

Sept 2009: Talks, Tours, Workshops, Events

Feeding Ourselves: How Do We Fare?

An Evening with Spring Gillard

author, Diary of a Compost Hotline Operator

Wed. Sept 2, 2009 7 pm to 9pm

Kelowna Downtown Library, 1380 Ellis Street

Presented by Central Okanagan Community Gardens, Central Okanagan Healthy Food Council, Interior Health, Okanagan Greens Society. Admission free.

Backyard Composting Workshop

Wednesday, Sept. 16, 6pm to 8pm

In a covered carport in the Dunbar area, Vancouver

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. Everyone is welcome to attend, but registration is limited to 25 participants.

Presented by Village Vancouver and Garden Heart Productions.

Pocket Market

Friday, Sept. 18th, 10am to 12noon

South Granville Seniors Centre

1420 West 12th Avenue

Come buy your fresh produce and help strengthen the food system on the west side of Vancouver. Presented by the Westside Food Security Collaborative. I will be the cashier!

The Gauntlet: A Look at the Emergency Food System

Saturday, Sept. 26th 10am to 12noon

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.

This tour is part of the on-going *Exploring the Food System on the West Side* series. \$35. Register at info@gardenheart.com

Upcoming Tours

Simon Fraser University (SFU) Applications Course – Oct 1-3.

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 Village 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