

Twenty-Second Year

Issue 88

March 2007

Good Work News

Good Work News was first produced in September 1984. It is published four times a year by The Working Centre and St. John's Kitchen as a forum of opinions and ideas on work and unemployment. There is a circulation of 9,500 copies. Subscription: a donation towards our work.

Editors: Joe Mancini, Stephanie Mancini, Jennifer Mains, John R. Smith

Contributors: Joe Johnson, John Maier, Rebecca Mancini, Leslie Morgenson, Mary Ann Nafziger, Mary Jane Patterson, Kara Peters Unrau, Jesse Robertson, Bob Shantz, David Thomas, Ken Westhues.

Editorial comments, changes of address and new subscriptions should be directed to:

The Working Centre
 58 Queen Street South
 Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 1V6
 Phone: (519) 743-1151, Fax: (519) 743-3840
 e-mail: genmail@theworkingcentre.org
 www.theworkingcentre.org
 Canada Post Bulk #05306256
 Charitable Registration #13092 9607 RR0001



Mayor Carl J. Zehr &
 Mayor Brenda Halloran

cordially invite you to attend the

Twentieth Annual Mayors' Dinner
in honour of
John Jackson

Saturday April 14th, 2007

Marshall Hall, Bingemans, Kitchener

Cocktails and Auction Preview: 5:30 pm
 Dinner: 6.45 pm

For more details call (519)743-1151 x119



The Mayors' Dinner is an evening that celebrates outstanding contributions to our community. It is also an important fundraising event for The Working Centre and St. John's Kitchen.

I would like to purchase:

- Individual Ticket: \$80**
 (includes one tax receipt for \$40)
- Contributor Sponsorship Package: \$195**
 (includes 2 tickets, recognition in dinner program, and one tax receipt for \$115)
- Community Group Package: \$600**
 (includes 8 tickets and one tax receipt for \$280)

Name: _____

 Address: _____

 City: _____

Visa Mastercard
 Amount: \$ _____
 Card #: _____
 Expires: _____
 Signed: _____

John Jackson

Continued from page 1

fallout from a nuclear power plant in Detroit. His energetic commitment to walking alongside this group started his reputation as a community resource for groups seeking strategies for change. John has since worked with over 50 community groups.

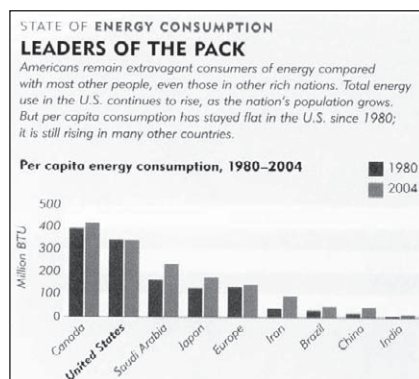
In 1981, John was contacted by an individual from the Niagara Region looking for some direction for a group of concerned citizens. The provincial government was proposing to build a hazardous waste and incinerator site in their community, and they were not certain that this would be in the best interests of the environment or their community. John began meeting with this group (including farmers and other community members) to discuss this proposal and learn about the environmental implications of this site. The initial phone call and meeting resulted in the establishment of the Ontario Toxic Waste Research Coalition and a 15 year relationship where strangers became friends. John's role in this process was to bring knowledge gained from working with other groups, insight into strategies that failed and those that were successful, and hope when change seemed impossible.

Those 15 years of discussions, meetings, actions, and community educational events resulted not only in preventing the government

from building a hazardous waste and incinerator site in a rural community but also in creating meaningful friendships and relationships. For John, this is really the meaningful element in this kind of work--the creation of relationships with individuals who welcome him into their lives and homes, learning together and walking together as they work to make real change possible. John also values the community and individual growth that occurs as people come together for the sake of the larger group and invest themselves in the livelihood of others.

It was this same vision of education and community involvement that led to John's involvement in the establishment of Great Lakes United, an international coalition focused on the environmental health of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River. This coalition initiates policy and educational programs and facilitates community action that will result in cleaner air, conservation, and a reduction of pollution in the Great Lakes ecosystem. This organization actively reflects the importance of relationship, collaboration and education in the creation of constructive and positive change in our communities.

Although a lot of his community work takes him outside of Kitchener-Waterloo, John has also been involved in local environmental activities. He is currently a member of the Ecological and Environmental Advisory Committee at the Regional Municipality of Waterloo and is a member of the Region of Waterloo's Regional Growth Management Strategy/Light Rail Transit Public Advisory Committee. John received the Region of Waterloo Environmental Sustainability Award (2001) and the Grand River Watershed Conservation Award



Continued on page 3

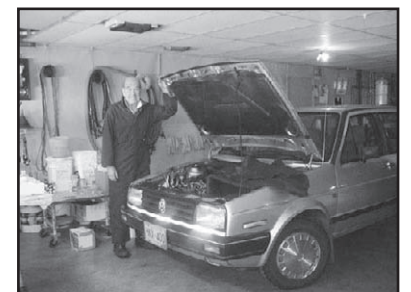
From Fuel Efficient to Self Sufficient

By Dave Thomas

For Carl Kaufman, it's not just about being environmentally friendly. It's about efficiency and economizing.

Carl, a Waterloo resident, drives a 1987 VW Jetta Diesel. He likes to stretch fuel as much as he can. So, in his garage workshop, he produces biodiesel fuel – one part diesel fuel to three parts used canola oil. This means his car, which can go 60 miles on a gallon of regular diesel, can actually go 240 miles on that gallon of petroleum diesel.

The units of measurement aren't in metric – at 84, Carl has been using Imperial much longer than Canada has been metric – but the results are obvious. He's a lot less dependent on the service station than most motorists. Over the years, Carl has ex-



perimented with various fuel ratios, filtering systems and modifications to his vehicle to achieve the optimal performance.

"A good Polish mechanic I knew taught me to filter and recycle motor oil by letting it soak through sawdust," Carl says. Using that idea to filter used cooking oil, "I started by

Continued on page 4

St. John's Kitchen

The Other Story

By Leslie Morgenson

This article was written in response to a variety of sad events we have faced here at St. John's Kitchen in recent days that echo as a collective cry--a cry not for a warm house or more money or for nourishing food (though all are needed) but a cry for love.

If you were new to this city, you would enter downtown Kitchener and marvel at the old buildings newly renovated, the relocation on Duke St. of Wilfrid Laurier University's Faculty of Social Work and the construction of the University of Waterloo's School of Pharmacology. And then there are the youngsters skating on the rink in front of city hall. It's the picture of recent success. But how successful is this story of a city's revitalization that doesn't include all of its citizens? It's an impressive tale of economic vision. But where is the moral vision because we cannot deny that this city has another story.

Though most people view Oasis, ROOF, St. John's Kitchen and the many other agencies downtown as places providing a free meal, what is far more apparent to us is that one of our roles here is to welcome the many who feel unloved and neglected. And therein lies the heartbreak of these past few weeks. It's not the first time we have heard a mournful, plaintiff cry of anguish from someone who has no one in this world who cares about them, who loves them.

These people are members of our city, yet they tend to be faceless, their struggle invisible. Someone in the dining hall recently said to me that, because she didn't fit into an expected role within her family, she was "discarded." This sadly is a common occurrence. And I wonder at what point moral responsibility kicks in? Or will we continue to be a community of narcissists untouched by the pain of others? Herein is one of the most prevalent yet unacknowledged stories of this and many other cities--the unending toil of the most vulnerable in our community trying to make their way in a world that values economics and individualism over humanity.

Humanitarian Jean Vanier (Becoming Human) states that, "If we commit ourselves to the making of a society in which we are concerned only with our own rights, then that society must become more and more closed in on itself." A warning echoed by many thinkers throughout time. On the other hand, "When we have an abundance of love," says Jean Vanier's contemporary and friend Henri Nouwen (The Inner Voice of Love), "When our inner community is strong with love then we are better able to embrace strangers."

... what is far more apparent to us is that one of our roles here is to welcome the many who feel unloved and neglected. And therein lies the heartbreak of these past few weeks. It's not the first time we have heard a mournful, plaintiff cry of anguish from someone who has no one in this world who cares about them, who loves them.

An old "Calvin and Hobbes" comic has a miserable Calvin taking a strip off everyone in his path. And in the final square he laments, "Nobody understands my need for affection." Loneliness manifests itself in many ways and the cry for help is often a cranky abusive tirade that feels like a personal attack and rightly so. When everyday passes by and no one seems to care



about your well being, when physical illness immobilizes you, when mental illness creates an abyss of misunderstanding and misinformation, when lack of funds means ba-

sic shelter needs are not met, loneliness always sets in and can seem like death itself. Addictions and aggression are normal extensions of a life of such pain.

What should be clear is that many of us are wounded. But we often tend to turn away in response when it's within our reach to build a relationship. The moment a calm, neutral but caring voice and smile are presented, the moment someone feels heard, then anger subsides.

Nonetheless, I do believe that focused, controlled anger can also be just the ticket. In late January of this year, Abbé Pierre, a French priest died. Described as the moral compass of France, he worked passionately within his country to mobilize citizens to tend to the homeless in their communities. His successful methods, he said, were motivated by "holy anger." I understand and I wonder if this is the only way to overcome widespread inertia and achieve the impetus to reach out. But as long as we remain at arm's length, not witnessing the other stories in Waterloo Region, we will not be nudged out of our own comfort to feel anger at another's pain. And we need to. When people are in a predicament, they are rarely in a position to advocate for themselves.

The cry for help that we hear is often a gift, allowing us to extend a hand and open conversation. Jean Vanier says that we only cry out when there is hope that someone may hear us. Though the people of St. John's Kitchen are rarely heard outside of these walls, they do respond to each other's needs. At times the cranky exterior will vanish when there is a chance to assist another through their pain, offering healing and redemption for both.

It is hard in this place not to think about Jean Vanier's entire text that asks us to think about the other stories in this city, to accept people where they are, to try to understand each other and in so doing bring a fullness to our humanity.

A very deep Thank You to all those who contributed so generously to The Working Centre and St. John's Kitchen during the Christmas Season

So many donations were received, both large and small that help make possible all the projects of The Working Centre. We appreciate all the sup-



Julie Lunneken

port you provide to make this work possible. In the June issue of Good Work News, we look forward to thanking the many who generously support this work.

John Jackson

Continued from page 2

(2006). Requests for John's involvement on many national councils, public advisory groups, and task forces, reflect his continuing influence and the significance of his commitment to advocating real change.

John Jackson is best known for his involvement in environmental issues. However, according to John, his commitment to environmental issues comes second to his passion for walking beside individuals in community groups as they discover their own capabilities by working together. Individuals will often call John asking for the name of a decision-maker who can actually listen to them and respond to their concerns. It is after they discover this strategy is seldom successful, he says, that the real learning begins. Then community groups begin to explore strategies, network with other organizations, and educate themselves regarding issues and policy development requirements. They begin to realize their capabilities, the value of persistence, the interconnectedness of issues and the importance of community involvement. It is the satisfaction of witnessing this process of discovery and empowerment and the realization by average people of how they can impact the health of their community that drives John to continue to respond to requests from those just beginning to deal with local issues.

Good Work for John Jackson is helping others live thriving lives. It does not include telling individuals or groups what they should be doing; rather, it helps them explore possibilities and get access to tools to transform their community into something better. For him, Good Work facilitates personal connections and is satisfied by witnessing others doing great things in their communities.

John Jackson has been a voice of encouragement for community groups and concerned citizens who are strategizing for ways to contribute to a sustainable environment and who are building healthy and strong communities. He has invested himself as a community member, educator and advocate for real change, and embraced the role of facilitator for communities responding to local, national and global environmental issues. This year, at the Twentieth Annual Mayors' Dinner, we honour John Jackson for his commitment to the human community, for his openness to being affected by others, and for his persistent belief that individuals can actively care for their environment and their neighbours.

We invite you to join us at the 20th Annual Mayors' Dinner to celebrate John's commitment to community.

Projects for Environmental Action

These projects of The Working Centre aim to address planet-wide environmental problems at the local level by reusing and recycling a wide range of resources while reducing waste.

Recycle Cycles has fixed up and reused over 400 bikes this year, helping many get access to an affordable means of transportation. Recycle Cycles Bike Camps teach youth skills in bicycle repair. In 2006, 406 used bikes were sold, and bike repair facilities were used 900 times.

Access to Technology projects like public access computers, self-directed computer training, **Computer Recycling**, and community voice mail uses a community tools model to make these technologies available to the public on-site at The Working Centre.

Maurita's Kitchen teaches the skill of natural food preparation using local produce as much as possible, while the **Queen Street Commons Café** has become a place where the menu features affordable natural food selections.

Sewing Space and **PaperKräf** teach practical crafting skills while reusing surplus fabric and paper.

BarterWorks teaches and enhances the skills of micro-trading, creating a local currency.

Urban Agriculture projects like community gardens and **GROW Herbal** create access to gardens while the Whole Foodbox CSA project supports Amish and Mennonite farms growing organic food.

Over 1000 of our **Live Simply Guides** have been produced and sold. Mary Ann Vanden Elzen continues to facilitate simple living groups.

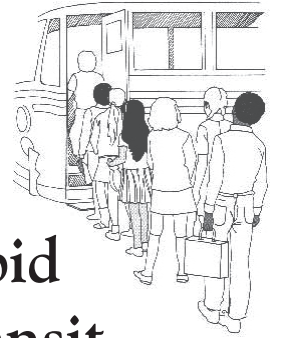
Worth a Second Look Furniture and Housewares has become Kitchener's largest furniture and housewares recycling centre, moving over 125,000 items in its first full year of operation while being primarily run by volunteers.

We offer **Reduced Fare Bus Passes**, in co-operation with the Region of Waterloo, to individuals living on a limited income.

St. John's Kitchen for 20 years has primarily used surplus food from grocery stores and food processors to serve its daily meal. This is a major recycling effort that ensures less wasted food and provides many with a nutritious daily meal.

- All four of our buildings,
- 43 Queen Street South
 - 58 Queen Street South
 - 66 Queen Street South
 - 97 Victoria Street North

have been gently recreated, saving each from a process of decay and renewing the buildings as community resources for many years to come. Each renovation took care to reuse and readapt as much of the old building as possible.

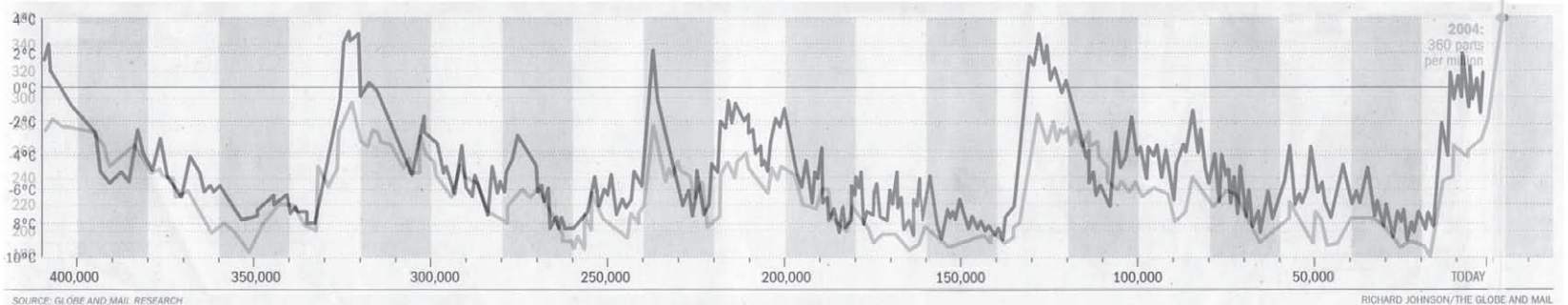


Rapid Transit for the Region

Waterloo Region is now the fourth most populous urban area in Ontario, and tenth in Canada. Continued growth will bring traffic congestion, urban sprawl, and rising greenhouse gas emissions from cars and trucks. To address these concerns, the Region of Waterloo is recommending the development of a Rapid Transit System operating on a dedicated transit lane along a Central Transit Corridor (CTC) linking Waterloo, Kitchener, and Cambridge. Developing this Rapid Transit System

Temperature Change and Carbon Dioxide Concentrations over the last 400,000 years

Industrial production has increased the amount of CO₂ in the environment by 30% over levels 100 years ago. In the next 50 years, what will happen to the global temperature if greenhouse gases increase by a further 90%?



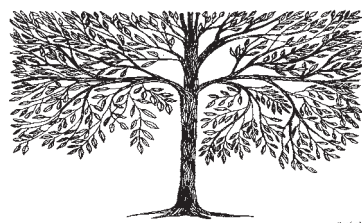
Fuel Efficient, Self Sufficient

Continued from page 2

mixing it 50% canola and 50% diesel, and letting it soak through 12 inches of sawdust. I became more daring - two parts oil to one part diesel. Now it's three oil to one diesel."

It helps that Carl is mechanically inclined. (He "likes to figure out how things work.") He's made a few modifications to his car, such as installing a filter originally intended for a fuel-oil furnace. Plus there have been a few revisions to the filtering he does to produce the fuel. The canola oil comes from a single source, the Café Bon Choix in Waterloo, and Carl needs to make sure that all of the food debris and impurities are separated out before it can go in the tank.

Having used biodiesel in his car for five years, Carl has become a local authority on the technology. Currently, he's helping a group of Mennonite farmers to source and recycle canola oil to use in their tractors and generators. There's no question of



retirement for Carl. After a long and varied career, including chemical engineering and teaching school for 10 years, he now works part-time as a stockbroker and spends a lot of time in his workshop garage maintaining his Jetta and other vehicles (including a 1923 Cadillac), as well as working on other projects.

Carl and his wife Eleanor take an active interest in community matters. They have been especially generous to The Working Centre's recent building projects on Queen Street and Victoria Street. They have also promoted our work to others who have become supporters themselves. They always promote making the best use of our resources. "The Creator has put all this stuff here for us to use responsibly," Carl says. "Life is a treasure hunt. The more you hunt; the more you find. You just have to be a little bit reasonable."

Reduced Fare Bus Passes

Each year The Working Centre distributes 1215 stickers that makes the transit system more affordable for people living on a limited income.

This project has been designed and maintained through a creative partnership with Grand River Transit, the Social Services Department of the Region of Waterloo, The Working Centre, and Lutherwood (their Cambridge office distributes stickers to Cambridge residents).

Those registered for this project receive a bus pass for \$23 less than the regular fee of \$57 per month. We currently have a waiting list of over 500 more people. This is a strong indicator that bus transportation is a valuable service, but the monthly bus pass is often beyond the means of those with low or fixed incomes.

The Working Centre also acts as host to a group called the Friends of Public Transit who work cooperatively with Grand River Transit, the Region of Waterloo and other interested community groups in helping

would reduce traffic, urban sprawl, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Beyond the CTC, others are exploring extending viable rail-based transit lines throughout the Region. Local citizen Robert Milligan has produced some preliminary plans on implementing a Go connection to a new Rapid transit system that would utilize existing rail and regular bus service. This plan would develop a new route off the Central Transit Corridor near the present CN line off Charles Street and proceed to a new GO-Transit station south of Hwy 7&8 at the CN rail lines.

Milligan argues that "A public transportation system revolution is necessary for Waterloo Region... The transportation conditions that have forced excessive dependence on cars and carbon-fuels must be altered..." His plan, like the Rapid Transit Central Corridor is the type of thinking that can change the way we get around.

to make the transit system more affordable for low income users, while also building access to a transit system that is a realistic alternative to driving a car.

CT_x GreEn

By Mary Ann Nafziger

CT_x GreEn, short for *Community-based Technology eXchange for Green Energy*, is a Kitchener-based non-governmental organization (NGO) committed to finding “green” energy solutions and technologies to improve the quality of life in developing countries. Currently, CT_x GreEn has an award-winning project in India, which uses bio-diesel to pump the community’s water supply system. The organization is headed by Ramani Sankaranarayanan and Geeta Vaidyanathan.

In this age of global warming and wars over oil, when the rich exploit more and more of the poor’s resources, we are in desperate need of new ways of imagining how our



communities can live in harmony with the earth and those in it. Yet so often, when people speak of social problems such as these, they are seen as too overwhelmingly complicated to have solutions. In fact, the more I study, the more I have become convinced that this simply isn’t the case.

CT_x GreEn seeks harmony with the earth, community centredness and social justice and through its projects demonstrates how we do indeed have the resources and knowledge to build such communities.

Harmony with the earth means that CT_x GreEn’s project in Orrisa India operates within the natural ecocycle of decay and regeneration. Leftover pulp from the ground oil seeds and pressed fruits are used to fertilize farmers’ fields; and thus the products of the earth are re-inte-

grated into the life cycle as soil.

The project is “community centred” through developing a locally sustainable approach. All of the ingredients of the bio-diesel are locally found plant-products that are regenerated every year. There is no conflict with food security as none of the fruits or seeds are used as food by the community. The project is also socially sustainable through the involvement of the local community in the planning. Training is offered in a way that builds local capacity and knowledge whereby the village can take ownership of the project.

Finally, the project is “socially just” in that all members of the community have equal access to the water produced and to the oil press (which community members can use for their household needs).

CT_x GreEn is presently concentrated on supporting the two operating biodiesel pumps and integrating them into village life. This means:

- working with villagers to grow Niger - the locally grown seed used to produce biodiesel.
- evaluating the different proper-

ties of biodiesel produced with variable inputs.

- maintaining a central biodiesel system at the main Gram Vikas campus for training and for providing emergency supplies.
- training technicians to operate village-based biodiesel systems.

The main success of CT_x GreEn is that three villages, Kinchlingi, Talataila and Kandhabanta, that previously did not have ready access to water, are now using biodiesel to run pump sets to provide village water.

CT_x GreEn has worked closely within the development objectives of a large, locally established NGO called Gram Vikas. As CT_x GreEn has established working pump sets, Gram Vikas has been part of the villages’ process of contributing towards a toilet and a running water tap in each household. Today, in three villages, villagers no longer carry water in jugs over long distances, but rather have water pumped to their homes using biodiesel energy produced by the villagers and assisted by the CT_x GreEn projects.

Mary Ann Nafziger is a Wilfred Laurier University sociology student who has an interest in green technology.

Gifts of Cycling

By Jesse Robertson

In November 2006, Recycle Cycles was contacted by Wilfred Laurier student Matt Brubacher, who was interested in facilitating a donation of bicycles to children in the Sunnysdale community who might not otherwise have access to them.

When Recycle Cycles volunteers heard about this opportunity to provide bicycles to children in the Sunnysdale community, they responded enthusiastically, dedicating the next 3 weeks of time in the bike shop (approximately 270 volunteer hours) refurbishing children and youth sized bicycles. When plans for transporting the bicycles fell through, Recycle Cycles volunteers once again stepped up, and paid out of their own pockets to rent a truck to bring the bikes to the Sunnysdale community.

On Wednesday December 13th, the volunteers’ hard work paid off as they delivered 68 fully refurbished children’s bicycles to the Sunnysdale community centre. Four Recycle Cycles volunteers were on hand for the delivery and minor adjustments to the bicycles. They felt privileged to witness the community spirit displayed by the many who turned out to assist with the distribution of bicycles and to express their appreciation for the volunteers’ work.

Last year, Recycle Cycles volunteers refurbished over 400 bicycles, of which almost 100 were donated to local community organizations and individuals.



Ready to Work Program

The Working Centre is hosting an exciting new program which brings together skilled immigrants and Kitchener-Waterloo employers in the tourism and hospitality sector.

Twenty-two participants are taking part in the Ready to Work Program: Tourism & Hospitality Careers for Newcomers, a three-week training session to study safe food handling, responsible alcohol service, WHMIS and customer service.

The program is part of a province-wide effort with other pilot sessions offered in Toronto and Ottawa. The senior project partner is the Ontario Tourism Education Corporation (OTEC), an industry body that serves the training and human

resource development needs of the tourism and service sectors. OTEC is delivering the training. Funding is from by the Ontario Government through the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration. The Working Centre’s role is providing job search support for the participants, and making connections with employers to help arrange six-month work placements.

“Waterloo Region being recognized as one of three test sites for this program is a credit to the reputation of The Working Centre and to the clear and increasing need for quality labour in our market,” says Mary D’Alton, president and managing director of the Waterloo Inn & Conference Centre.

Interested employers should contact Dave Thomas (ext. 289) or Jason Spencer (ext 108) at The Working Centre, 519-743-1151.

The Working Centre Photo Gallery



Diploma in Local Democracy
2007 Class



Waterloo Region ASSETS+ Project
First Graduation Ceremony



68 refurbished bikes are given to kids
by Recycle Cycles staff and volunteers



WASL: More than a Thrift Store

By John Maier

The Working Centre's latest community tools projects initiative is the WASL (Worth a Second Look Furniture and Housewares) store at 97 Victoria. When I walked into the WASL community as an outsider, several things immediately grabbed my attention. One of them was the hustle and bustle of people working tirelessly every day to keep WASL functioning smoothly. Some folk received donations; others sorted them. Some moved the product from the warehouse onto the store floor, while yet more volunteers worked the checkout. The number of tasks that needed to be accomplished seemed endless.

While those tasks may have seemed endless, there was in my experience always a volunteer willing to step in to ensure that the needs of the community were met. After working on the store floor for a day, helping customers take purchases out to their cars or pulling them into the warehouse for delivery, I began to understand why it takes a whole band of volunteers to run WASL's day-to-day operations. But when I found out that there was only one paid fulltime Working Centre staff member working exclusively at WASL, I could hardly believe it.

I didn't understand why so many gifted and wonderful people from all walks of life would give so much of their time and lives to a used goods store. As I spent time participating in the community though, why they do what they do began to emerge. In one instance I couldn't help myself; I simply asked a volunteer why he was so happy to come and work at WASL. He responded that there was something about the place, an atmosphere that made it welcoming and exciting to work there. I heard that several times from various volunteers and customers. My first day working at WASL I was struck by the ambiance or, as Joe Mancini would say, a milieu that one cannot help but sense upon entering the store. WASL's success is directly connected to this sense.

Over the past decade, the Working Centre has been working to develop programs that not only meet our community's greatest needs but also act to place the required mechanisms of production into the hands of those who may not have them. The Working Centre has called these projects Community Tools. The community tools include self-directed computer training, public access computers, community voice mail, the food and facilities made available at St. John's Kitchen, the Queens Greens Garden and 30 Kitchen gardens, sewing machines, and Recycle Cycles. WASL is successful because of its ability to cap-

At WASL co-operation grows along with mutual aid and trust, as volunteers work together to make the community a friendlier and more helpful place.

ture the essence of what a community tool is.

The projects are designed to help groups and individuals work together to provide concrete products that people can use. Volunteers contribute substantially to each project. At WASL co-operation grows along with mutual aid and trust, as volunteers work together to make the community a friendlier and more helpful place.

In his book *Tools for Conviviality*, Ivan Illich argues that we need to create relationships with tools used to produce products that are convivial in nature. In my opinion, Illich is making the point that in the process of producing goods, it is important not to forget the people who are participating in the transaction. They must be respected, valued and accepted for their abilities and given the self-dignity to make decisions in the workplace for themselves. In my experience this is best done through building relationships.

The goal of every community tool project should be to ensure that tools used in production are not only provided to those individuals in



the community who desire to access them (and in many instances may have had them withheld by society), but also that they are provided in a hospitable manner. It is not simply about allowing people to work; it is also about doing it in a way that is friendly, open, inviting and respectful. While many volunteers are not provided with the opportunity to work in the labour market, those who are often do not receive work that is valued and offers them respect. By providing the opportunity for people to participate in production in a hospitable environment, WASL is successfully acting as a community tool.

One significant way in which WASL is used as a community tool is through recycling products that otherwise would be thrown into a landfill and providing them at a lower price for those who might



Kitchener's Largest Furniture and Housewares Recycling Centre

- ↪ We offer an incredible array of furniture and household items at highly affordable prices
- ↪ Over 125,000 items recycled in its first year
- ↪ All are invited to volunteer and contribute

What's in Stock:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beds & Bedding Tables & Chairs Couches Cabinets Books & Magazines CDs, LPs, Cassettes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pots & Pans Small Appliances Dishes & Glasses Toys & Games Arts & Crafts And Much More! |
|--|--|

97 Victoria Street N., Downtown Kitchener
(519) 569-7566

not have the resources to buy new housewares or furniture. Charity is not the model of community development employed by WASL. Rather, by entering into a reciprocal relationship with the community, people have the opportunity to purchase products through earned credit. While obtaining such credit is not the motivating factor for volunteering, volunteers are provided with the opportunity to purchase some of the products they work with through a one time voucher or a monthly credit.

The products that WASL sells generate revenue that helps support the community. This money can be used to cover expenses, pay for staff, or for expansion projects. It helps in the activities as a community tool because it provides the means by which the program can continue and helps to create a hospitable environment for the volunteers and customers.

In creating Hull House in Chicago, one of Jane Addams' principles was to ensure that every person was respected regardless of background or ethnicity. One of the major benefits of the WASL community is that it provides a place where all come to work. There is an array of people who are part of the 97 Victoria communities. Consequently the volunteers offer a range of work experience and job skills that help make WASL so successful. While it is expected that everyone will be provided with the opportunity to use the various tools at the facility, many do not possess the skills required to do so. While no one person possesses all the skills required to run the day-to-day operations, the volunteers, as a whole, do. Their varied backgrounds and experiences make for an environment ripe with learning and skill development.

The WASL community also provides an opportunity for those who need cash. While there is not a wide array of prospects for people to get paid in cash, two or more

people a day at WASL can earn an hourly wage. One of the many daily routines is to pick up donations in the morning and deliver products in the afternoon. A member from the Job Café is given the opportunity to work on the delivery truck. Through the sale of products WASL is able to pay for this community member's time. Such an opportunity not only provides the community member with direct job skill training but also provides the job experience and money to help meet her/his financial needs.

Lastly, WASL provides the opportunity for members of the community to be creative and let their tales thrive. Before working at WASL, I could not have imagined how a used goods store could allow people's creativity to prosper. But, after a few weeks, now I know. Whether arranging a product display, figuring out what a product does, fixing a broken donation, or problem solving, volunteers work to find creative solutions. In most ordinary work environments many of the volunteers that participate in WASL would not be provided with the opportunity to have their creativity or talents used. However, in a friendly and convivial work atmosphere, people have the opportunity to take old products and give them new life, all the while developing new skills, contributing meaningful work, and having their skills respected and valued.

While some may only see a used goods store, it is clear that WASL is so much more. During the few weeks in which I have become part of the community, I have experienced not a furniture and housewares store but a community that provides volunteers with tools to participate in meaningful ways in the production of useful goods. While many of the volunteers have been rejected by the labour market, they are accepted and valued at WASL.

John Maier is a Masters of Social Work student who did his 4 day/week placement at WASL this past fall.

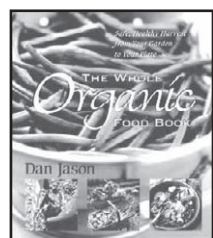


The Alternative Work Catalogue is now on-line at www.theworkingcentre.org and is a great resource for:

- supporting small and home business entrepreneurs;
- helping people through job search and career change to find their most inspiring and rewarding work;
- community and spiritual development.

You can place orders by mail, fax or phone - see the back page order form. We try to ship all order within a day or two depending on availability. Feel free to call us about special orders.

AWC books are also available at Queen Street Commons Café at 43 Queen St. S. in Kitchener. All proceeds from this catalogue go to Working Centre Projects.



The Whole Organic Food Book
Safe Healthy Harvest from Your Garden to Your Plate

Dan Jason
Provides insight and inspiration for those wanting to grow and eat food that is pure and natural. Encouraging and instructive on the ways of regaining control of our food supply through sensible, natural gardening techniques. Jason offers growing tips, guidance for preserving heritage seeds, and helpful hints on how to increase diversity and productivity in your garden. Also included are many healthy and delicious recipes. This book is full of ideas and advice that will help you enjoy the tasty, nutritious benefits of organic food.

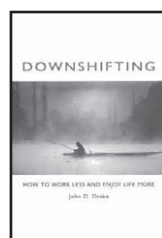
244 pages GB03 \$19.50 softcover



Fruits and Berries for the Home Garden

Lewis Hill
Hill brings his 45 years of experience growing fruits, nuts, and berries to this practical guide to home fruit growing. Well suited to both novice and experienced growers, the book offers information on environmentally sound ways to fertilize and control pests, the kinds of fruit that will grow in a given area, recommendations on improving soils and plant maintenance, as well as suggestions for harvesting, preserving and storing.

266 pages GB01 27.95 softcover



Downshifting

How to Work Less and Enjoy Life More

John D. Drake
Have you ever fantasized about stepping off the treadmill of work? John Drake, a former high-level executive who chose to downshift, offers realistic, do-able alternatives to a work-dominated life. He'll guide you through all you need to do to make a good living, yet find more free time for yourself and those you care about most. He examines numerous alternatives, including: Flextime, lateral and downward moves, and shortened work weeks and, more.

138 pages SL10 \$25.50 softcover



Repacking Your Bags

Lighten Your Load for the Rest of Your Life

Richard J. Leider and David A. Shapiro
This book takes the reader on a journey of self-discovery, providing an opportunity to explore the burdens you are carrying, evaluate whether or not they are making you happy, and discover new ways to "lighten your load". This lively and well written book is full of personal examples and stories that will aid you in balancing the demands of work and personal life while helping you drop your excess baggage.

230 pages SL66 \$19.95 softcover



Live Simply

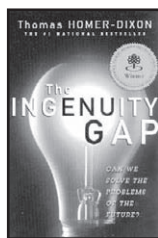
A Simplicity Circle Study Guide for the Waterloo Region

Edited by Fiona Heath

A study guide for small groups (6-10) to learn about voluntary simplicity and put it into practice in their own lives. Information to start a circle of your own with organizational and facilitation tips. The guide provides 10 sessions, with discussion background information, international and local authors, local resources and examples. Excellent for churches, clubs and friends.

90 pages SL07 \$15.00 softcover

Alternative Work Catalog



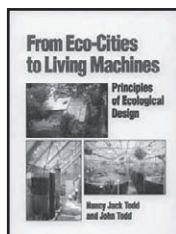
The Ingenuity Gap

Can We Solve the Problems of the Future?

Thomas Homer-Dixon

In this persuasive book, Homer-Dixon looks at whether we as a people can create and implement solutions to address the large-scale problems - environment, social, and technological - quickly enough to save us from them. This ingenuity gap is one of the critical problems we face today, in a world whose complexity is exceeding our intellectual grasp. Those ideas that have been at the core of western culture - ending technological and economic growth - are no longer sufficient to deal with mounting environment and social ills.

480 pages GB08 \$22.95 softcover



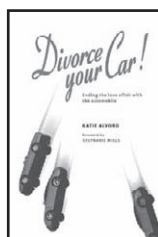
From Eco-Cities to Living Machines

Principles of Ecological Design

Nancy Jack Todd and John Todd

This book explores the human relationship with nature by developing the idea of the Eco-cities; designs for integrating agriculture and flowing pure water into green urban settings. The authors also introduce the concept of Living Machines; a family of technologies from purifying waste waters without harsh chemicals. These ideas are influencing the way we utilize production, technology, water and energy.

197 pages GB10 \$28.50 softcover



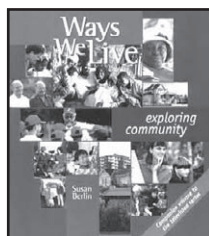
Divorce Your Car!

Ending the Love Affair with the Automobile

Katie Alvord

Society's love of cars began enthusiastically more than 100 years ago, and has since become a very troubled relationship. Today, the automobile inflicts upon us pollution, noise, congestion, sprawl, big expenses, injury, and even death. Yet we ignore the growing costs to ourselves and the environment. Alvord explores the many practical ways in which people can reduce their dependency on cars and address the many problems they create.

301 pages GA01 \$22.95 softcover



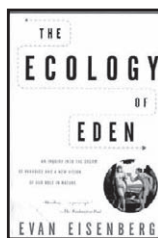
Ways We Live

Exploring Community

Susan Berlin

The idea and practice of "community" is central to our individual and societal well-being. Yet the pressures of the modern world can lead to feelings of isolation. Ways We Live explores our on-going search for community, and how models of togetherness may provide people with the meaningful relationships and sense of belonging that they desire. With enlightening stories and beautiful photos, this book offers everyone the chance to become engaged in their own search for community.

170 pages GB04 \$19.95 softcover



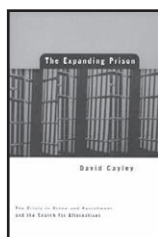
The Ecology of Eden

An Inquiry Into The Dream of Paradise and a New Vision of Our Role in Nature

Evan Eisenberg

Writing in lively, imaginative prose, and drawing on disciplines as varied as biology, geology, anthropology, history, physics, and music, Evan Eisenberg explores how people have dreamed of and tried to create their vision of earthly paradise, and the often disastrous effects that ensued. This book looks at how people's increasing manipulation of the environment to create an ideal world has created a dangerous rift between culture and nature that must somehow be restored before our vision of eden can be fulfilled.

612 pages GB03 \$22.00 softcover



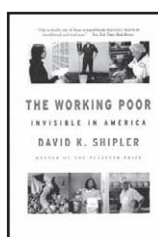
The Expanding Prison

The Crisis in Crime and Punishment and the Search for Alternatives

David Cayley

The Expanding Prison explores why prison populations in many western countries have been rapidly increasing, while crime itself has generally not. Cayley looks at the history of prison, and explains how imprisonment as a primary means of social control fails the victim, the offender, and society as a whole. He then describes a number of promising alternatives to imprisonment that could truly revolutionize criminal justice.

405 pages SB08 \$22.95 softcover



The Working Poor

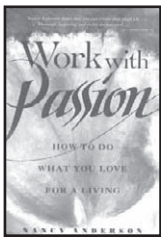
Invisible in America

David K. Shieler

The Working Poor looks at the "forgotten America" where "millions live in the shadow of prosperity, in the twilight between poverty and well-being." For many, the American Dream lies well out of reach, despite a willingness to work hard. Shieler interviews working people to gain an intimate view of a life of constant struggle, dead-end jobs, and social (un)assistance. The author looks too at possible solutions to mass near-poverty from a governmental, business, community and individual perspective.

319 pages AB12 \$38.00 hardcover

Alternative Work Catalog



Work With Passion

How to Do What You Love for a Living

Nancy Anderson

The secret of career success is to work at what you love the most. In this recently updated edition, Anderson shows that following one's passion is the most effective and rewarding approach to business. Her step-by-step program will inspire you to clarify your goals, trust your instincts, take chances, make choices, and recognize opportunities.

311 pages PG09 \$22.95 softcover



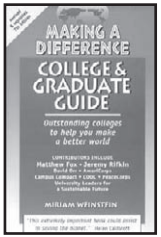
Flex Appeal

An Inspiration Guide to Flexible Work for Mothers

Jacqueline Foley

This book shows mothers that they can have more time with their children by turning to flexible work. It will show you how to: create a personal vision of work/family balance; figure out the right flexible work arrangement; prepare a compelling proposal and pitch it to your boss and adjusting to taking one foot off the career track.

161 pages SC40 \$19.95 softcover



Making a Difference - College and Graduate Guide

Outstanding Colleges to Help You Make a Better World

Miriam Weinstein

For those who dream of working for the environment, social justice, community health, peace, sustainable development, women, children, minorities, and more, this book provides information about specific colleges and graduate programs that offer the kind of education that will aid you in making a better world.

417 pages SD01 \$24.95 softcover



How to Write Articles that Sell

L. Perry Wilbur and Jon Samsel

This practical and inspirational handbook guides aspiring writers as well as seasoned pros through the mysteries of researching, writing, and selling freelance articles for magazines, newspapers, and Internet zines. It gives a complete overview of various types of articles and their potential markets, and explains how to successfully write and pitch articles to editors in each market.

210 pages CP06 \$29.95 hardcover

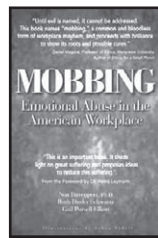


Black Enterprise Guide to Starting Your Own Business

Wendy Beech

Offers essential, timely advice on all aspects of entrepreneurship, including defining and protecting a business idea, researching the industry and the competition, confronting legal issues, choosing a good location, financing, and advertising. You'll learn how to make the most of the Internet by establishing a Web presence.

465 pages SB13 \$30.95 softcover



Mobbing

Emotional Abuse in the Workplace

Noa Davenport, Ruth Distler Schwartz, and Gail Pursell Elliott

Heinz Leymann writes in his foreword: "This is the first book in the U.S. that presents the research of the last two decades on mobbing—also known as bullying—in a comprehensive way." A sensible, practical guide to what mobbing is, why it happens, and how it affects individuals and organizations. Engagingly written, and enlivened with first-person accounts.

215 pages SB07 \$23.50 softcover



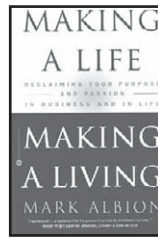
The Complete Job-Search Handbook

Everything You Need to Know to Get the Job You Really Want

Howard Figler, Ph.D.

The Complete Job Search Handbook provides all the practical information you need to get a job, change careers, start anew, or figure out what you want to do for a living. Written for people in all stages of career development, Figler explains with clarity and humour how to identify the job search skills you already have and develop new skills, while helping you understand the job market.

370 pages JS03 \$24.00 softcover



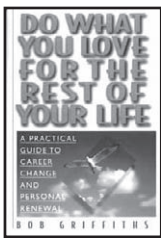
Making a Life, Making a Living

Reclaiming your Purpose and Passion in Business and in Life

Mark Albion

In this book, author Mark Albion explains the importance of making more than just a living. He tells his personal story of how his success in business failed to satisfy his body and soul, and how he started over in life, dedicating his passions to a better self and a better world. The stories of many others who made the same choice to start over are related too in this book, offering advice on how to make a fulfilling life as well as a living.

273 pages JS02 \$19.95 softcover



Do What You Love for the Rest of Your Life

A Practical Guide to Career Change and Personal Renewal

Bob Griffiths

Following one's heart is the key to fulfillment. This book is a unique 'whole person' approach to career transition that helps readers through the emotional and spiritual, as well as the practical, elements of this major change in their lives.

308 pages SC32 \$37.95 hardcover



I Want to Do Something Else, But I'm Not Sure What It Is

Find a Job that's Fit for You

Ron and Caryl Krannich, Ph.Ds

The authors of this book argue that a job or career should not feel like a life sentence. The freedom to choose what you want to do, where, and with whom, comes from knowing what your strengths are and what you enjoy doing, and then targeting jobs that incorporate those things. Many would rather be doing something more meaningful with their lives, but are not sure what that is or how to attain it.

201 pages JS01 \$21.95 softcover

Alternative Work Catalogue Order Form

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/Town: _____ Province: _____
 Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____
 Email: _____



Cheque Enclosed
 (Payable to the Working Centre)
 Visa Mastercard
 Card No: _____
 Expiry: _____
 Signature: _____

Quantity	Item #	Title	Price	Total

Postage Orders: Please add \$3 for the first book and \$1 for each additional book.
 Free postage for orders over \$200
 Prices subject to change without notice GST # 13092 9607 RT0001
By Mail: Alternative Work Catalogue, 58 Queen St. S. Kitchener, ON N2G 1V6
By Web: www.theworkingcentre.org
By Phone: Call or Fax Toll-Free: 1-877-252-2072 Local (519) 743-3840

Total	
Postage	
Subtotal	
6% GST	
Order Total	