

Environmentally Kids Newsletter

The Newsletter About Kids Saving Nature. Year 2, Issue 5, Jan.–Feb. 2023

Hello & welcome to those who are back! We hope you enjoy this next issue.



About the Newsletter

This newsletter is for people (especially kids) who want to protect and heal Mother Nature. We really hope that this newsletter helps you start to take action in your own ways.

Action Blurb: Interview with Nasim, business is OK Junk, a junk removal business (interview has been edited for clarity)

Q. What kind of junk removal do you specialize in?

I would say I mostly specialize in residential junk removal and occasionally I'll do commercial from business and even a bit of industrial, heavy-duty equipment.

Q. Where do you get your junk from and where does it go?

My business is on call so I wait for calls from customers. Most of it goes to the Kelowna landfill, but quite a bit goes to different recycling centres. Some of the furniture goes to a friend who fixes up the furniture and sells it. Any nice items get donated to Value Village and I keep some items.

Q. How do you decide what to recycle?

The main things that need recycling are #1 metal, #2 cardboard. That is 80% of all the recyclable material I get. After that, I get clean wood which gets turned into firewood. The other stuff, it's minor. Some household chemicals and paint. You try to recycle as much as possible, in terms of volume and weight, from the job. Because you're busy you can't recycle everything perfectly, so you just try and do the majority.

Q. How do you process your junk?

I try to process a lot when I'm loading it to the truck, to organize it as it comes in, but if there's no time, some can get processed at the dump. For example, mattresses can be stripped apart at the dump [remove the metal for recycling]. If there's no time, I take it home and process it there.

Q. How do you think your business will influence climate change?

Every time I get something that was going to get thrown out and I find a way to get someone to take it, reuse it or rebuild it, it stops all the activity from someone buying a new one, shipping it to a store, buying it. I cut out that whole stream. It saves them money and saves all the resources that would go into making something new. That's why I try to focus on the bulk of the items because they take more resources to make. If a sheet of paper goes into the garbage, that doesn't matter as much, but 200 pounds of cardboard I have to recycle.

Q. What tips do you have for reducing waste?

#1, if you don't want something, try to give it away first because someone might want it. In my business, that's what I see. Often, people buy something, use it once, then get rid of it. But someone else might want one and buy one. It would be nice if there was a borrowing library of stuff for things people buy but don't use very much.

The biggest thing is ugly old furniture. Sometimes it just needs a coat of paint and someone else will want it. That's the bulk of what I end up throwing out. It takes someone with imagination to take an old piece of furniture and make it so someone will want it again. There are things people buy over and over again because of fashion and style and they want something new. If you want something that looks different, it's easy to change a bit of paint, fabric, and it looks new.

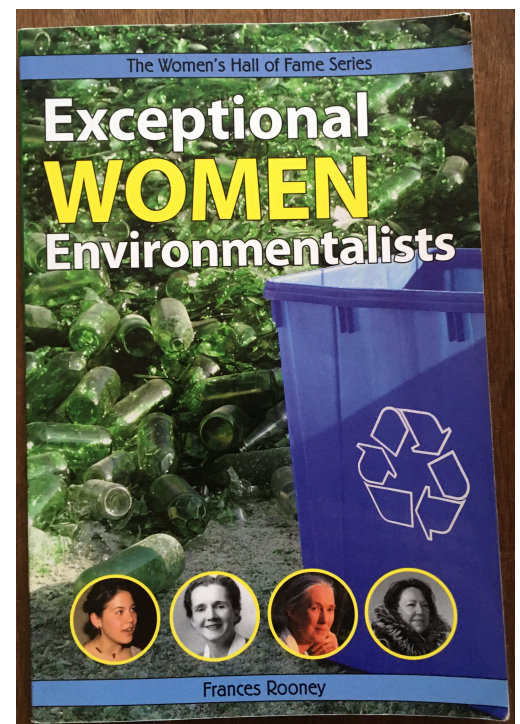
One Good Book

An inspiring and educational read, *Exceptional Women Environmentalists* by Frances Rooney introduces important environmentalists that have, and still are, fighting for our home Earth.

With stories about women like:

- Rachel Carson, a voice of warning against chemicals
- Sheila Watt-Cloutier, "leading the cry against poisoning the north"
- Sharon Beder, "exposing the towers of corporate power,"

it showcases that we are not alone in fighting to stop climate change. It brings to light the work that these individuals have done and inspires us to keep going. Our efforts are not in vain.



News from Readers And Pet Pics

Beautiful nighttime scene
by Nova Peters



Snow Scene by Sully
Peters



Special pond
that is home
to many
animals in
Winter (left)
and
Woodpecker
trying to find
food (right)
by the
Whites



New Years Party

Winter here,

Winter there.

Find something warm to wear.

Maybe I will bake.

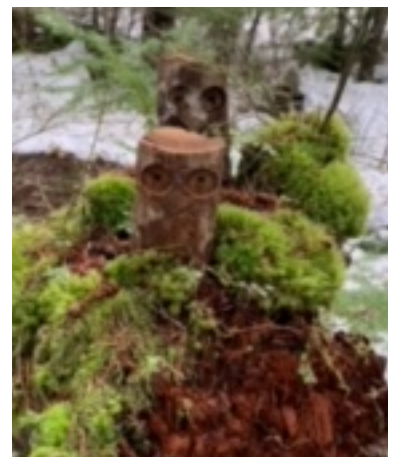
A cold jump in the lake.

Everything is new.

Happy New Years to you!

-Emma Rose

Carved owls that we
find everywhere (right)
by the Whites



"Bee" a Contributor

We would love to hear from you! Please submit things for the newsletter (e.g. Nature related pictures, poems, stories, etc.) to: kamillab@gmail.com. We'll include them in the "News From Readers And Pet Pics" section. If you want to give a Nature related book report with a picture to include in the "One Good Book" section, please email it to us.

Important Upcoming Days/Dates and Ways to Celebrate

Come up with your own, and let us know what they are

2023:

January:

January is Walk Your Pet Month

- Walk your pet in nature, if you have one
- If you don't, volunteer to walk someone else's

National Letter Writing Week is the 9-15

- Write a letter to your local government about an Environmental issue in your area

International Day of Education is the 24th

- Learn about an Environmental issue you care about

February:

World Wetlands Day is the 2nd

- After reading [this website](#), write a letter to your local authorities about why Wetlands are important and we need to protect them
- Visit a Wetland in your area

March:

World Book Day is the 3rd

- Read a book about the Environment

Earth Hour is the 26th

- Learn about why we turn our electricity off in [this website](#)

April:

Earth Day is the 22nd

- After looking at [this website](#), take action to protect the Environment
- Contact a local government official on an important Environmental issue

Keep at it! Remember, together we can make the difference!

Extra Fun!

Solution to Last Issues Fun:

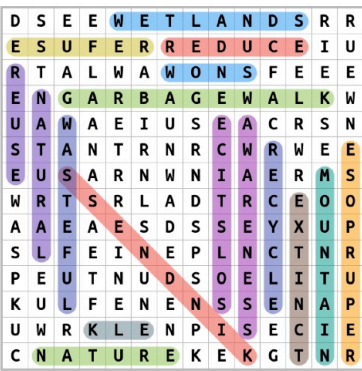
This issues puzzle:

Nature Bingo

Go on a mini (or normal) picnic	Free Space or Make up your own "Save Nature" activity	Borrow don't buy something that you won't use more than once
Talk with someone who knows a lot about Nature	Find out if there are any endangered species in your area	With an adult's help, make a Bat house
Visit your sit-spot	Wrap gifts in reused/ reusable-not disposable-materials	Write a letter to your local government about an environmental issue

From Amie Roman:

We enjoyed tracking animals in the first snowfall at the end of November. In our photos, you can really see the back two toes of the deer's footprint. That probably means that it was a bit heavier, like a buck, rather than



a doe or fawn. Do you notice anything interesting about the raccoon tracks? Hint: count the prints carefully in each of the raccoon's stride marked in the snow.



We noticed that during the very cold, very deep snow the week before Christmas, there were not many tracks at all, compared with the shallower snow and warmer temperatures at the end of November. Many animals were hunkering down, conserving energy, in that difficult weather. We fed sunflower seeds to the wild birds on our front doorstep, so there were lots of bird tracks there!



Looking for animal tracks is one of our favourite things to do in the snow! There are many good resources available to use to learn about the animal tracks that you might see when you're out for a walk. You don't need snow, but it certainly does make first attempts at tracking a lot easier.

Glossary

These definitions are based on our own understanding, plus research.

Chemicals: in this case, things like cleaning products

Commercial: like for a business, on a bigger scale

Corporate: a big company

Discourages: the opposite of encourages

Environmentalists: people that work to help the Environment

Equipment: tools and materials used for a job

Individual: a unique person

Industrial: In this case, from big businesses

Influence: To affect something or someone that is happening

Landfill: a place where they take in garbage, sort it, then bury it

Majority: The bigger part

Minor: Small

Rebuild: to Build again

Residential: In this case, from houses

Resources: A supply of materials that are needed to make things

Showcases: Shows or highlights

Specialize: To focus on a certain thing or area

Writers and publishers:

Alya & Kamilla Milligan, Cowichan Valley, British Columbia, Unceded Territory of the Ts'uibaa-asatx Peoples. Also thank you to Mick for assistance and input.

Thank you for reading!