



### Green Note, August 25 2025: Almost The Season of Creation.

1. **The Season of Creation** is almost here (it runs through September and the beginning of October), and as usual the GPAG team is suggesting some ways in which St Hilda's can recognise it. To avoid snowing you with information, I'm just giving an outline here; we will provide more details in the weekly printed and online Bulletin, and oral Announcements on Sundays.

In previous years we have invited visiting preachers, but not this year since we already have visiting clergy set up for September. Instead, during Sunday services we will save any special notices or remarks for the Announcements segment. Here are some highlights of what we are setting up (other activities are still in the planning stage, so please watch out for updates).

#### Sunday Services

- September 7: To celebrate the newly adopted **Feast of the Creator** (<https://gs2025.anglican.ca/resolutions/a122/>), we will have a Parish Potluck with vegetarian focus following the service.
- September 14: The Green Table discussion during coffee hour will focus on St Hilda's plans for heat pumps, solar panels and batteries

**Meditative Walks:** These will take place on Tuesday afternoons in September at 2.00 pm. We will confirm locations closer to the time, but places we are considering include St. Hilda's Grounds, Sechelt Marsh, Sargeant Bay Provincial Park, Hidden Grove, Kinnikinick Park, Porpoise Bay Provincial Park Botanical Gardens. September 30th is Truth and Reconciliation Day and we plan to join communities which will be gathering and walking.

**Books:** As in past years, our librarian, Heather Rankin has kindly agreed to put out a display in the narthex of relevant reading materials drawn from the St Hilda's Library, and supplemented by loans from parishioners. Most of these can be borrowed and taken home.

2. **Opportunity for Advocacy:** Canadian Budget Consultation Questionnaire (deadline soon!). The federal Minister of Finance is currently polling Canadians about what they think should be priorities for the fall budget. One means that he is providing for collecting expressions of our preferences for how the budget should be allocated is a web-based questionnaire. The questionnaire takes about 5 minutes to complete; however, the deadline for submission is midnight on Thursday August 28th.

Very few of the options provided in the questionnaire include funding climate emergency-related or environmental protection initiatives. However, each question does include an "Other" option, which allows a respondent to type in a priority that they did not offer.

You can reach the questionnaire here. If you would like additional information on answering the questions, and in particular when using the "Other" choice, take a look at this webpage from the David Suzuki Foundation.

3. **Update on the Great Bear Sea.** For encouraging news, check out this recent illustrated article by bioGraphic, an independent, nonprofit magazine supported in part by the California Academy of Sciences, about BC's Great Bear Sea (a Marine Protected Area—MPA—adjacent to the Great Bear Rainforest). The photos alone are worth the read: <https://www.biographic.com/welcome-to-the-great-bear-sea/>.



4. **Focus on textiles.** As GPAG has previously brought to our attention, current practices in textile production, use, and disposal pose a severe environmental dilemma. Here Muriel Prior, one of our St Hilda's textile experts, provides some invaluable links, as we try to slow down, mitigate, and transform what we do with clothing and other textiles.

*Recycling:* For those looking to acquire or dispose of fabric and sewing supplies, the organization **Our Social Fabric** ("We believe in a future where no usable fabric ends up in Canadian landfills," <https://oursocialfabric.ca/>) provides online and in-person opportunities for both.

*Sharing:* **Compassionate Resource Warehouse (crw)**, <https://www.crowarehouse.ca/> is a registered Canadian charity based in Victoria, BC. Since 1999, CRW volunteers have collected, processed, packaged and shipped donated goods and equipment free of charge to responsible charities and other groups around the world. Among the many goods they accept are clothing and bedding, as well as sewing supplies and equipment.

*Making:* For those with crochet and knitting skills and with leftover supplies to hand, the **Izzy Doll Initiative** (<https://izzydoll.org/en/>) provides a worthy outlet. As the site explains, "Master Corporal Mark "Izzy" Isfeld (August 14, 1962 – June 21, 1994) was a Canadian soldier and United Nations peacekeeper. He served as a combat engineer with the Canadian Armed Forces, specializing in the dangerous task of removing landmines. While serving in peacekeeping missions in the 1990s, MCpl Isfeld was deeply moved by the suffering he witnessed, especially among children who had lost their homes and possessions due to the conflict. Mark told his mother that kids in war zone didn't have a childhood. He showed her a photo he took of a doll in the rubble of a house that had been bombed and said, "a little girl has lost her doll and a doll has lost her little girl." Carol decided to create small dolls that her son could carry in his pockets and give to the children he met, as a gesture of peace and comfort. "These dolls became known as "Izzy's Dolls" and later "Izzy Dolls." Tragically, Master Corporal Isfeld was killed by a landmine on June 21, 1994, while on a mine-clearing operation in Croatia. Despite his untimely death, MCpl Isfeld's legacy of compassion lives on through the Izzy Doll Initiative, which continues to provide handmade dolls to children in conflict zones and areas affected by disaster worldwide. He is remembered not only for his brave service and sacrifice but also for his kindness and the comfort he brought to vulnerable children."

Muriel has been making Izzy dolls to send to children in conflict zones, as you see here:

Photo: Muriel Prior, shared with permission

Many thanks to Muriel and the GPAG team for helping with content for this Green Note, and thank you, as always, for your care for our natural world,



Christine