



## Green Notes

### Green Note, April 7 2025: The Flowering Cherry

The other day I took this photo (below) of the flowering tree on the edge of the cemetery, near the door to the offices. I believe it is an ornamental cherry. If anyone knows anything about its history, could you please let me know? It brought to mind this poem by AE Housman, from *A Shropshire Lad*:

Loveliest of trees, the cherry now  
Is hung with bloom along the bough,  
And stands about the woodland ride  
Wearing white for Eastertide.

Now, of my threescore years and ten,  
Twenty will not come again,  
And take from seventy springs a score,  
It only leaves me fifty more.

And since to look at things in bloom  
Fifty springs are little room,  
About the woodlands I will go  
To see the cherry hung with snow.



Our cherry tree is not white or wild, of course, but still very beautiful, and well worth a visit. Spring does make it easier to appreciate the environment! Just a reminder that we'll be having a Green Corner on April 27th, where we can briefly share the actions we have taken to stand up for the Earth (reading a poem counts . . .), in honour of Earth Day on April 22nd.

#### Other stuff:

1. I'm attaching a summary of a document that some Sunshine Coast residents have put together to advocate for a Green New Deal for Canadian Sovereignty (C4GNDF). Their argument is that the current upsetting of the world trade order gives Canadians an unprecedented opportunity to restructure our economy to create "more self-reliant, more equitable economy driven by dignified work, using clean renewable energy and efficient public services for all." If you would like me to send the full document, please let me know and I'll email it to you. You can also find it here: <https://www.greennewdeal.ca/>.

2. The election is coming right up. [Here](#) is a link to a non-partisan David Suzuki Foundation message urging us all to vote, which is well worth a read. They say, "Our politics have become too divided over issues that shouldn't be divisive, such as the need for clean air, safe water, toxic-free food and a stable climate. We face serious threats, from climate disruption to dumbfounding U.S. aggression. Policy differences are healthy, but some things should not be in dispute — including the need to tackle the climate crisis and to stay strong in the face of U.S. bullying. This is a time for everyone in Canada to stand united." Please remember to vote on or before April 28th!

3. If you didn't get to see Bruce Pond's slides on St Hilda's buildings' energy use at the Green Corner on March 30, check out the attached pdf. Bruce has added new explanations to the slides, and they give a wonderful overview of

where we are on the journey to make the church buildings greener. The main topics covered are Assessment, Lighting, Heating, Sourcing and Securing our Energy. We have had terrific help from Gerry Pageau and the Sunshine Coast Community Solar Association in this work, and we are so grateful to Gerry and the SCCSA.

4. More shameless boasting from me: last week, my daughter Emily guested edited an issue of Katharine Hayhoe's newsletter, [Talking Climate](#) "[The Secret to Social Change.](#)" It follows Katharine's usual pattern of Good News, Not-So-Good News, and What You Can Do. Emily teaches history and she starts her piece with this: "When I'm talking about the history of the climate crisis with my students, they often get stuck on the question, **"How do we get to systemic change?"** While we can describe policies that we need, how do we get policy makers to respond? It's easy to freeze in the face of these questions—and many of us do! To help them think this through, **I often drill down into the histories of social movements.** This involves displacing some myths . . . **Newer historical research can help us move past this sense of blockage.** In today's newsletter I want to bring in some takeaways from historians of the civil rights and environmental movements to **help make social movement for climate action easier to imagine.**"

This Green Note is coming soon after the last one, because my son John and I are heading for Washington DC on Friday, to visit my daughters and their families for just over a week. I expect it will be an interesting experience--but not too interesting, I hope.

So I will be gone for Holy Week, but want to wish you all a blessed and happy Easter.

Christine