

GOOD WORK NEWS

The Working Centre, 58 Queen St. S. Kitchener, ON N2G 1V6

Issue 110

September 2012

Subscription: A Donation Towards our Work

Inside This Issue:

- The 23rd Annual Golf Tournament
- Recycling as Art at The Green Door Arts Space
- Many Ways to Contribute
- Recognizing Commonalities
- Frugal and Thoughtful Innovation
- Building a Community-Based Bike Share System
- Deliberative Democracy at the Kettering Foundation
- The Moral Equivalent of War



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The Green Door Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose

By Jodi Spunar

After many months of planning, painting, clothes sorting and tagging, The Green Door finally opened on May 23rd. In the last three months the store has seen a variety of new faces, including thrift seekers and bargain hunters, and of course, those who come to generously volunteer their time at the store. Since opening, we have received amazing support and positive feedback.

Originally, the idea for a used clothing store came from the need to make use of the piles of clothing that were being donated on a daily basis to Worth a Second Look (The Working Centre's used furniture store). On the other hand, we also

recognised that there was a need for affordable clothing in the downtown core. It was believed that The Green Door could serve both purposes: keeping clothing out of our landfills, and meeting a very real need in our community. We are aiming to not only making affordable clothing accessible with thrift store prices, but also creating a positive and welcoming space. As a result, the shop has the prices of a thrift store, yet maintains the visual appearance and atmosphere of a boutique. As well, there is always someone available to help visitors put together outfits and give second opinions!

continued on page 2

Recycle Cycles Learning to Speak Bike

By Christian Aagaard

Recycle Cycles handled nearly 4,000 repairs and recorded almost 5,000 hours of volunteer time last year.

But the numbers skip to the end of the story. You have to lift the roof off 37 Market Lane, the new home of Recycle Cycles in downtown Kitchener, to get a real feel for the place and what it does.

In one corner, repaired bikes stand in a wooden rack, ready to be sold. Benches and stands lie just below your eyes, and bins of used parts line up in rows in another corner.

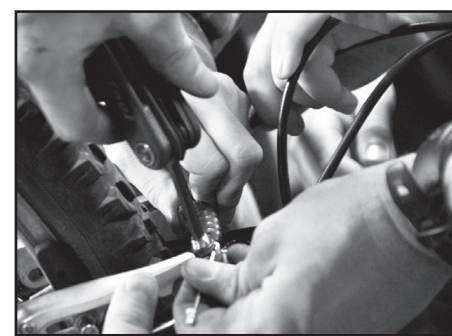
Bikes, a pile of them two layers deep, fill a large garage. If they weren't pulled from the landfill site in Waterloo -- we have a volunteer who is allowed to do that -- they came from garages and basements where they had stayed unused for years, waiting to stub a passing toe.

The shop smells of oil, rubber and citrus cleaner. Sound, however, best explains why Recycle Cycles works as well as it has for nearly 20 years.

Amid the clanking of tools, the squeal of rusted metal and the occasional cough of a compressor, you hear the murmur of strangers putting their heads together to fix problems -- a very Working Centre thing to do.

They may be widely separated by income and background; but for a few hours over the course of an appointment, volunteers and customers find common ground in the shared fascination of how bike parts -- cables, gears, bearings -- conspire to cause so many headaches. People will tell you that bikes, like horses, have personalities.

Launched by the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group in the mid 1990s, Recycle Cycles became a Working Centre program in 1997. The math made sense for the Working Centre: Tools, plus-shared skills, plus more bikes on the road equals a happier, healthier community.



The shop spent 13 years on the second floor of 43 Queen St. S., just across from The Working Centre's main office. It moved in March to the former Oasis centre behind the Morning Glory Café, and while the shop can be a little tricky to find (look for the alley beside the café), it beats dragging bikes up two flights of stairs.

Recycle Cycles still keeps things simple. The service is free, most of the used parts go out the door for a buck or two and nobody judges you by your ability to pay.

For some, Recycle Cycles is an inexpensive convenience where they can get some patient advice from co-ordinators Jesse and Scott. Fig looks after Tuesday nights, when the shop is turned over exclusively to women and trans folk.

For others, Recycle Cycles shaves off at least one sharp edge from a life filled with rough challenges and daily disappointments. It keeps their only affordable means of quick transportation safe and road-worthy.

Bikes come into the shop in various states of repair, pushed by people who may have tool skills to share, or none at all. English may be their first language, or not.

It doesn't matter at Recycle Cycles. The welcome is wide and genuine. Everybody speaks bike.

Christian Aagaard volunteers at Recycle Cycles. To book an appointment at the shop, call 519-804-2466, ext. 23, or email recyclecycles@theworkingcentre.org.

Twenty-Seventh Year

Issue 110

September 2012

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.

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Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose

continued from page 1

The Green Door is open 6 days a week and is made possible by numerous committed volunteers. In the last three months we have had 35 different volunteers contributing over 550 hours of work at The Green Door! The store has become a great place for people to contribute their time, as well as practice their retail and customer service skills. Some of the jobs here at the store involve sorting and tagging clothing, helping customers navigate the store, keeping the shop clean and tidy, doing laundry, and ringing in customer purchases at the register. There is rarely a shortage of work to be done at shop, as clothes are moving quickly and the store is constantly changing!

Since the beginning, the team at The Green Door has worked really hard to create an inclusive environment where people of all ages and stages of life, could have a positive experience. To encourage this environment, we try to keep various styles of clothing in stock, and on the racks. We also stay open late on Thursday evenings for those working during the day. We are open early on Market day so shoppers can come in for a visit on their way to the Kitchener Market.

We are looking forward to the autumn, as the store will have its first major turnover of clothes. Throughout the summer, we have been stocking up all the appropriate fall items, including cozy sweaters, dress pants, back to school wear, scarves and hats, boots, and more! Make sure to always ask about the half price tag colours and any on-going promotions. There is always something on sale! September also brings with it the opening of The Green Door Arts Space, so watch out for many new handmade items for sale in the store! We look forward to seeing you soon!



By Dave Thomas

The dark clouds parted just in time to make a beautiful sunny day for the 23rd Annual Golf Tournament for The Working Centre and St. John's Kitchen on August 15.

Success on the green meant we raised \$18,000 to support our operations, through the participation of returning community sponsors CAW Canada and Lear Corporation, patron sponsor MTD, 28 hole sponsors, almost 100 prize donors and a full slate of golfers.

As always, much of the event's success can be attributed to the efforts of our organizing committee members: Chris Riehl, UA 527 Plumbers and Steamfitters; Frank Curnew, Labour Program of Waterloo Region; Fred Walker, Binghamans; Tim Mitchell, Paul Roeder and Jim Woods, CAW.

Steve Morrison, Chris Riehl,



Boyd Soper and Ron Guse were the top foursome. The top women's group was Janis Turenne, Kim Carter, Cheryl Mederios and Maureen Kirinic. As the top mixed foursome, Bruce Davidson, Jeanette Davidson, Brian Bledsoe and Bob Servo also received trophies.

As always, there were great prize opportunities for the players. There were winners in the closest to the keg, closest to the pin, longest drive and putting contests. The raffle and a special draw for a beer fridge were also quite successful. As in past years, though, no one was fortunate enough to hit a hole-in-one on any of the three \$10,000 holes.

Committee member Tim Mitchell summed it up best when he said the day was a combination of "fun, friendship and supporting a good cause."



Recycling as Art at The Green Door Arts Space

By Kate Motz

In May of this year The Green Door Clothing Store opened at 37 Market Lane in downtown Kitchener. There was a lot of clothing donations received; it became apparent quite quickly that some of it wasn't going to make it for sale in the store. A small rip here, a stain there – what was to be done with some of this clothing that only had a small flaw? Building on the principal of The Green Door, recycle, reuse, re-purpose, the direction for the Arts Space was clear.

The Green Door Arts Space was initially a place for The Working Centre to build on the sewing classes that had been offered for the last several years. However with this new and bright location the possibilities of recycling clothing into



creative reuse products was exciting and once the brainstorming began the list was endless. The Green Door Arts Space plans to be a place for anyone with an interest in creative projects. There will be a variety of classes, workshops and open time in the Arts Space. People are welcome to work on their own projects or lend a hand in creating products made from repurposed clothing that can help to contribute creatively to The Working Centre.

For more information contact Kate at 519-804-2466 ext. 27.

Many Ways to Contribute

By Nathan Stretch

There are many ways to contribute to the community building work of the Working Centre. You are invited to volunteer your time and gifts at one of our Community Tools Projects, invest in established services, support one of our social enterprises, make a choice to work and grow as part of our staff, lend financial stability to innovative and informal activities, visit our open spaces, see a film, share a meal, have a conversation, or read a newsletter. The list is long; there are many ways to contribute to The Working Centre, just as The Working Centre works to contribute in many ways to the community.

In the community of Working Centre projects and tools, participation is contribution. Eating a meal at St. John's Kitchen, browsing in our thrift stores, or reading the newspaper in the Resource Centre are all valuable additions to the social fabric. But finding ways to partner further can be hard work.

The Working Centre is a hive of activity and there are few catchy slogans or sound-bytes to synopsise its many projects, its broader goals, or its depth of culture. And because The Working Centre prizes relationship over bureaucracy, established methods of giving are sometimes hard to uncover or to follow, and may have been re-imagined into

new forms through unique and creative partnership opportunities, and The Working Centre's commitment to reciprocal relationships in every situation.

In order to help people find the ways and places to contribute at The Working Centre, we have chunked the idea of contributing into four parts: Volunteer, Donate, Support Our Community Tools, and Work. These chunks are represented in an online tool we are building to compliment our current practices: a dedicated way-in for people who wish to join with The Working Centre as we explore Good Work, receive and walk with people, nurture emerging projects, and continue our on-going work in downtown Kitchener.

In the Contribute section of our website—where the online tool will be located—people will be encouraged to give what they have; be it time, money, goods, spirit, wisdom, or skill.

Of the four chunks (Volunteer, Donate, Support Our Community Tools, and Work), the Donate portion may benefit most from this growing vision. In the tool we are building, interested individuals or organizations are invited to contribute to The Working Centre, St. John's Kitchen, Community Tools Projects, Mayors' Dinner, The An-

website will guide you in the event that you wish to contribute specific goods to a specific project or make a re-occurring donation; we are hoping to

help people give in the manner that is most honouring of their contribution—in a manner that recognizes the unique and purposeful act of giving each time.

By the end of October we hope to make the Contribute section of our website publicly accessible. Look for a link in the 'What's New' section online at www.theworkingcentre.org.

nual Golf Tournament, or to allocate their funds where they are needed most. The process is convenient and embedded in our website, making use of established and secure Paypal and Drupal web-based processes and modules.

The Donate section will also serve the practical purpose of cataloguing our emerging activities and special projects in a timely way. The

Frugal and Thoughtful Innovation: Standing Purposefully in the Gap

By Stephanie Mancini

The Working Centre is navigating its way forwards in a changing world, that is increasingly more bureaucratic, where funding is tighter, and where we are increasingly seeing pressures to focus on a tighter loop of services designed to produce a predictable outcome. But we are an organization that has always left room for the surprises, that values relationships over the formal delivery of service, responding to the whole person who stands before us, and then exploring the ways we can respond - formally and informally, building on innovation and relationship. We seek to be highly adaptive to each person that we meet, helping people to navigate increasingly complex systems that often leave them stuck in the gaps between community resources.

We are committed to the imaginative and thoughtful work of maintaining integrity, nurturing inventiveness, and including many people creatively as we respond to the issues of employment, unemployment, poverty, and inclusion.

Some of our ideas to help bring this forwards include:

- Continuing to work with our government funders, working to find ways that a more restrictive funding picture does not impact negatively on the thoughtful engaged work that we do.

- Building on the ideas of frugal innovation that have governed our organization for the past 30 years. We continue to do this by maintaining the integrity of our humble salary policy (see the "About Us" section on our website, theworkingcentre.org) and continually looking for ways to spend less money while also maintaining a culture of inventiveness.
- Focusing on our Community Tools projects as creative hubs that demonstrate Good Work, include many people from all walks of life, and help to make it more possible for people to live well with less money - through access to affordable bicycles, computers, food, clothing, and housewares.
- Building on the ways that our Community Tools projects can contribute towards the costs of their operation - and in this effort we are inviting the community to purchase items available through these projects as a way to support our work.
- Seeking out donations and contributions of time that help to make this Good Work possible.

As part of these ideas, we are creating a new website platform and Nathan Stretch's article "Many Ways to Contribute" on this page summarizes this community invitation to get involved.

Recognizing Commonalities

By Nathan Stretch

Whenever I host a tour of The Working Centre, I am struck by the strong current of underlying commonalities flowing just beneath the surface of our diverse projects, spaces, and tools. Tours often take on a momentum of their own, and as a guide, all I am doing is nosing the craft downriver and helping its inhabitants stay within the fluid influence of Good Work—within sight and spray of emergent and joyful instances of unique community activity.

As we recognize and cross thresholds—from the street into The Working Centre's hosted, yet public, spaces; from dedicated project space through hallways, stairwells and foy-

ers—we keep our eyes open for signs of a rich community: the presence of volunteers, frugal innovation and repurposed goods, thoughtful and present conversation, practical projects being worked on by two or more people, and increased access to resources that might otherwise be out of reach. The signs of community building and responsiveness are present and easy to see with very little coaching. We soon stop verbalizing their presence and simply enjoy their influence. Diverse projects become familiar even before we encounter them: a clothing store is just like a space dedicated to computer training, the work of em-

continued on page 8



From Vacant Land to Vibrant Garden



By Joe Mancini

The Hacienda Sarria Market Garden is located on two acres of land a few kilometers from the Kitchener and Waterloo downtowns. The land has been generously donated by Ron Doyle who with his family has restored this 1900-era

industrial property into a place inspired by European pastoral living. It is a place that integrates craft, art, and gardens into beautiful settings.

The Working Centre, in cooperation with Ron Doyle, has undertaken the transformation of these two acres of land that surrounds the property into the Hacienda Sarria Market Garden with the goals of:

- Creating beautiful bountiful gardens
- Teaching urban food production
- Developing sustainability through selling market produce
- Offering fresh food for those participating in the garden community

In our first season a great deal has been accomplished.

● Adding Topsoil

Last fall, Ron Doyle organized the delivery of over 70 truck loads of top soil that was spread out to create five distinct garden areas including the sloped part of the property where discarded cement blocks were used to create several terraces. All the garden beds were prepared for spring planting.



● Don Quixote Statue

Hacienda Sarria owner Ron Doyle commissioned Sandra Dunn and partner Stephen White from the Two Smiths Custom Metalwork shop on Borden Street to use their metal working skills to sculpture a towering Don Quixote perched on his horse, Rocinante. This stunning work of art is visible from the expressway and especially when working or strolling through the gardens. Dunn and White invited fellow metal forgers, in keeping with a century old tradition, to work on the



project in return for room and board. Sandra Dunn who led the project has worked as an artistic blacksmith for the past 18 years. This work of art, complemented by the stone pathways, flowers, and vegetable gardens adds beauty to the ongoing work of developing a productive market garden.

● Spring Seedlings

In the early Spring, we learned how quickly April turns to May. Seedlings and direct seeds were planted covering about 30% of the available land.



● The Water Tower

During the last two weeks of May, during the pathway work, we were thankful that it did not rain. Unfortunately, this was the start of a pattern that has lasted all summer. Between May and August we did not have more than two rainfalls. In mid July, Ron and his friend Irvin Faruzel asked for a water tank from Steelcraft Technologies (formerly Clemmer Industries) and were thrilled to receive an old 25' water tower. Mammoth Crane installed the tank, and immediately after Randy Prange, with the help of Job Café, installed an irrigation system. By early August, we finally had a way to water the vegetables. Most of the plantings between June and July barely survived or germinated poorly. The dry conditions have persisted but the irrigation system has made a huge difference in germinating and establishing plants.



● Father Toby and Building Pathways

In May, Fr. Toby Collins CR offered to assist us with laying down 6000 square feet of interlocking pathways. We knew early on the importance of pathways to make the gardens accessible. We were blessed by Fr. Toby's contribution which included involving students and parishioners from St. Jerome's University and working with suppliers for donations from Ferrell Builders' Supply LTD., Keiswetter Sand & Gravel, and CRS Contractors Rental Supply a. Most importantly, Fr. Toby, who once operated a landscaping business, dedicated two weeks of planning and direct labour. On Saturday and Sunday May 26-27, over 20 volunteers worked into the evening and laid down the main entrance and main loop or nearly 70% of the pathways. By Thursday, with the help of Job Café workers, the project was completed and the garden area transformed as the pictures show.



● Shipping Container Utility Building

When Ron designed his property he attached four shipping containers together and insulated them, while his daughter Leslie Doyle, owner of Restoration Gardens, installed a commercial green roof. The first set of containers were converted into washrooms. The market garden project has used the other two containers for washing vegetables and preparing them for market. We have built a wooden insulated cooler to store produce. The other container is used for storage and project coordinating space.



● August 23rd Open House

On August 23rd Kitchener Mayor Carl Zehr, Waterloo Mayor Brenda Halloran, and Regional Chairman Ken Seiling hosted an Open House and cut the ribbon to celebrate all that has been accomplished to establish the Hacienda Sarria Market Garden. Over 100 people came to celebrate the development of this community market garden. It was a bright sunny afternoon with garden tours, a market stand selling fresh vegetables, while the Hacienda had tapas and live music on their beautiful spanish patio. Special thanks to the Region of Waterloo Environmental Fund that has contributed \$15,000 towards the project staffing to get this project off the ground.



● Volunteers

Volunteers are an integral part of the project, contributing their time and knowledge to make the garden thrive. A core group of about 20 regular volunteers, as well as many others who have joined in amongst busy schedules, have aided and led us in tasks such as tilling new beds, transplanting, planting seeds, weeding, watering, harvesting and preparing the freshly picked produce for our customers. Volunteers and staff from K-W Habilitation have also contributed greatly by ensuring

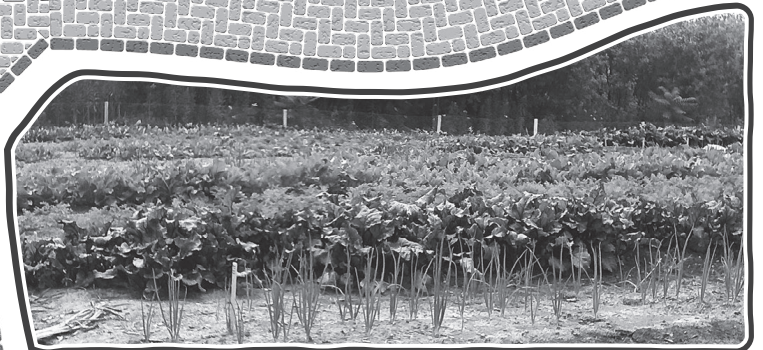


that all 50 of our fruit trees are watered each week. With the help of these enthusiastic volunteers, the garden has become a thriving community space where we can all join together in the good work of nurturing a beautiful and productive urban market garden.



● Our Produce

Our bountiful harvest of fresh pesticide free city-grown produce includes nearly 200 lbs of spinach and salad greens, 90 lbs of heirloom tomatoes, 250 bunches of herbs, 250 lbs of beets, and much more! Despite the extremely dry weather, we have also grown plentiful crops of zucchini, kale, cucumber, swiss chard, beans, onions, carrots, and garlic. As new ground is broken for the coming year, we hope that we can supply Kitchener-Waterloo with even more fresh local and urban vegetables.



● Late Season Harvest

In late July we started over 4000 seedlings for late November harvest. We are experimenting with frost tolerant greens such as kales, chards and radicchios. All the seedlings have been planted and we look forward to a hardy harvest of late season greens.



We welcome anyone who would like to volunteer with us at the garden! Volunteers will learn practical organic market gardening skills, earn produce for themselves, and contribute to this sustainable local urban agriculture project.

If you operate a restaurant or retail outlet and would like to sell our produce, we would love to hear from you!

Call 519-575-1118 for information on volunteering and produce sales.

The Hacienda Sarria is located at 1254 Union St. Kitchener



Building a Community-Based Bike Share System

By Adwitya Das Gupta

In the summer of 2013, The Working Centre is planning to unveil a new community-bike share project for Waterloo Region. Larger and more adaptable to different needs than our Community Access Bicycles (CAB) pilot project last summer, this community-based Bike Share System will be a unique addition to the ongoing work cities across Canada are pursuing to address environmental sustainability, increase social inclusion and enhance economic wellbeing.

The project aims to create a highly affordable and scalable bike-share system that is responsive to local issues by developing a community-based approach:

- Over 150 bicycles at 20 locations in Kitchener, with planned expansion to Waterloo
- Partnerships with the City, the Region, and numerous local businesses and organizations
- Affordable membership at only \$40.00/year with low operating costs
- Key elements are designed and delivered locally
- Principles of inclusion, usability, a 'sense-of-place', and long term viability

During the summer of 2011, The Working Centre operated a manual bike sharing pilot project in downtown Kitchener that was used 400 times by 54 members, emphasizing high social relationships and low setup costs. With the help of Recycle Cycle's bike-mechanics, we developed and maintained a system that showed no loss or damage of bikes and minimal operating costs over 3 months. This learning allowed us to create a more holistic project that will add in unique ways to our community bicycle infrastructure.

At The Working Centre, we often describe Recycle Cycles as the best bike sharing option. Each year, Recycle Cycles repairs and distributes 750 bikes while 3500 people fix their bikes at the shop. As such

it does more than bike-sharing can do alone – it builds vital community bike-assets. New bike sharing initiatives will simply add options to the growing bike infrastructure and avenues for active community transportation.

New options for active community transportation are now gaining greater acknowledgement as progressive forms of social innovation. This spring The Working Centre was one of 5 groups in Ontario that were awarded Social Innovation grants from the Ontario Centres of Excellence for its proposal that outlined the process for developing local, sustainable bike share projects. Many different groups

have been part of the development process, including the City of Kitchener (Transportation Demand Management (TDM), Local Environmental Action Fund and the Cycling Advisory Committee), Masters students from the Conrad Centre for Business, Entrepreneurship, and Technology, Region of Waterloo TDM, Zip Eco Ride, and Social Innovation Generation at the University of Waterloo. Focusing on process and fostering relationships have always been the grounding centre of our community building projects. This system will be no exception, and Queen Street might be on its way to creating a bike share model that is replicable in other communities.

A Seventh Generation Bike Share System

Seven generation sustainability is an ecological and community way of thinking that takes seven generations into account when making decisions. How can our community-based bike share system ensure accessibility, usability and add substantially to bike infrastructure? What about carbon emissions, local manufacturing and membership involvement in planning and project support?

Current bike share systems are likely at the pinnacle of their technological development. Some of you who have visited Montreal or Toronto may recall the sleek bicycles that you can unlock and ride at the touch of your finger.

These 4th generation bike shares offer amenities unimaginable 10 years ago: GPS tracking, easy bicycle locating, locking and unlocking just by using your mobile phone, the list goes on.

So how can a mid-sized but growing urban centre in Southern Ontario hope to create a suitable system that is perhaps three generations ahead of its time?

Deeper than the glitz of the modern bike share, the idea behind it is a powerful mix of social awareness and environmental consciousness. Cities from Vancouver to Amsterdam are backing bike share as a model of choice for transportation that increases social mobility while reducing carbon emissions. But the question is how can something that is so simple yet so environmentally and socially beneficial, be so inaccessible to so many?

Commercial bike share systems typically have high initial investment costs and require large urban densities to maintain. For example, some systems can cost approximately \$750,000 for 75 bikes and 15 stations with yearly operating costs of up to \$1000/bike. Denser downtowns like Toronto's require about 5,000 members to support such an expensive system, even with a large City of Toronto subsidy.

We are attempting to turn this expensive and inaccessible model on its head, and make bike share an affordable and accessible community tool that is rooted in social relationships.

It is our hope that during the Spring of 2013 we will be able to roll out a community based bike sharing project that can reflect 7th Genera-



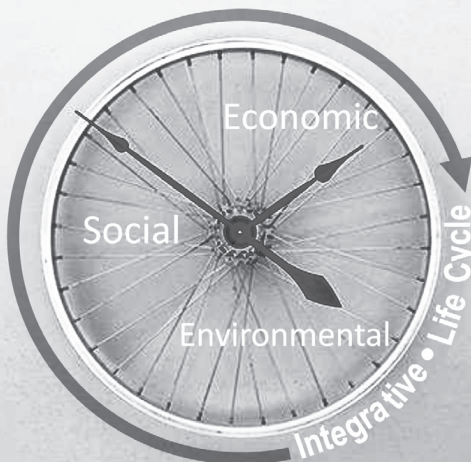
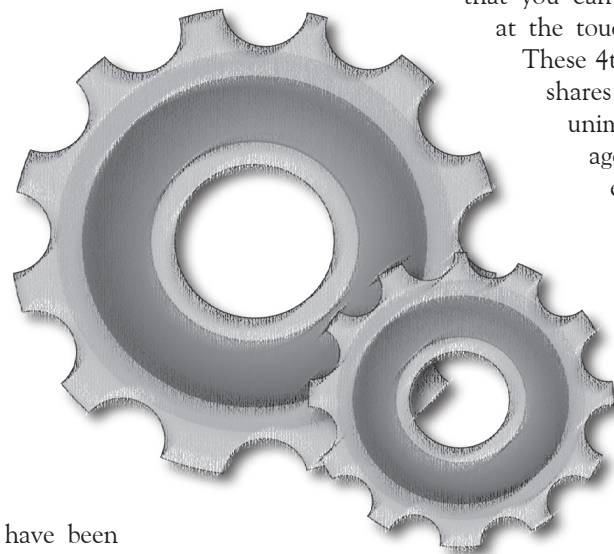
tion thinking that adds three generations of thought to 4th generation systems by strongly factoring in social, economic and environmental concerns into the design and implementation. For example, credit cards pose a barrier to accessibility. Affordable membership should be available through any currency medium or in kind. Different kinds of bikes like E-Bikes can reduce barriers to those not able to use bikes. Self-sustaining funding can come from affordable advertising focused on local companies and non-profits. Carbon emissions are lowered when quality manufacturing is taken into consideration as well as the importance of affordability and accessibility to ensure more people are enthused by using the bike share option.

The system that we are proposing is a careful balance of appropriate technology, modern efficiency, and a network of complementary community linkages. It uses the following frameworks to ensure the project's social, economic and environmental viability:

- Automated-electronic key dispensing units with an intuitive user interface
- Integrated database management systems that track user membership real-time
- Custom scalable infrastructure installable anywhere from neighbourhood to regional levels
- Modular bike-systems that are maintainable and upgradable through local channels
- Comprehensive 'bikeability' and transit-demand analysis to determine best station locations
- Self-sustaining financial structure using bike advertising, donations and membership
- Integrated with existing public and private efforts to enhance reach and economic viability

Specifically for the bike sharers and the greater community:

- Near 24-hour operation through partnerships with local organizations that operate 24/7
- Locking systems that are familiar and usable for any user-demographic
- Aesthetic design that enhances its local 'sense-of-place'



The 7th Generation Bikeshare

Books for Sustainable Living

Books for Sustainable Living

Books for Sustainable Living at Queen Street Commons Café offers a wide selection of books on such topics as the environment, education, poverty, social alternatives, the philosophy of work, simple living, and more!

You can place orders by fax (519-743-3840), phone (519-743-1151 x111), or mail (see order form below)

Deliberative Democracy at the Kettering Foundation

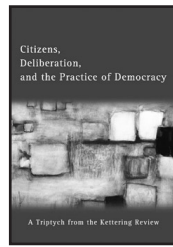
By Joe Mancini

This summer Stephanie and I participated in the Kettering Foundation's Deliberative Democracy Exchange in Dayton, Ohio. We spent a couple days with groups from the Missouri-Kansas area, West Virginia, Puerto Rico, and the Dayton area, all figuring out and acting on local democracy in their communities. These groups represented new kinds of grassroots initiatives that recognize the importance of reinvigorating citizen agency. How can citizens make meaningful change in their own communities?

The Kettering Foundation is clear in stating that it is beyond the left and right designations, but is more concerned about engagement, participation, equality and interdependence. Deliberative Democracy engages people on the questions of the day and looks for new possibilities, new solutions. It is not about telling people the answers but as Benjamin Barber describes it, "listening to the descriptions of the challenges and developing solutions for them." We found in this Foundation groups of people committed to

working hard at understanding local democracy exchanges. Below we have provided some links and books that the Kettering Foundation publishes.

A highlight of our trip was driving 20 miles east from Dayton to Yellow Springs Ohio to the Arthur Morgan Institute for Community Solutions. This is a community development organization established in the 1940's to focus on the advantages of small (face to face) community living. Faith Morgan, the granddaughter of Arthur Morgan, presently directs the Institute in the beautiful setting of Yellow Springs, which is a vibrant community with a progressive history of supporting alternative culture and ideas. Faith and her husband Pat Murphy have focused the work of Community Solutions on the coming global oil production peak, climate change and increasing inequity. The organization designs or locates solutions to the current unsustainable, fossil-fuel based, overly centralized way of living. We left Yellow Springs with lots of resources, two of which we have included below.



Citizens, Deliberation, and the Practice of Democracy

Robert J. Kingston (Editor)

This collection of provocative essays by 19 leading thinkers on the contemporary challenges of democracy challenge readers to rethink conventional notions of democracy, public deliberation, and citizenship. Drawing from a wealth of experience in community organizing, political theory, and public practice, the authors include: "Civic Schizophrenia: The Free Consumer and the Free Citizen in a Free-Market Society," (Benjamin R. Barber), "Breaking the Silence," (Harry C. Boyte), "Journalism and Public Knowledge," (Cole C. Campbell) "Democracy as a Moral Ideal," (Vincent Colapietro), and many more.

216 pages \$15.95 softcover



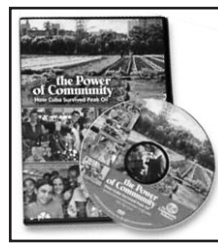
Doing Democracy

How a Network of Grassroots Organizations is Strengthening Community, Building Capacity and Shaping a New Kind of Civic Education

Scott London

This Kettering Foundation report examines a network of organizations that is inventing new forms of community renewal and citizenship education. Their names vary—some call themselves public policy institutes, others centers for civic life—yet they share a common methodology aimed at tackling tough public issues, strengthening communities, and nurturing people's capacities to participate and make common cause. The centers combine the best of what colleges and universities provide with the kinds of hands-on, collaborative problem solving traditionally done by nongovernmental organizations.

27 pages softcover Available for free from www.kettering.org.



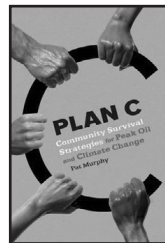
The Power of Community (DVD)

How Cuba Survived Peak Oil

Produced by Community Solutions

When Cuba lost access to Soviet oil in the early 1990s, the country faced an immediate crisis – feeding the population – and an ongoing challenge: how to create a new low-energy society. This film tells the story of the Cuban people's hardship, ingenuity, and triumph over sudden adversity – through cooperation, conservation, and community.

53 min. \$20.00 DVD



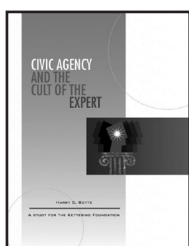
Plan C

Community Survival Strategies for Peak Oil and Climate Change

Pat Murphy

Plan C explores the risks inherent in trying to continue our energy-intensive lifestyle. Using dirtier fossil fuels (Plan A) or switching to renewable energy sources (Plan B) allows people to remain complacent in the face of potential global catastrophe, but dramatic lifestyle change (Plan C) is the only way to begin to create a sustainable, equitable world. Plan C describes the converging crises of Peak Oil, Climate Change and increasing inequity in a clear, concise manner, shows how each person's individual choices can reduce CO₂ emissions, and offers specific strategies in the areas of food, transportation and housing.

304 pages \$19.95 softcover



Civic Agency and the Cult of the Expert

Harry C. Boyte

He explains how even organizations that have benefited from grassroots civic agency have a tendency to relapse into the habit of simply mobilizing the troops to push predetermined issue agendas. But he also identifies signs of a new civic movement already impacting the fields of development, public health, resource management, climate change, and education reform. He concludes by presenting a modular, visual comparison of three frameworks for civic engagement: distributive justice, communitarian, and civic agency.

39 pages softcover Available for free from www.kettering.org.



"We the People" Politics

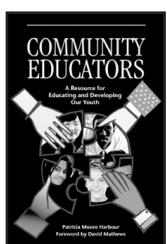
The Populist Promise of Deliberative Public Work

Harry C. Boyte

Boyte argues that it is crucial to recover and expand on a politics of deliberation and public work if Americans are to re-create civic agency and reverse the sense of losing control over our collective future. "We the People" politics, or civic agency politics, involves people's capacities to work collectively and reflectively across differences to cope with common problems and to build a democratic life together. In this model, citizens play central roles as co-creators of democracy, rather than

appearing only in supporting roles as volunteers, consumers, victims, voters, or protesters.

32 pages softcover Available for free from www.kettering.org.



Community Educators

A Resource for Educating and Developing Our Youth

Patricia Moore Harbour

Patricia Moor Harbour asserts that the relationships between education, community, and democracy are inseparable and illustrates that education is broader than just schooling. Harbour challenges current thinking about education and reveals how the public participates in the education and development of youth. This book is a call for action and responsibility to transform education beyond simply reforming schools. The author's professional experiences and the stories she presents exemplify the importance of citizen collaboration among the various sectors of the community.

206 pages \$15.95 softcover

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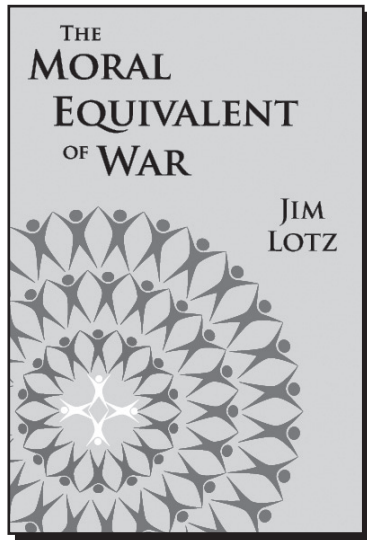
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The Moral Equivalent of War

Engaging the Power of Communities



The Working Centre is pleased to announce the publishing of Jim Lotz's latest book, *The Moral Equivalent of War*

Jim Lotz has spent over 50 years studying the characteristics that contribute to underdevelopment: welfare colonialism, corruptions, nepotism, tribalism, old boys networks, top-heavy institutions, and layers of government bureaucracy.

This book expands on Lotz's community development themes while focusing on new roles in the field, social and community entrepreneurs, individuals who link personal, organizational, and community development through democratic methods.

BOOK LAUNCH & MEET THE AUTHOR

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24TH, 7PM
AT QUEEN STREET COMMONS CAFÉ
43 QUEEN ST. S., KITCHENER



Jim Lotz will host a public talk where he will share his extensive community development experiences and knowledge.

Bike Share

continued from page 6

- Supports very latest bike-safety standards
- All membership needs and information is web-accessible using the new Web 3.0

We are developing a bike share project that has flexible options at every stage such as the automated tracking functions matched with a manual locking system, bikes equipped with their own locking mechanism so bikes can be locked while the member has the bike in use. E-bikes (potentially solar-powered) will be part of the system to add choices for people with different abilities and needs. Low cost stations will be located closer together for walkability and easy expansion to neighbourhoods.

This community-based bike share system is also integrating a 'life-cycle' approach that evaluates all aspects of the project to ensure sturdy, resilient, and long lasting manufacturing that can be locally maintained. It also assesses carbon emissions right from production to disposal – the full product life-cycle. One North American bike manufacturer we have talked with has powered its operating plant with 20% solar energy.

Sustainability also means involving members in the project, giving users a role in maintenance and development. A resilient system does not put all its resources in one basket. It focuses on holistic long-term thinking, and an involved membership base committed to the project.

What is it all for?

Bike-shares are active community transportation systems, and in many cities around the world have been known to foster community bonds, help revitalize downtown cores, enhance local business opportunities, and increase personal liberty and mobility.

The Working Centre's inclusive community building approach combines a relationship model that offers tools and bridges towards supporting people in helpful, useful ways. By implementing our own modular design, we are able to integrate the ease of use and security of modern fourth-generation bike-share systems while maintaining the familiar look, feel, and freedom of traditional systems.

We are also trying to live more closely with environmental wisdom that is both recent and age-old. We hope to do all this at a fraction of the cost of conventional market options – allowing an affordable and accessible system that can be used by cities across Canada.



Democratic relations in everyday life form the roots of a democratic society.

A 14-week course starting in the Fall of 2012

Local Democracy is

- an expression of building community
- ensuring people are not left behind
- practicing the skills of equality
- peaceful coexistence
- challenging hierarchy and affirming equality



This course offers an opportunity to reflect on both positive and negative democratic practices in

- workplaces
- public agencies
- schools
- social services
- community organizations
- civic initiatives



If you are interested in signing up for this course, or for more information, call Kara at 519-743-1151 x.119



Recognizing Commonalities

continued from page 3

ployment counsellors and kitchen workers blend and overlap, open spaces at St. John's Kitchen and the Hacienda Sarria Market Garden are comparable.

And everywhere there are people to help make connections even more obvious. Volunteers, participants and staff (often without labeling themselves as I have just done) approach and host us—eager to give us their time and tell stories of doing Good Work in a spirit of neighbourly friendship. The buildings host us too, their creative spaces and bright colours making

pathways and pools of sanguine calm or purposeful productivity for us to immerse ourselves in.

You can't help but get involved, projects and tools recognize our presence as participation, and we give ourselves over to the activities of the people and spaces we are surrounded by. Tour groups eat a meal with patrons and workers at St. John's Kitchen, pick a bouquet of garden fresh tea at Grow Herbal Gardens, imagine an alternative way of getting to work at Recycle Cycles, and browse for thrift items at The Green Door and Worth a Second Look. In these ways we stop thinking of ourselves as participants engaged in a tour and begin to contribute, individuals begin building on resonances and join in the conversation of The Working Centre.

