



# The New NIPR Newsletter

Volume I | Issue 1 | April 2022 | North Island-Powell River Greens

## *We Are Here!*

Your North Island-Powell River Greens are excited to reconnect with the people who make us so strong and resilient – you!

We need connection. We need cooperation. *We need Community.*

We hope that, in these pages, you find stories that challenge, motivate, and inspire. And we want you to know that we are here, we are working, and we are listening.

We acknowledge that we are based on stolen land on the traditional, ancestral territories of many different First Nations, including the We Wai Kai, Wei Wai Kum, Homalco, K'ómoks, Tla'amin, Kwakuitl, and Gwa'sala'Nakwaxda'xw Namgis.

~Anne, Carol, Edward, Jay, Jessica, Larry, Linda, Mark, & Susan

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## Coldest Night of the Year 2022

On a cold, rainy, snowy February 26th, eleven members of the Comox Valley Green Party Team walked 5 kms to support two important social action groups and raised \$3450 for Dawn to Dawn and the Transition Society. Dawn to Dawn provides welcoming and low-barrier housing and health care plus support services to homeless individuals and those at imminent risk of becoming homeless. The Comox Valley Transition Society supports women, children, and families in the Comox, Cumberland, and Courtenay areas and beyond (including Denman and Hornby Islands) who are experiencing or fleeing abuse, overcoming trauma, working toward/through recovery, and those who are unsheltered and/or struggling through poverty. They support and empower women to make the best decisions for themselves, their children, and their families. The Comox Valley Green Party Team is very grateful for the 46 Green donors who provided the funds to make our walk so worthwhile! Thanks to these donors as they show how Greens are active in their community between elections!! Also, thanks to Macs and Clara as the energy of these younger members of our team spurred us on in the snow and rain!!

(Story by Jay Van Oostdam)

“Now is the  
time for the  
unstoppable  
courage.”

## Calendar of Events

April 22 – Earth Day – What will YOU do?

April 23 – Don't Renew in 2022 (Fish Farms Out Now) Rally at Discovery Harbour Centre, Campbell River  
Click [HERE](#) for Facebook Event Page

[The Reconnection Tour – Town Hall Meetings with Interim Leader Amita Kuttner](#)

April 24 – Courtenay (7-9pm at the Florence Filberg Centre). Details and RSVP [HERE](#)

April 25 – Powell River (7-9pm at Dwight Hall). Details and RSVP [HERE](#).

April 26 – Campbell River (11am-1pm at The Java Shack). Check back [HERE](#) for details.

### Earth Day is April 22 – What Will You Do?

The first Earth Day was in 1970 and Earth Day has often been the first involvement of many people in environmental issues. It started in California, but it has now spread across the globe with more than 190 countries and 74,000 organizations involved. The Earth Day Theme for 2022 is “Invest in Our Planet – What will you do?” “This is the moment to change it all — the business climate, the political climate, and how we take action on climate. Now is the time for the unstoppable courage to preserve and protect our health, our families, and our livelihoods.” Together, we must “Invest In Our Planet.” **This is time for us as Greens to involve everyone in our community as this is one step to move them to join Green politics.**

In the Comox Valley, a number of groups are organizing Earth Day events on April 22, 2022 (fairs, marches). Isfeld High School has invited community groups to attend their Earth Day fair and share their environmental concerns and visions for a better future with students from their high school and local primary schools. (Cont'd on p. 3)

## Earth Day (cont'd)

The Comox Valley Youth Climate Council is also hosting a meeting in Sims Park at 2:00 PM starting with some speeches on environmental issues and then an open mic in which local politicians will be asked questions. This will be followed by a Fridays for Future March and will end with Chalk Drawings at the Sid William's Theatre (approximately one hour total). St. Peter's Anglican Church (218 Church St, just off Comox Ave) is hosting a public Earth Day event in their garden from 2:00 to 6:00 PM. Approximately 13 community groups will be setting up information booths and short presentations with time for questions will be given by the groups/businesses from 3:30 to 4:30. An Earth Creation Celebration will be presented by Sulin Milne from 4:30 to 5:00PM.

Cumberland may not be in NIPR but this small community shows what really can be done. The Cumberland Community Forest Society has a whole week of activities from April 13th to April 23rd. They range from bird watching to nocturnal forest walks to waste free lunches, so check out their [WEBSITE](#) for times / dates.

(Story by Jay Van Oostdam; quotes from [Earthday.org](#))



Flowers outside the Comox Community Centre

## Volunteer With Us!

### VOLUNTEERING WITH THE NORTH ISLAND- POWELL RIVER GREENS

As an Electoral District Association of the Green Party of Canada (GPC), the NIPR Greens endeavour “. . . to transform our communities to be sustainable, just and equitable, while tending to the wellbeing of our planet.” In order to achieve this vision, we work toward electing a Green Member of Parliament to represent us and to promote the Green Values which are fundamental to Greens everywhere.

Between elections is a crucial time to get election-ready, and we can't do it alone. We have opportunities for Volunteers to do some very important work *now*.

We have many different Volunteer opportunities. A wide range of skills and abilities are needed.

In this issue, we are highlighting the following open volunteer positions:

- **Canvassing Volunteers** – under the direction of the Volunteer Director, these volunteers contact and identify voters by phone and/or door-to-door.
- **Communications Director** – this is an opportunity to act in a leadership role with the NIPR Greens. It is a key position for communicating messages to voters in the Electoral District.

Join our friendly, hard-working NIPR Greens. You'll be very glad you did.

If you'd like to find out more, please check out our [Website](#) or contact me directly.

(Anne Thompson, [Email Me](#))

## ***Saratoga Speedway – are we up to the task?***

As many Comox Valley residents will know, a couple of months ago the Comox Valley Regional District received an application from the owners of the Saratoga Speedway in Black Creek for a zoning bylaw amendment. The purpose of the amendment was mainly to allow the development of an 8-hectare campground north of the existing race track for motor racing enthusiasts to camp in their RVs while enjoying the races.

This has been a contentious issue for residents of the local Saratoga-Miracle Beach area, and a thorny one for our regional directors to sort out. Some local business owners were enthusiastic about the proposal, envisioning increasing tourism revenues in a region that could surely use more jobs. The Regional Growth Strategy's economic development objective supported the basic project: it includes supporting encouraging responsible expansion for the economic base of the Comox Valley.

On the other hand, a number of groups and individuals expressed concerns about a variety of potential impacts on the local area and beyond. Among these were increased highway traffic and transit in and out of the speedway with greater accident potential, drinking water sourcing, sewage disposal, noise and light pollution, campfire smoke, alcohol consumption in relation to auto-racing, habitat disruption, and increased greenhouse gas emissions in the midst of a climate emergency.

The local Green Party of Canada (North Island-Powell River Electoral District Association – NIPR EDA) was approached by some of the concerned citizens of the area for support in voicing opposition to this project. As the party that has always led the way in protecting the natural environment and addressing climate change in truly meaningful ways, it first appeared our support would be the right thing to do. But other factors made this a much more complex issue, especially the need for employment and economic well-being in the riding. For this reason, local Greens were not so quick to endorse opposition, and have been in discussions among themselves to strike a balanced response.

However, on April 6 the Speedway's owners announced on their Facebook page that they were withdrawing their rezoning application:

“We have taken a lot of time in the past weeks thinking about our rezoning proposal and have decided to retract the application.

“Unfortunately the process has become too toxic on the community and our family at this time so the public hearing has been cancelled and the file will be closed.”

For local Greens this has been an interesting experience in trying to understand the long term implications of our choices – striving to be on the right side of history. The complexity of finding the balance between competing human concerns and the planet's needs requires patience, persistence, good listening, and the willingness to let go of preconceived ideas and demands. Saratoga has shown that strong and supportive communities are essential in making wise and lasting choices. Perhaps the project proponents recognized that its potential harms outweighed the benefits, and there was a large and varied community opposition to it. Perhaps they realized that the health and harmony of a community, and ultimately the planet, must trump profit. If so, they are to be congratulated, and thanked for their courage to change.

Inherent in the Saratoga proposal is the burning question that is looming before us everywhere on the planet: how much longer can we continue to pretend that endless growth and expansion can sustain our civilization? Our insatiable appetite is literally devouring our home. We know we are consuming vastly more of earth's natural resources than can be replenished. Clean water and air, soil health, wildlife habitat and biodiversity, forests, insect, bird and animal populations, most non-renewable resources, and the planet's climate are all seriously in jeopardy – all caused by humans' overuse of everything.

Saratoga has pointed us to the bottom line: it is time for a deep and profound re-think of our values, our expectations, and indeed our purpose for living on this earth. Unless we do so willingly, very, very soon, nature will be unleashing enormous change upon us whether we like it or not. This has become a true planetary emergency. The stakes couldn't be any greater: our own very survival. Can we find the courage to change what we expect of our planet? Are we up to the task of choosing a sustainable life? Are we willing?

(Opinion by Mark de Bruijn)

## RECIPE: Easy and Delicious Vegan Chocolate Chip Cookies

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1½ teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon sea salt
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- ½ cup melted coconut oil
- ⅓ cup tahini
- 6 tablespoons water
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 heaping cup dark chocolate chips

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F and line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt until combined.
3. In a large bowl, whisk together the brown sugar, coconut oil, tahini, water, and vanilla until smooth.
4. Pour the dry ingredients into the bowl of wet ingredients and use a spatula to combine. Fold in the chocolate chips. Use a 2-tablespoon cookie scoop to scoop the dough onto the baking sheets. Bake, one sheet at a time, for 12 to 14 minutes. Remove from the oven and let cool on the baking sheet for at least 10 minutes.

(Submitted by Jessica Wegg and tested for quality by her children; found on [loveandlemons.com](http://loveandlemons.com))



[Join the Green Party of Canada!](#)



[Check Out the Green Party Platform \(Election 2021\)](#)



[Donate to the NIPR Greens](#)



[Shop Green Party Swag](#)

## Support Your Local Farmers and Artisans

[Comox Valley Farmer's Market](#) – Saturdays from 9-1 at the Exhibition Grounds.

[Pier Street Farmer's Market and Arts Fair](#) – Opening Soon at the Campbell River Community Centre

[Port McNeill Farmers' and Artisans' Market](#) – Opening Soon on Beach Drive

[Powell River Farmer's Market](#) – Sundays 12:30-2:30 at the Exhibition Grounds; also Saturdays from 10:30-12:30, starting in May.

*(Did we miss you? Let us know!)*

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

General Inquiries or Comments and Newsletter Submissions: [northislandgreens@gmail.com](mailto:northislandgreens@gmail.com)

Volunteer Opportunities and Volunteering: [nipr.volunteer@greenparty.ca](mailto:nipr.volunteer@greenparty.ca)

Donation Questions: [susaneshort20@gmail.com](mailto:susaneshort20@gmail.com)

#### NIPR Greens Executive

Mark de Bruijn <i>CEO</i>	Larry McCumsey <i>Secretary</i>
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Carol Thatcher <i>Membership Director</i>	