

## **July 2009: Talks, Tours, Workshops, Events**

### **Backyard Composting Workshop**

**Wednesday, July 15th, 6:30pm to 8:30 pm**

at the new collaborative community garden

**Kits Neighbourhood House**

**2305 - 2325 West 7th Ave. (corner of Vine and 7th)**

Want to learn how to compost or get some tips on how to manage your smelly, rat infested bin better? Is it too dangerous to compost if you live in a non-earthquake proof highrise? Is it ok to put dead pigeons or belly button lint in the bin? Join Spring Gillard, author of *Diary of a Compost Hotline Operator* for a composting workshop and get all your burning compost questions answered.

**The workshop is offered on a pay what you can basis.** A two hour Backyard Composting workshop usually costs around \$25-35.

### **To register, or to host a future backyard composting or other**

**networking workshop**, please contact Ross @ [rmoster@flash.net](mailto:rmoster@flash.net). Everyone is welcome to attend, but registration is limited to 25 participants. We'll be doing more of these through the summer and fall.

Presented by Village Vancouver, Kitsilano Neighbourhood House, Westside Food Security Collaborative and Garden Heart Productions.

### **Compost Clinic at Art Knapp Urban Garden**

**Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 1pm to 4pm**

**1401 Hornby, next to Kettle of Fish**

Got a burning question on composting? Bring it to me at the Urban Garden on Saturday and if you buy my book while you're there, I'll even sign it.

### **Westside Waste Tour**

**Wed. July 29, 6:30pm to 8:30 pm**

In 2007, about 3.6 million tonnes of solid waste was generated in Metro Vancouver. Current initiatives like recycling, backyard composting, municipal leaf and yard waste composting are diverting over 50% of those materials. Metro Van has adopted the Zero Waste Challenge and hopes to get to 70% diversion. So how are we doing waste-wise on the west side? Come poke around in back alleys, garbage cans and compost bins with us. We'll look at how grocery stores and restaurants are managing their waste. Are any of them composting? If not, what are the barriers? We'll see a unique mid-scale composting system designed a local co-op housing development. We'll check out some backyard bins too; 46% of Vancouverites are already composting in their backyards – many of those west siders! Learn about food recovery programs and innovative initiatives designed to

waste not. Find out what you can do in your own backyard to reduce edible and inedible food waste.

\$35. Register at: [info@gardenheart.com](mailto:info@gardenheart.com)

## **Upcoming Tours**

### **The Gauntlet: A Look at the Emergency Food System Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm to 8:30pm**

As we walk in our west side neighbourhoods, many of us run the daily gauntlet of outstretched hands, from the homeless to the NGO's. We look at the emergency food system and the charity model and ponder: to give or not to give? Talk to service providers and learn about food programs on the west side that cater to vulnerable populations, as well as other initiatives that help increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables for all.

\$35. Register at [info@gardenheart.com](mailto:info@gardenheart.com)

### **Simon Fraser University (SFU) Applications Course – Oct 1-3. Registration for full certificate program closes JULY 17**

I co-teach this course which is part of the new certificate in sustainable community development jointly offered by SFU's City Program and the Centre for Sustainable Community Development. It's basically a three day tour. Here are a few highlights from last year. Vista D'Oro Farms, a beautiful diverse farm. After a discussion of food security and the agricultural land reserve, we sipped wine and shopped for artisanal preserves at their farmgate shop. Still Creek, one of Vancouver's only remaining urban streams. Vancouver Film Studios and Canadian Tire have contributed to daylighting and restoring sections of the buried stream as part of their development agreements with the City. We also got a tour of the Film Studios and heard about their zero waste strategy. Regrettably for some, we did not see any stars. We went to the landfill and talked garbage. And we did a walking tour of Hastings and Pender and learned why one street had plenty and the other was a food desert. Find out more (including last year's itinerary) at:

<http://www.sfu.ca/city/scd-sustain.htm>

### **Gaining Ground Conference Tours: OCT 19-23**

Register now for the tours in October at the Gaining Ground Conference. The theme this year is Resilient Cities: Urban Strategies for Transition Times. I will be leading four, resiliently themed tours along with the help of other experts. Visit a farm, stroll our green streets, walk through the infamous downtown eastside and the soon to be famous 2010 Olympic site.

With any tour registration, receive a one-time \$50 coupon that can be applied to subsequent Simon Fraser University (SFU) City Program 2-day courses, in either the Sustainable Community Development program or the Urban Design Program.

[http://www.gaininggroundsummit.com/vancouver2009/vancouver2009\\_theme.htm](http://www.gaininggroundsummit.com/vancouver2009/vancouver2009_theme.htm)