

Organic Land Care *with*



**"If facts are the seeds that later produce knowledge and wisdom,
then emotions and impressions of the senses are the fertile soil
in which the seeds must grow."**

Rachel Carson (1907-1964)

Organic Land Care with SOUL is published ten times per year by the Society for Organic Urban Land Care

Our Mission:

"To support our communities in their transition to organic practices".

This newsletter is distributed free of charge to all SOUL members. Please feel free to share this publication.

SOUL

3533 Salisbury Way
Victoria, BC.
V8P 3K7
Ph: 250-386-7685
info@organiclandcare.org
www.organiclandcare.org

Editor:

Christina Nikolic
info@stewardshipnld.com

To find an organic land care professional in your area, please visit the SOUL website at:
www.organiclandcare.org

September, 2006

Welcome to the new Board of Directors!

After a successful 2006 AGM, the new board consists of:

- Maija Finvers, President
- Michael Cowan, Vice President
- Dayle Cosway, Treasurer
- Christina Nikolic, Secretary
- Glen Campbell, Member-at-large
- Laurie Hardy, Member-at-large
- Heide Hermary, Member-at-large

We warmly welcome our new board members, Maija and Laurie. Thank you for volunteering your time and energy for SOUL's cause! We also thank all our past directors for their valuable contributions.

Approximately 12 members were in attendance at the SOUL Visioning Quest in August, and another 18 members sent their responses to the Questionnaire circulated before. Thank you for voicing your questions, concerns, comments, and your praise too! Combined results from the questionnaire and visioning session will be featured in the October SOUL newsletter.

THE BEMIDJI STATEMENT ON SEVENTH GENERATION GUARDIANSHIP

The Bemidji Statement on Seventh Generation Guardianship was released on July 6, 2006 during the 14th Protecting Mother Earth Conference, convened by the Indigenous Environmental Network in Bemidji, Minnesota. It is a powerfully positive message that can be applied in a meaningful way to our lives here and now. Just substitute "microorganisms" for "life-giving spirits" if that works better for you!

The Bemidji Statement combines the ancient wisdom of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) -- **"The first mandate... is to ensure that our decision-making is guided by consideration of the welfare and well being of the seventh generation to come"** -- with the precautionary principle.

Excerpt: "We value our culture, knowledge, and skills. They are valuable and irreplaceable assets to all of humanity, and help to safe guard the world. The health and well being of our grandchildren are worth more than all the wealth that can be taken from these lands. [...] By returning to the collective empowerment and decision making that is part of our history, we are able to envision a future that will restore and protect the inheritance of this, and future generations. Therefore, we will designate guardians for the Seventh Generation."

“Who guards this web of life that nurtures and sustains us all?

Who watches out for the land, the sky, the fire, and the water?

Who watches out for our relatives that swim, fly, walk, or crawl?

Who watches out for the plants that are rooted in our Mother Earth?

Who watches out for the life-giving spirits that reside in the underworld?

Who tends the languages of the people and the land?

Who tends the children and the families?

Who tends the peacekeepers in our communities?"

“We tend the relationships. We work to prevent harm.

We create the conditions for health and wholeness. We teach the culture and we tell the stories.

We have the sacred right and obligation to protect the common wealth of our lands and the common health of our people and all our relations for this generation and seven generations to come.

We are the Guardians for the Seventh Generation.”



Coming up in Victoria and Burnaby:

The second Certificate Course in Ecological Landscape Design!

An altogether different design experience . This intense two term, part time access course is for home gardeners and landscapers alike. Few spots left!
For more info and to register, visit www.gaiacollege.ca/design