

News Release
Climate Change Solutions gain momentum at
Eco- Weekend on Salt Spring Island
June 16. 17. 2007

Community gears up to turn the tide on climate change...

Salt Spring Island, BC - May 30, 2007 - Salt Spring's Community Energy Strategy Task Force is organizing its first ever transportation fair, Getting Around Salt Spring, (GASS) Fair on Saturday, June 16. The event gets underway with a morning 'critical mass ride' and rally, followed by films at the local cinema, and evening Transportation Forum. The third annual Eco-Home Tour runs goes on Sunday, June 17.. Weekend organizers are optimistic the fair, forum, and tour will raise local awareness about energy conservation and efficient home and transportation alternatives.

High on the agenda will be informing people about the island's long-awaited BC Transit community bus service, slated to run between Fulford Harbour, Ganges Village, and Vesuvius Harbour in January 2008. Task Force spokesperson, Marion Pape says that BC Transit will have a bus on the island during the fair and will also join in the critical mass rally. "Big changes are happening around transportation on the island with the potential for a new Transportation Commission, public transit service, as well as developing a more pedestrian and bicycle-friendly island. On this eco- weekend, we plan to inform the community about their choices and invite people to join us in the critical mass walk/ride and the events throughout the day and evening."

The 'critical mass ride' is billed as a fun ride, walk, roll, and stroll for all ages, all speeds, and all "green" modes, celebrating the joy of walking, cycling and reducing dependence on cars. Island Pathways and cyclist expert, Victoria's Susanna Grimes will provide information and workshops on bike maintenance & safety, choosing a bicycle for your particular needs, and demo tire changing. Information and tips for energy-efficient travel will be available at the "Green Wheels" show featuring a selection of lung-friendly, silent electric bikes and scooters to test-ride along with a bio diesel demonstration and electric car conversion and how to set up a car share co-op.

The evenings Transportation Forum features keynote speaker Todd Litman, founder and Executive Director of the Victoria Transport Policy Institute. He will give an interactive presentation on successful strategies used to design pedestrian and bicycle oriented communities. and districts. The weekend closes continues with the Eco-Home Tour on Sunday, June 17, from 10am - 4pm showcasing ten unique ecological and sustainable homes, while encouraging participants to reduce energy consumption and costs. Tickets are available at <http://www.saltspringconservancy.ca>., and on June 17th at Gulf Island Secondary School, 252 Rainbow Road from 9am - 1pm.

The Eco Weekend's grand finale features Salt Spring's green building expert, Meror Krayenhoff, at the Salt Spring Island Golf and Country Club. The evening closes with a special feature airing of the Nature of Things, "Build Green" with David Suzuki. The event starts at 5:15 pm, with reception, slide presentation, and buffet dinner. The program airs at 7:00pm. Tickets are available from the Salt Spring Island Conservancy, suite 201 Upper Ganges Centre, during office hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Seating is limited, so please reserve tickets early.

The weekend hopes to will attract everyone islanders and visitors alike - people who wants more

convenient and affordable ways to get around on Salt Spring, and those who want to do their part for cleaner air and a cooler climate, while at the same time savingsave money on gas and home energy costs. For more information please visit: www.saltspringenergystrategy.org and click on Transportation Options Fair or the Salt Spring Island Conservancy website: www.saltspringconservancy.ca.

Sponsored by Environment Canada, Earth Festival Society, SS Conservancy, Pinch Group, I-SEA, BC Transit, Capital Regional District, Islands Trust, and Island Pathways.

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Schedule

ECO-WEEKEND LOGISTICS

Saturday, June 16

9:45am - "Critical Mass Ride, Roll 'n Stroll" departs Fulford along with the Islands's new BC Transit Bus

11:00 am Critical Mass Rally leaves Dagwoods in Upper Ganges

11:00am GASS - Getting Around Salt Spring Island Fair in Ganges - festivities, workshops, including Green Wheels show: electric bikes & scooters, alternative vehicles like hybrids, bio-diesel, Dynasty Electric, SMART, Three Point Mercedes etc.

2:00pm - Gordon English/Randy Holmquist Electric Car Conversion

4:00pm - Screening of "You Never Ride Alone" at the Fritz Cinema

7:00pm - Transportation Forum featuring keynote speaker, Todd Litman, BC Transit speaker Chris Foord, CRD's Gary Holman at Meaden Hall - doors open at 6:30pm

Sunday, June 17

10:00am-4:00pm Eco-Home Tour - a day of guided tours gets underway from the Gulf Islands Secondary School

5:00pm - Grand Finale at the Salt Spring Golf and Country Club. A dinner and screening of "Build Green" with local green hero, Meror Krayenhoff, on the Nature of Things, hosted by David Suzuki.