study that looked at farm trends across the country from 2001 to 2006, Statistics Canada found Prince Edward Island lost 145 farms. The loss of local farms reflects the fact that farmers aren't getting paid fairly

for their products, said federation spokesman Ian McIsaac. McIsaac said if farm numbers continue to decline Islanders will have to rely more on imported food.  
CBC <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/prince-edward-island/story/2007/05/17/farm-census.html>  
05/18/07 – 9:49AM

## **NATIONAL**

### **2.1 OTTAWA TO REVAMP PASSPORT PROCESS**

Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay says the government is planning to overhaul passport legislation in hopes of easing the process for applying for new passports and the renewals that are required every five years. But officials in his department said the proposed legislation is still in the early stages of interdepartmental discussion. There was no information available from Passport Canada, a separate government agency, on the details of the legislative changes or when they might be introduced in Parliament. Since the United States brought in security regulations requiring Canadians to carry passports when flying into the U.S., Passport Canada has been overwhelmed with applications.

TORONTO STAR <http://www.thestar.com/News/article/213897>  
05/15/07 – 9:26AM

### **2.2 SCIENTISTS URGE CANADA TO PROTECT FORESTS**

Scientists from more than 50 countries are urging Canada to strengthen protection of the Boreal Forest, considered the biggest carbon storehouse on Earth and vital to the planet's battle with climate change. The plea is contained in a letter signed by 1,500 scientists who say Canada's northern forest is under threat from logging, mining and oil and gas operations. One of the scientists said Canada's Boreal Forest could provide plants and animals with a sanctuary to withstand climate change until humans reduce harmful emissions. The boreal, made up primarily of coniferous trees, stretches from Alaska to Newfoundland and from the tundra to lakes Superior and Huron. The scientists note that currently only 10 per cent of the forest is currently protected, and claim an area the size of Florida is slated to be used for the development of Canada's tar sands reserves.

CTV

[http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20070514/boreal\\_forest\\_070514/20070514?hub=CTVNewsAt11](http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20070514/boreal_forest_070514/20070514?hub=CTVNewsAt11)

05/15/07 – 9:30AM

### **2.3 ORGANIC FARMS BOOMING IN CANADA**

According to figures released Wednesday in Statistics Canada's 2006 agriculture census, 15,511 farms reported growing organic products last May. That includes those that have been certified organic by an authorizing agency, those that are in the process of getting certified, and those whose operators simply declare that they're organic. The number of certified organic producers increased by nearly 60 per cent from 2001 to 3,555 in 2006. Field crops such as wheat and barley are the predominant certified organic crops, and Saskatchewan has about one-third of all the certified organic farms in the country. Experts say organics are still a small portion of the overall amount of food purchased by consumers, but the demand is growing quickly. The big grocery chains have seized on the demand.

TORONTO STAR <http://www.thestar.com/article/214498>

05/16/07 – 10:52AM

### **2.4 HONDA FIGHTS BACK WITH OWN REBATE**

The company that makes Canada's most popular car is so unhappy with the new federal rebate scheme to promote fuel-efficient vehicles that it is offering buyers its own sweetener to lure them to its dealerships. Honda Canada Inc. said Thursday it would offer an incentive of \$1,000 to customers who purchase or lease a new 2007 Honda Fit subcompact or a 2006 or 2007 Civic with manual transmission. Both cars are excluded from Transport Canada's list of vehicles qualifying for federal rebates under the Harper government's so-called "ecoAuto" program.

FINANCIAL POST

<http://www.canada.com/nationalpost/financialpost/story.html?id=aab3c28d-38b9-471a-a07c-471caca47535&k=3646>

05/18/07 – 9:41AM

## 2.5 ENVIRO GROUPS SLAM PLAN TO CAPTURE ENDANGERED SPOTTED OWLS IN B.C.

A panel asked to look into how to protect spotted owls in B.C. is recommending rounding up the birds and placing them in a captive breeding program. The report by the science panel has been obtained by a coalition of environmental groups, including the Western Canada Wilderness Committee, which says it's "criminally insane" to capture the birds while continuing to log their environment. The panel, appointed by the B.C. government last year and including experts from Canada and the U.S., suggests removing some of all of the spotted owls from the wild and setting up a captive breeding program for eventual reintroduction of the owls to the wild. Environmental groups say just 16 spotted owls remain in B.C., with logging as the primary threat to their habitat.

[CANADA.COM http://www.canada.com/topics/news/national/story.html?id=d74a2417-82e8-4e4b-93e3-950a84de6f53&k=8868](http://www.canada.com/topics/news/national/story.html?id=d74a2417-82e8-4e4b-93e3-950a84de6f53&k=8868)

05/18/07 – 9:43AM

## INTERNATIONAL

### 3.1 CLEANING UP MOUNT EVEREST

Since March, large numbers of visitors from China's national climbing team, the China Meteorological Bureau, and the China Space Technology group have flocked to Mount Everest's base camp to prepare for the delivery of the 2008 Olympic flame to the world's highest peak. Their presence has expanded the number of visitors now living at base camp to more than 600, including foreign climbers, according to an official from the national climbing team. The daily trash, food waste, and human excrement generated by these thousands of temporary residents is a growing environmental problem. Currently, each tent collects its trash in a large wooden basket to be picked up by truck once a week and sent to a remote landfill. Most of the waste is not separated before collection, and non-biodegradable plastic bags are typically mixed in with food remains.

WORLDWATCH INSTITUTE <http://www.worldwatch.org/node/5074>

05/15/07 – 9:21AM

### 3.2 WHALES LOST AND INJURED IN CALIFORNIA INLAND WATERWAY

Two lost humpback whales which swam 92 miles inland to California's Port of Sacramento have been injured, perhaps from a boat, experts said on Wednesday. An effort to lure them back to the ocean using recorded humpback whale songs is expected to get underway on Thursday. The approximately 45-foot female has a two-foot long, six-inch deep wound on her back in front of her dorsal fin that appears to have occurred when she surfaced underneath a boat. The whales reached the port on Tuesday afternoon after swimming up the Sacramento River to a man-made channel. As of

Wednesday afternoon, they were circling around in a 500- by 800-yard turning basin normally used by ships, with about 800 people lining the levies during the day for a look. The whales are believed to belong to a group of humpbacks that migrated from Baja California, Mexico, to spend the summer near the Farallon Islands off the coast of California.

REUTERS

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/oddlyEnoughNews/idUKN1628948820070517?feedType=RSS>

05/17/07 – 12:28PM

### 3.3 EU, RUSSIAN LEADERS TRADE BARBS

At Summit Over Human Rights Leaders of the European Union and Russia traded barbs over Russia's human rights record at the end of a contentious summit Friday, as police prevented opposition activists from traveling to a planned protest in Samara. Police prevented the former chess champion Garry Kasparov, now a leading political foe of President Vladimir Putin, and other opposition activists from boarding flights to Samara, confiscating their passports and tickets at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport and holding them for about five hours.

WALL STREET JOURNAL

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB117949095076307481.html?mod=home\\_whats\\_news\\_us](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB117949095076307481.html?mod=home_whats_news_us)

05/18/07 – 9:35 AM

### 3.4 BANGKOK JOINS WORLD CITIES AGAINST GLOBAL WARMING

Governor Apirak Kosayodhin joined the heads of 14 of the world's largest cities to retrofit buildings in their cities to save energy. It is the first such enterprise to combat climate change. The initial group of large cities involved in the deal includes Bangkok, Berlin, Chicago, Houston, Johannesburg, Karachi, London, Melbourne, New York, Mexico City, Rome, Sao Paulo, Seoul, Tokyo and Toronto. Former US president Bill Clinton launched the initiative to coincide this week with a summit in New York attended by mayors and governors from 40 of the world's largest cities to discuss climate change. Clinton's initiative launched on Wednesday called on ABN AMRO, Citi, Deutsche Bank, JPMorgan Chase and UBS to provide up to \$1 billion each to finance cities and private buildings to retrofit buildings. The amount to be provided by those five groups would double the market for energy retrofit in buildings.

BANGKOK POST <http://www.bangkokpost.com/topstories/topstories.php?id=118808>

05/18/07 – 9:39AM

## NOTICEBOARD

### MAY

- Download a free copy of Green Teacher magazine (until July 1, 2007)

Green Teacher is a magazine that helps youth educators enhance environmental and global education inside and outside of schools.

TO DOWNLOAD: [www.greenteacher.com/freelssue80.html](http://www.greenteacher.com/freelssue80.html)

- Que Research r ecruiting participants for a focus group Seeking individuals who are self- employed and approaching retirement (two people needed for this group); and seeking people who have retired from self-employment during the last three years, and been self-employed prior to retirement for ten years.

PAYMENT: \$60.00 honorarium for participating  
MORE INFO: call Sandra Boswell at Que Research at 368-1817

▪ Environmental Debate (May 24, 2007)

The Environmental Coalition of Prince Edward Island has partnered with groups from across the Island to co-sponsor an environment debate during the 2007 provincial election campaign.

WHEN: 7-9PM

WHERE: Holland College's MacKinnon Lecture Theatre (Kent St. entrance)

PARTICIPANTS (confirmed as of May 18):

- Jamie Ballem - Progressive Conservative Party
- Dean Constable - New Democratic Party
- Sharon Labchuk - Green Party
- to be determined - Liberal Party

ISSUES: Nitrates and water quality, natural areas, energy, forests, and climate change  
Everyone is welcome to this FREE event!

FOR MORE INFO: (902)566-4696 or [energy@ecopei.ca](mailto:energy@ecopei.ca)

▪ Panel to discuss the death of peacekeeping (May 24, 2007)

"From Pearson to Harper: What Happened?"

WHEN: 7:30PM

WHERE: Murphy Community Centre, 200 Richmond Street (Charlottetown)

SPEAKER: Dr. Ralph Hazleton and other guest panellists

FOR MORE INFO: contact Island Peace Committee ph. 368-7337

▪ National Cancer Prevention Conference (May 24-25, 2007)

A landmark conference to address gaps in cancer prevention and to develop practical plans for all Canadians to take action to stop the cancer epidemic.

WHERE: Ottawa, ON

MORE INFO: [www.preventcancer.ca](http://www.preventcancer.ca)

▪ Breaking Through Fear: Realizing Your Potential at Work and at Home (May 25, 2007)

Taking a mind/body approach to exploring the underpinnings of emotions like fear which impair our capacity to create healthy relationships and to live creatively and energetically.

PRESENTER: Louise Fréchette – International Bioenergetic Trainer. Louise has come to PEI a number of times and is well-loved and appreciated for her exceptional skill and authenticity.

WHERE: Mount St. Mary's, Charlottetown

COST: Early registration (received by May 1): \$85; Late registration: \$100

FOR MORE INFO: 894-3244

SPONSORED BY: The Atlantic Canada Bioenergetic Training Society

▪ EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Katimavik Learning Program Manager (Application Deadline: May 25, 2007)

JOB DESCRIPTION: (Permanent/FT) Providing oversight and support to all service and program learning activities in the region. Reporting directly to the Regional Director, the Learning Program Manager's purpose is to ensure that the quality of the participants' learning experience meets or exceeds national standards at a regional level.

FOR INFO: Email [info@katimavik.org](mailto:info@katimavik.org)

▪ 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Dandelion Festival (May 27, 2007)

The afternoon will include: an art table, face painting "dandy-lion", hat decorating and cup stacking, environmental displays, entertainment by Jeanne Campbell, children from Eliot River, the Bluefield Show band, Tony Reddin, and others.

WHEN: 1-4:30PM

WHERE: Eliot River Elementary School (Cornwall)

PRIZES: Awarded for dandelion contests (to enter bring artwork, photography or poetry about the dandelion)

FOR MORE INFO/VOLUNTEER: call Mark at 368-1674 (PEI Environmental Health Coop)

## **JUNE**

▪ Asian Heritage Festival presented by PEI Multicultural Council (June 2, 2007)

Come out and take in Korean Drumming, Burmese music, Tai Chi & Zither Chinese musical instrument, Arts & Crafts demonstration of Asian Countries, Asian dancers, Asian food & desserts, display of Asian artifacts & costumes

WHEN: 5-9PM

WHERE: Memorial Hall, Confederation Centre

SPEAKER: Graham Pike, Dean of Education UPEI, guest speaker

Free of charge, open to the public.

MORE INFO: call 894-7701

▪ Human Rights Accompaniment Training ( June 14-17, 2007)

The Breaking the Silence Network has hosted two previous accompaniment training sessions (2002 and 2004) and Canadian accompaniment volunteers have then worked as human rights monitors in Guatemalan communities. These volunteers and their Canadian support committees carry out various fundraising activities to support their participation in the program. Accompaniers are committed to doing educational and advocacy work upon their return to Canada.

WHEN: June 14-17, 2007

WHERE: Tatamagouche, NS June 14-17

FOR MORE INFO: Contact Beth Abbott by e-mail at: [accatl@web.ca](mailto:accatl@web.ca)

▪ Call for Entires: Planet in Focus Film Fest (DEADLINE: June 15, 2007)

Canada's most acclaimed international environmental film and video festival showcases outstanding and compelling films and videos covering a broad range of environmental themes by Canadian and international filmmakers. Planet in Focus invites submissions in all genres that critically examine the concept of 'environment' and challenge current human/nature relations.

FOR MORE INFO: [www.planetinfoocus.org](http://www.planetinfoocus.org)

▪ Sierra Club - Atlantic Chapter Annual Gathering 2007 (June 22 - 24, 2007)

You're invited to join us for a weekend at Camp Keir, to honour and inspire Sierra Club members and supporters and to celebrate Atlantic Canada's beautiful natural environment. Activities include: expert panel on protecting water quality, discussion on sustainable energy in Atlantic Canada, skill-building exercises to help you become a better advocate for the environment, campfires, boating, hiking, swimming, clam digging, music, field trips to a local eco-attraction, Silent auction, local vegetarian/vegan food. Attendance at all program events is open to all ages. Everyone is welcome!

WHERE: Camp Keir (located in Canoe Cove on the south shore of beautiful Prince Edward Island.)

MORE INFO or TO REGISTER:

<http://www.sierraclub.ca/atlantic/getinvolved/events/agm/aga2007.htm>

or contact Emily McMillan at 902-444-3113 or [emilym@sierraclub.ca](mailto:emilym@sierraclub.ca).

\*\*\*\*Volunteers and Donors - if you would like to help with this event, or would like to donate items for the silent auction, please contact us!

▪ Interim Oil Sands consultation (Submitted by: June 30, 2007)

The multistakeholder committee includes representatives from First Nations, Métis, industry, environmental groups, as well as local, provincial and the federal governments.

The final report is scheduled to be submitted to government by June 30, 2007.

A copy of the Multistakeholder Committee Interim Report for Phase I, as well as further information related to this consultation initiative, is available on the consultation website at: [www.oilsandsconsultations.gov.ab.ca](http://www.oilsandsconsultations.gov.ab.ca)

## **JULY**

▪ Otesha Project Bike Tour looking for enviro organizations' help

The Otesha Project organizes environmental education performances that travel by bike. It is in search of groups to present to over July & August.

POSSIBILITIES:

- To tour campgrounds/parks
- Community festivals
- Youth programs/camps
- Sports events

FOR MORE INFO: Barbara Hayes

WEBSITE: <http://www.otesha.ca/presentations/index.en.html>

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PEIEN E-News is a weekly compilation of environmental news headlines, public notices and eco-community member profiles. It is sent electronically to PEIEN members every Friday to update them on issues of interest in the environment field. If you have any comments or suggestions about this or upcoming editions, please contact the PEIEN office at 902-566-4170 or by email at: [sarah.hoyles@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.hoyles@gmail.com)