



Western
Environment
Centre
wecnl.ca

Newsletter

Inside this issue...

- Responses from the candidates for Mayor of Corner Brook
- The Humber Valley Fruit Rescue
- The Greenhouse Project with the Immaculate Heart of Mary School
- Composting Projects
- And much more

Summer/Fall
2017

From the Editor's Desk

In the summer months, WEC's environmental projects and endeavours come alive! In this issue, you can read all about the Humber Valley Fruit Rescue program which seeks to involve donors and volunteers in collecting in communities the ripe fruit that would otherwise rot. Also, our e-bike share program is up and running again; e-bikes are a great way to take in the breathtaking scenery in the Corner Brook area and in Gros Morne Park!

We have had some notable success in working with our partner organizations. WEC is a member of the of the NL Coalition for Aquaculture Reform and one of its members, the Atlantic Salmon Federation, learned that the NL Supreme Court will require the provincial government to conduct a proper environmental assessment of the aquaculture installation being proposed by Grieg NL. The Pasadena community garden also is having a very bountiful and worthwhile season. In that same vein, WEC has launched a very exciting greenhouse project with the students, teachers, and parents of Immaculate Heart of Mary School.

On September 26th, people living in municipalities everywhere in Newfoundland will be heading to the polls to elect their mayors and town councillors. Before doing so, I would recommend watching the film on climate change, *Before the Flood*; and you can read about the film in the review provided in this issue. We must make environmental issues paramount in our voting choices, because this is one of the best ways that we can effectuate meaningful change and concrete action. An economist interviewed in the film notes that "politicians, whether we call them our elected leaders, are really our elected followers." Politicians and policy are shaped by public opinion. You can be part of that opinion and that conversation when an election is not on the horizon, but an election offers you a unique occasion to help change the game.

Become informed and ask your candidates important questions about where they stand on environmental issues that affect your community; ask for your candidates' opinions on climate change and related issues, on what they have done thus far in this regard, on what they intend to do to improve public transit, recycling, sewage treatment, carbon footprint reduction, and how they will work with people, corporations, associations and other levels of government in order to achieve their goals. WEC certainly posed these questions to Corner Brook's two candidates running for the office of mayor, and you will find their responses in this issue. So get out there and take advantage of this great opportunity to exercise your democratic rights! Please do not waste this chance to make a difference. Vote.

Edwin Bezzina

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**Check out our
redeveloped website!**

We're on Facebook!



You can find us by searching
'WEC NL'

We're also on Twitter



(www.twitter.com/wecnl)

WEC welcomes comments and questions!

Feel free to write to the editor (info@wecnl.ca). We'd love to hear from you.



Cover photo courtesy Jessica Galliot

WEC's Mandate

(this mandate includes some changes that were made recently)

The Western Environment Centre (WEC) is a charitable, non-profit, non-governmental organization. WEC is based in Corner Brook but we aim to serve the whole western Newfoundland region. In partnership with other community groups, businesses, and government agencies, our organization strives to:

- 1) Engage communities in environmental issues in a balanced, objective, and informed manner
- 2) Build capacity and involvement in projects related to environmental sustainability
- 3) Create a community of environmentally active citizens.

Project Focus Areas

WEC activities are focused in three main areas:

1. Food Sustainability
 - Community gardens and greenhouse
 - Food skills workshops
 - Community compost pilot (new for 2017)
2. Climate Change and Energy
 - Electric BikeShare Rental Program
3. Public Policy Engagement
 - Participation in government-led consultations

How to become a WEC member

(and how to encourage friends to become members):

Please fill out the membership form on the back page and then send it by post to our surface address or by scanned copy to our e-mail address (info@wecnl.ca). Becoming a member is a fabulous first step to becoming environmentally involved in your local community!

Board of Directors

Glen Keeling.....Chair
 Simon Jansen.....Vice-Chair
 Kris Watton.....Treasurer
 Shem Evans.....Secretary
 Edwin Bezzina.....Newsletter Coordinator
 Jessica Galliot....Project Coordinator
 Sandy Miles-Blaxland Leanna Butters
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 Becky Shea Mikaela Wilson

Executive Director.....Katie Temple

Five great ways to get involved in WEC

1. Join one of the working committees
2. Join the Facebook group and invite others to do the same
3. Attend WEC events
4. Become a WEC volunteer
5. Participate in the WEC community garden

The Autumn is a great time for a ride on an Electric Bike!

Season: May - October (exact dates are weather dependent so check our [Facebook page](#) for the most up-to-date information about season start and end dates)

Cost: \$20 per day or \$80 per week

Sign in/out:

1. CYCLE SOLUTIONS (35 West Street, Corner Brook)
 - Daily rentals: Monday - Friday from 9:00am-5:00pm
 - Weekly rentals: Monday - Saturday from 9:00am-5:00pm
2. THE GALLIOTT HOUSE (186 Main Road, Woody Point)
 - Daily and weekly rentals can be arranged any time

Who can ride:

- Must be 16 years or older and must know how to ride a bike
- Must possess a valid driver's license
- Must pay rental fee with valid credit card



Photo E. Bezzina

Humber Valley Fruit Rescue Seeks Donors

The fruit harvesting season has kicked into full gear and the Humber Valley Fruit Rescue Project, in their inaugural year, hopes to keep some fallen fruit off the ground. With the help of volunteer pickers, preservers, and homeowners, fruit that would normally rot will be put to use by all involved. Harvests are split equally among homeowners, harvesters, and not-for-profit organizations. The project is eagerly searching for those who aren't able to pick all of their cherries, pears, apples, or other fruit trees to step up and call on trained volunteers to do so. For more information or to volunteer email hvfruitrescue@gmail.com or visit us on Facebook "Humber Valley Fruit Rescue Project."



Humber Valley Fruit Rescue

Humber Heights Community Compost Well Underway!

The Humber Heights Community Compost Program in Brandon Municipal Playground has been up and running for three months now. We officially opened two of the three JoraCan rotary composters for participant use on May 18th and it has been operating smoothly since then.

Currently, there are about twenty households involved in the program, with the goal to reach about thirty households by the end of the year. Most participants reside within walking distance of the composters, but there are a couple of participants who heard about the program and wanted to participate despite living in another neighbourhood. We think this goes to show that this pilot program could definitely be expanded to other areas in the city!



We are just about ready to harvest some finished compost from the first composter, and this will be available to any gardeners in the Heights Community Garden and to participants of the program. It is exciting to have finished compost ready so quickly, since compost normally can take a year or more to properly break down in regular backyard compost bins.

The benefits of these composters are that they are 1) insulated, providing extra heat to help contents decompose, and that 2) they rotate, adding needed airflow and content mixing on a regular basis. We check the temperature of the composters from time to time and we were pleased to find that we reached a temperature of 125 degrees Fahrenheit, which is in the ideal temperature range for speedy decomposition.

We still have space available for new households to join the program. Anyone interested can email us at info@wecnl.ca or check out more info on our website: www.wecnl.ca

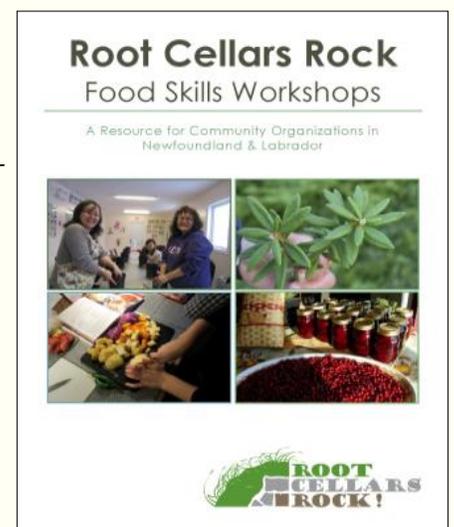
Katie Temple

Photo courtesy K. Temple

The Food Skills Workshop Kit!

The workshop kit is a free resource created by [Food First NL](http://www.foodfirstnl.ca) designed to support community groups across the province with hosting hands-on workshops building local food skills and preserving traditional food knowledge. Topics include: container gardening; composting; edible wild plants; seed saving; preparing local vegetables; using culinary herbs; canning; and root cellars. Download the workshops for free and start using them in your community today:

<http://www.foodfirstnl.ca/our-resources/food-skills-workshops>



The Greenhouse Project at Immaculate Heart of Mary School

In April 2017, the Western Environment Centre collaborated with Immaculate Heart of Mary School to create an agricultural learning program in the school greenhouse. This project gave students from junior kindergarten to grade 4 a weekly hands-on lesson, enabling them to participate in seed identification, planting, composting, entomology, and other garden-care activities. This program was run by WEC's Jessica Galllott, a Forestry Technician from the College of the North Atlantic and student in Sustainable Resource Management at Grenfell Campus (MUN). Also, Jessica's daughter Carrie attends the School and partook in the program.



Due to the huge response and positive feedback from the children and teachers at the school, there are now plans to continue and expand the program in order to help build food skills and stronger food security networks within Corner Brook. The success of this project was assured by various groups who donated time and money. The school provided the location and the space. WEC and the children's parents donated seeds. The school purchased \$700 worth of soil through a first annual fundraising 'Spring Fling' garden sale of seedlings. A Healthy Community Living Fund grant of \$4,860 paid for the construction of two outside garden beds, the purchase of tools, student employment during the summer for daily greenhouse watering, and salary for the provision of food skills and greenhouse programming in the fall.

As part of the partnership, WEC has been able to use the School's classrooms for community workshops (such as the workshop on raising backyard chickens). As well, produce is being grown in this greenhouse for WEC to sell this autumn at their table at the Wonderful Fine Market.

Volunteers are always welcome and needed to make these programs a success. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact WEC (info@wecnl.ca).

Jessica Galllott



Photos courtesy J. Galllott

Helping WEC as you recycle

Here is a creative way to donate to WEC financially. WEC has an account at Scotia Recycling on 55 Maple Valley Rd (709-634-2025). When dropping off your recyclables, donate by telling the people at the desk that you wish to give the proceeds to the Western Environment Centre. Visit the Scotia Recycling website:

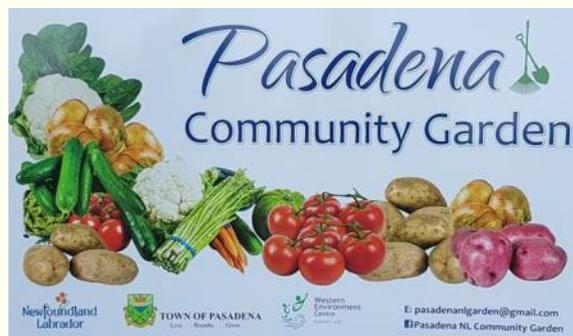


<http://scotiarecyclinggroup.com/services-by-location>. For information on recycling on Corner Brook, visit <http://www.cornerbrook.com/default.asp?mn=1.24.100> or phone their recycling line at (709) 637-1630.

Pasadena Community Garden Grows

The first half of the 2017 season has been green and growing in Pasadena! Five more plots were added at the beginning of the season thanks to funding from The Community Healthy Living Fund and all twenty-eight plots are leased. A variety of households from singles to young families to retirees provide a wide array of gardening experience. Potatoes, Brussels sprouts, kale, sunflowers, and beans are only a small sampling of the variety of veggies being grown. The fruit trees survived their first winter unscathed and the communal herb and lettuce beds are thriving. Thanks to the never-ending support of the Town of Pasadena, the water tank remains full, surrounding area mowed and landscaped, and the path has been filled with gravel. We've held several workshops and garden work parties this season with great success, in part due to the involvement of The Greenhouse in Little Rapids. If you'd like to see more pictures of this year's garden, visit our Facebook page, "Pasadena NL Community Garden".

Becky Shea



Photos courtesy B. Shea

Come visit our table at the Wonderful Fine Market!

WEC has a table at the Wonderful Fine Market at the Royal Canadian Legion every Saturday from 10a.m.-2p.m. You can buy freshly-made crepes, as well as produce grown in our community gardens, donated by local gardeners, and also from the Immaculate Heart of Mary School Greenhouse. All proceeds go to support WEC and its projects. It's also a great way to find out more about the environmental activism and engagement going on in your community!



The Upcoming Municipal Election in Corner Brook

The Western Environment Centre sent a series of questions on local environmental issues to the two candidates running for the position of Mayor of Corner Brook, the incumbent Charles Pender and Jim Parsons. Here are their responses.



1. What are specific policies you would implement to help reduce Corner Brook's greenhouse gas emissions?

Charles Pender: The city has a role to play in reducing Greenhouse gases. We have already undertaken a number of concrete steps to reduce our emissions including the LEED Silver City Hall, replacing the oil-fired boiler at the Museum Building with a new Air-to-Air Heat Pump, capturing waste heat from the Ice Plant at the Civic Centre to heat the entire Civic Centre complex, and reducing our oil consumption by 200,000 litres per year. All new construction will be viewed under a sustainable, green lens. Our new AVL systems installed on each city vehicle will also allow us to cut down on excess travel, measure vehicle performance to ensure reliable operation and ensure that the city's no-idling policy is adhered to.

I would also propose that the City consider purchasing green vehicles (hybrid or electric) to replace existing gas/diesel vehicles, invest in a more efficient transit system, and expand our walking and cycling trails and lanes.

I strongly believe that we can also use waste energy from Corner Brook Pulp and Paper for a whole host of municipal purposes including heating our downtown buildings as well as heating our sidewalks to reduce the use of ice and salt and snow-clearing equipment and to make our downtown safer and more accessible in winter.

Jim Parsons: According to its website, the City of Corner Brook completed milestones 1 [Completing of a greenhouse gas (GHG) and energy use inventory and forecast for the community and municipal operations] and 2 [Setting local GHG reduction targets] of the Partners for Climate Protection's five milestone program for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This happened in 2011. Nothing has happened since. I would push us to complete Milestone 3 [Development of a Local Action Plan to meet established reduction targets]. This plan would detail specific actions to achieve the targets identified.

Unfortunately, these targets were set in 2011 with the expectation that reduction tactics would be put in place to achieve the targeted results by 2018. The report created in 2011 by AMEC Foster Wheeler [a engineering consulting firm] suggests a 20% reduction for City properties and processes and a 6% reduction for the community overall.

We may have lost some time, but I think we should revisit the process and establish a plan. This plan should involve a great deal of community consultation, but ideas worth considering include:

- Upgrading City-owned property to be more energy-efficient
- Limiting City vehicle usage through policy and better planning based on data from the newly acquired automatic vehicle locator (AVL) system that is to be installed on the City fleet
- Reducing water consumption through better district monitoring and leak fixing
- Increasing public transit usage
- Encouraging walking and bicycling by improving the trail system throughout City
- Limiting household waste, by encouraging home composting and neighbourhood composting
- Encouraging recycling through better curbside recycling options and partnerships

2. What are your ideas for how the City of Corner Brook can support food security and sustainability in western Newfoundland?

Charles Pender: The city has made available land for community gardens, which I believe can be expanded to a larger number of neighbourhoods. I also see an opportunity to work with the Grenfell Campus and other partners to use waste heat from the CBPP mill to promote greenhouse production of fresh vegetables, including rooftop hydroponic greenhouses on the larger buildings in our downtown that would take advantage of the heat island effect similar to the LUFA farms model. Finally, we need to look at establishing a farmer's market in our downtown.

Jim Parsons: I would like to encourage community gardening and composting. The project that WEC has started on Humber Heights could be a model employed around the rest of the City. Imagine neighbourhood-based gardens and commercial composters on City-owned land all around Corner Brook. Given our aging population, I would imagine that there would be a number of interested volunteers to support such gardens. Of course, we would have to work in collaboration with experienced community groups to manage such projects. Neighbourhood gardens would provide an opportunity to grow more of our own food, provide a social outlet for the volunteers, and hopefully encourage more general engagement in the neighbourhood and community.

3. How do you think waste management should be improved in Corner Brook?

Charles Pender: Waste management needs to be effective and efficient. Waste management now falls under the Regional Waste Management Authority and initiatives will be led by them: separating waste at the source, education programs for residents, encouraging composting, recycling, and the reuse of materials.

Jim Parsons: We are about to pay a lot more for our garbage disposal. Some estimates see the cost per tonne doubling when garbage begins to be transported to central Newfoundland. I think that this will provide an excellent opportunity to promote composting and recycling efforts, and hopefully move toward a separated waste solution at the curbside. If we can reduce the amount of waste going into the landfill, we can reduce costs. Also, I think we need to re-examine how we're disposing cardboard and other recyclables. Current arrangements are costly—is there a better way?

(continued on the next page)

The Upcoming Municipal Election in Corner Brook *(continued from the previous page)*

4. If you are mayor, how do you plan to consult/work with environmental groups in the City?

Charles Pender: I have always been open, accessible, and responsive to our environmental groups and have always supported initiatives that have been brought forward. I would like a more formal approach to be adopted so that as a council we have a better idea of your yearly plan and any requests for support that may come to the City in order to better respond. An annual meeting/presentation with council and staff would be useful.

Jim Parsons: In meeting with Katie Temple [WEC's Executive Director], I mentioned my interest in setting up some kind of standing working group for environmental issues. Such a group would include representation from groups like WEC and Climate Change NL, ACAP Humber Arm, city staff and hopefully a Council representative. I think having a solid link between the City and community groups is important. Groups like WEC have expertise that City Hall does not, and it makes sense for us to pool that knowledge and effort for the good of the community. I am also interested in exploring this model of sports and recreation and social service groups in the city.

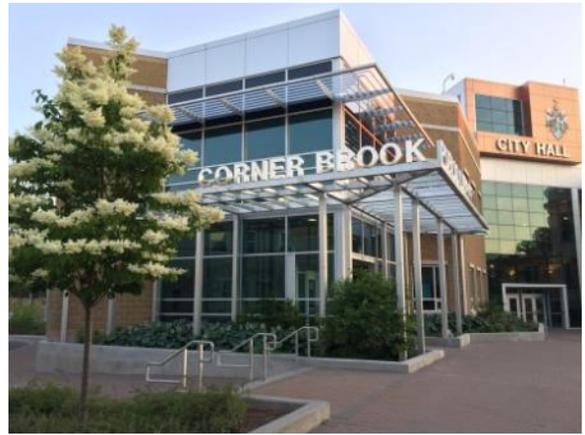


5. Do you have suggestions on how to contribute to sustainable transportation in Corner Brook, including improvements to the public transit system, and making the city more cyclist- and pedestrian-friendly?

Charles Pender: As mentioned above, I believe in an expanded urban transit system that is efficient and affordable. With this in mind, I have led the development of a transit study that will consider what is the right system to meet the needs of Corner Brook. I have also led the council in the development of our urban bicycle plan, elements of which need to be completed as part of our active transportation plan, along with further development of our walking and bike trails.

Jim Parsons: In my discussions with members of WEC, community groups, riders and even transit drivers, I have come to the realization that the best initial course of action with regard to our transit system is incremental improvement, not immediate radical change. Transit is essential for many of our citizens. Transit will not be an overnight success, but if we work to improve the service for our primary audiences first (students and low income individuals), we will see better adoption. Through regular schedule and route monitoring, evaluation and revision, we can boost ridership. Deploying transit for special events shuttling is another way to introduce the system to new riders. We also need better signage at bus stops to help new users navigate the system. There is also a problem with snow clearing at many stops.

There is a lot of opportunity for better cycling and walking trails throughout the city. These trails would not only have an environmental benefit, but an economic one as well, as tourism amenities. I think it would be possible to build a better cycling link through the core of the city (north to south) between the university and the downtown. In addition to trail development, improved signage could go a long way. Many people walk the city for exercise and enjoyment. If we were able to brand routes through the city and provide wayfinding and distance information, it could encourage even more use.



6. Currently the City does not have any bylaws around wind or solar energy generation. Would you push to have those policies developed so that people can avail of the net metering opportunity in Corner Brook?

Charles Pender: The city is actually installing solar lights in the newly developed change rooms at the Wellington St. soccer field as a first test of their effectiveness. We are working with NEIA and other agencies to develop new policies to encourage green energy systems including solar, wind and the possibility to include in-line water turbines in our feeder mains.

Jim Parsons: Given the new provincial regulations around net metering, I think that it's imperative that the city formulate development regulations on home, wind, and solar energy generation. We need to get these in place as soon as possible so as not to impede potential early adopters and wind energy companies. Of course, there is a great deal of sensitivity around residential windmills so it is important to have a solid set of regulations. The good news is that many Canadian cities have already developed such bylaws and it shouldn't be hard to find best practices. Of course, to regulate such developments, we may require changes to our Integrated Municipal Sustainability Plan and the City of Corner Brook Act. Regardless, we must pursue any necessary changes very soon.

7. How would you suggest that Corner Brook achieve compliance with federal waste water regulations?

Charles Pender: The city has made great progress to date on becoming compliant with federal Waste Water Regulations. We are currently working on a major combined sewer separation project in the downtown, that when completed, will result in about 95% of combined sewers being separated. We have developed a wastewater treatment plan and have selected a site and are currently proceeding with the environmental assessment and engineering for the infill so that we are in an excellent position to commence site preparation and construction of the wastewater facility when money becomes available from the federal and provincial governments. We currently have about \$8 million in the sewerage levy fund and continue to accumulate about \$1 million annually to help fund the city's share of the project. In the meantime we continue to encourage residents to reduce water consumption, which has declined from an average high of 30 mega litres per day to an average of 20 mega litres per day which will also mean there will be less wastewater to treat on the other end.

Jim Parsons: We need to get this done. We can continue working on the storm sewer/wastewater sewer separation and continue with the site selection planning process, but without provincial and federal government help we cannot finish the job. We've got to aggressively engage the other levels of government to provide some clarity on funding for a waste treatment facility and the related infrastructure.

Film Review: *Before the Flood* (2016; directed by Fisher Stevens; distributed by National Geographic Channel)

Winner of the Documentary of the Year Award by Hollywood Film Awards. The film can be watched free of charge online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZFmVRsQho4Y>

This is a very engaging and visually striking documentary on the recent status of humanity's struggle to fight climate change. The film is narrated by Academy Award-winning actor Leonardo DiCaprio, who has been interested and actively involved in the issue for decades. This particular film shows that commitment, because it took three years of traveling around the planet to make.

DiCaprio journeys to Greenland to show us the melting glaciers, melting at a far faster rate than anticipated by scientists. He goes to Alberta to receive a tour of the tar sands by a Suncor executive. We also see the degradation of the coral reefs around the Pacific Islands; 50% of the world's coral reefs are gone, thus dramatically affecting the lives of a billion people who depend on the reefs for their livelihoods. We are taken to the rainforests of Indonesia to witness the forest fires intentionally set in order to clear the land for palm oil production. He visits Miami Beach, where the town council has had to spend \$400 million to retrofit the city's infrastructure due to rising sea levels.

The film complements Al Gore's treatment of the same topic in that DiCaprio's film uses interviews and visual evidence more than graphs to convey the magnitude of the climate change problem. Along the way, DiCaprio interviewed many climatologists, scientists, and policy-makers who add factual weight and credibility to the documentary. That is important, because climate change denial is still alive and well, harboured by large members of the U.S. Congress, funded by powerful individuals like the Koch brothers and formidable companies such as Exxon Mobil. This explains why even though 97% of scientists in this field agree that climate change is happening and is due to human agency, some governments and vast segments of the population refuse to confront it. They certainly would not agree to a carbon tax on a fossil-fuel consumption, which many in the film argue is the "magic bullet" to solving our climate change conundrum.

Based on what DiCaprio has seen, it is not surprising that there is at times a tone of pessimism in his discussions. How can we possibly turn this around and is it too late to try? Because of his long years of environmental activism, DiCaprio participated in the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris in 2015, which produced the Paris Accord. While even former US President Barack Obama and Pope Francis I noted that the Accord did not go far enough, it is recognized that it was an important step forward that provided in Obama's words, "the architecture" for future action and technological development.

Still, the film offers many suggestions: how people can exercise their democratic rights to vote in governments that will take the problem seriously and act accordingly; how people can change their diets and reduce their beef consumption and carbon footprint; how, collectively, a people can compel governments to implement change, even in communist China. There are also rays of hope in the film: Tesla's idea of the gigafactory to produce lithium-ion batteries; Sweden's decision to become a fossil-fuel-free nation; Copenhagen's extensive use of wind power to produce what is becoming their main source of electricity.

The film was released on the eve of the election of U.S. President Donald Trump, who in bizarre fashion and no facts declared that climate change is a hoax invented by the Chinese to reduce American competitiveness; he also vowed to pull the U.S. out of the Paris Accord. His eventual election serves to bolster our pessimism like no other. Are we really willing to do something about climate change? Do we even comprehend that it is a problem?



One might naturally wonder, what does the film's title have to do with fighting climate change? The title is an obvious reference to the Book of Genesis, whose sixth chapter recounts how human sin and gluttony triggered God's wrath and the Flood. What is intriguing in this regard is the use in the film of the painting *The Garden of Earthly Delights* by Hieronymus Bosch, painted in the early sixteenth century. A reproduction of the work hung over DiCaprio's crib when he was a baby; it is an triptych image that shows the earth in all its beauty but all its fragility before it was inundated by the Flood, as Genesis recounts. Perhaps Bosch understood more clearly than modern-day people the fragility of this earthly paradise, that what was once so beautiful could be devastated so easily, indirectly or directly through human actions.



Maybe in using this painting and this film title, DiCaprio is trying to speak to many evangelical Christians in the U.S. who continue to doubt the reality of climate change or the need to do anything about it, based in part on their belief that God will never allow humanity to destroy Creation and that God would take care of any problem created by humanity. From a more cautious Christian perspective, however, God could choose to act in that way, or He might not. The biblical account of the flood, and human history, show that devastating human actions of such magnitude can and often do have dire global consequences. To believe in a universe that is governed by a benevolent God does not mean that we should exempt ourselves from human responsibility.

Edwin Bezzina



Triptych of *The Garden of Earthly Delights* (c. 1500; Oil on panel, central panel: 220 x 195 cm, wings: 220 x 97 cm; Museo del Prado, Madrid; Web Gallery of Art)

NL Supreme Court Orders an Environmental Impact Statement of Placentia Bay Aquaculture

WEC is a member of the NL Coalition for Aquaculture Reform. Here is a positive update and recent success.

On July 20th, the NL Supreme Court ordered the provincial government to conduct a complete Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of a massive at-sea open pen aquaculture proposal from Grieg NL. In July 2016, the project had been released from further Environmental Assessment by then Minister of Environment and Conservation Perry Trimper. This decision was challenged in court by the Atlantic Salmon Federation as well as lawyer Owen Myers.

The judge concluded that Minister Trimper did not have jurisdiction to release the project, citing significant environmental and public concerns that, according to provincial legislation, make an EIS mandatory. Grieg's submitted plan involves eleven sea cages along with a hatchery and processing facility which would produce 7 million salmon annually and harvest 33,000 metric tonnes. The proponent would be using European-strain salmon which would undergo sterilization. According to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the proposal would be the largest aquaculture expansion in Canada, the first to use a foreign sterilized Salmon in Eastern Canada, and the first use of the proposed net cage system in the province.

The wild Atlantic salmon population of the south coast is classified as Threatened by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), and it is widely believed that it will be classified as Endangered under the Species at Risk Act (SARA). DFO acknowledges that there is a severe lack of baseline data about the population's size, as there has only ever been one monitored river. The estimations that have been proposed instead are based on unreliable data which are not effective at assessing the entire population. Noting this extreme lack of data, the wild salmon population in Placentia Bay is estimated to be no larger than 7,000, which puts them at an extreme risk relative to the numbers of farmed salmon in the area.

The judge cited a comprehensive departmental review, along with responses from numerous other provincial and federal consulted agencies which outlined a variety of potentially negative environmental impacts. There were over 200 responses from the public (including WEC) which expressed concern with the project. The judge concluded that the risk and public concern were significant, either of which would force the Minister to order an EIS. The court found that the Minister even acknowledged in his letters and was aware of the presence of potentially significant impacts. Furthermore, it was concluded that given such a lack of scientific baseline data, the only way to determine the level of risk would be to conduct an EIS in the first place.

While the province may still appeal the decision, it is very clear that public feedback has a very important role to play in environmental reviews. In the 66-page written decision, Justice Butler states that the public outcry was so significant that "there was no evidence that could cause the Minister to conclude otherwise." Given the Minister's "factual conclusions" about public feedback and other environmental concerns, his decision to release the project "cannot be supported by a standard of reasonableness." Environmental Assessments are one of the few opportunities that citizens have to impact Environmental policy in an effective way. This recent court decision proves that the chance should not be squandered.

Glen Keeling

The link to the court's full decision can be found at:

http://0104.nccdn.net/1_5/1c1/16f/3df/201601G6118---Atlantic-Salmon-Federation--Canada--v.-HMG--Minister---of-Envi.pdf

For a statement from Grieg NL, see <https://www.griegnl.com/statement-from-grieg-nl/>

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GRENFELL
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Thanks very much to our summer student, Katie Howse

Katie was employed by WEC over the summer to work on and promote the e-bike share project.



"This job has been a very unique experience for me. I enjoyed learning about the rental bikes and fixing them up from time to time. I have definitely gained some valuable skills this summer (taking the initiative, asking questions, etc.) and I've had the opportunity to meet a lot of interesting people. This job is one that I would recommend to anyone who has an interest in marketing and mechanics. I've learned so much about advertising and fixing bikes over this summer that I look forward to applying these new skills to my everyday life."

The St. Lawrence Coalition

From their mission statement: The St. Lawrence Coalition was created to persuade government bodies to issue a moratorium on oil and gas exploration and exploitation in the Gulf of St. Lawrence as soon as possible. The St. Lawrence Coalition aims at bringing the gulf communities together, which share the same concerns and appreciate the natural resources of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Our coalition is inter-provincial as five provinces are involved: Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Québec, and Newfoundland and Labrador.

website: <http://www.coalitionsaintlaurent.ca/en/coalition>

Contact Sylvain Archambault e-mail: s.arch@me.com ;
phone: (514) 903-3524 cell (581) 995-4350





Western
Environment
Centre
wecnl.ca

Annual Membership Form

Type of Membership: New Renewal Lapsed

Annual membership fee: \$10.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number (with area code): (____) _____

E-mail address: _____

Would you like to be added to our e-mail list? Yes No

What environmental issues interest you the most?

Wildlife Energy Urban Planning

Food Climate Change Transportation

Other: _____

Would you be willing to help out with WEC events? _____

Would you be interested in sitting on any of the following WEC committees or working groups:

BikeShare Community Compost Market

Newsletter Community Garden

Are you interested in becoming a Board Member? Yes No

How did you hear about WEC? _____

Do you have any additional information for WEC?

To learn more about WEC, visit www.wecnl.ca or join us on Facebook or Twitter.

Benefits of Membership

- Receive updates on WEC events and activities
- Receive our newsletter
- Free entry to workshops
- Become part of a growing organization that is committed to protecting the environment in Western Newfoundland and elsewhere

Office Use Only

Date: _____

Origin (e.g. walk-in): _____

Payment method:

Cash Cheque

Memberships are valid for 1 year (Jan – Dec).

Please return form & payment to:

The Western Environment Centre,
50 Main Street (2nd floor)

Corner Brook, NL, A2H 1C4

E: info@wecnl.ca

T: (709) 640-1734

WEC will protect your private information. We never share or sell our membership lists.