

Fall 2007
Good Life Gathering 2007

We are so proud! This year, we served over 90 young people and 35 Elders and leaders. Next year's planning began 3 weeks before we said farewell to the last group! 2007 workshops and discussion circles included:

Ecoforestry – In collaboration with Bob Eichenberger, Elders, Community Leaders and the Ecoforestry Journal, we held in-person and electronic presentations, guided walks in the forest, identified food and medicinal plants and transformed small trees to build a modular, movable gathering lodge.

We had planned to construct a simple meeting space but the lodge was recognized by all as a sacred place. One young woman has pledged to restore a clear-cut forest on tribal lands.

Film Editing and Directing – Pamela Gallant is a Professional film director and editor based in Moncton N.B.; she taught us about producing audio-visual presentations. This has already been useful for working with footage we captured during the Gathering, now transferred to a big hard drive and ready to edit! We expect to share educational and short films before next year's events begin!

Consumerism and Fair Trade – Individuals from the Otesha Bicycle Tour, Ecotopia (NBEN/Sierra Canada), Aaron Koleszar, Josephine Grey, Bob Direct and myself spent many hours in discussions on this subject. We explored the ways various companies do business and the impact of our purchase decisions on our health, environment and society.

Renewable Energy – Woody Thompson of Fundy Solar provided us with a wealth of information about where our electrical power comes from, reducing our energy consumption and setting up renewable power systems.

Traditional Medicines – Gatherers learned to identify and understand the history and uses of traditional food and medicinal plants. We learned about the ways that pharmaceutical companies control public health services as well as alternatives to help us to take control over our health care and plan to expand these very popular teachings at next year's GLG.

Engaging with Aboriginal People – Elder Vera Martin shared her long history as an activist for native rights and a well-known healer in her own right. "Granny Vera" generously made her Traditional Elder's perspective available during all of the activities that took place at the Gathering.

Youth leaders from Elsipogtog were proud ambassadors for their people; their strength, bravery, openness to learn, make new friends and share impressed everyone! They shared their real-life experiences and concerns for their future with the wider group, closing some gaps in understanding between cultures.

Small contingents of youth from Toronto's Hood Linc and Elsipogtog arranged a basketball tournament. They have already been busy visiting with new friends in Toronto making plans for next year.

Career & Education – A number of our youth received support to generate work and educational opportunities. Youth from Elsipogtog secured work on a painting and decorating project and learned about non-toxic products, minimizing waste and environmentally responsible business.

Ecotopia From August 7th to 15th, the GLG hosted this Youth Action Conference. We enjoyed hosting participants from the New Brunswick Environmental Network, Sierra Youth Coalition, Toronto's Hood Linc, LIFT (Low Income Families Together) and Banyan Tree Project, Halifax's Youth-Net, Elsipogtog Youth Leaders and the Otesha Bicycle Tour. Our youth supporters are now networked electronically and continuing the discussions and actions begun at the GLG.

College of Applied Sustainability: Discussions centered around next steps for expanding this exciting new endeavor. We see that opportunities abound for excellence in the development of products, operations and services for markets more than ever, with the general public finally looking for ways to help to solve the world's ecological crises. We are continuing to host meetings in-person and via teleconference to plan the next learning/teaching sessions and a more formal structure for the school.

Honorable Mention: Veggie-Diesel Vehicles, Culture Jamming, Birch bark & Used Bicycle Crafts, Permaculture gardening, Legal Disobedience, Human Rights & Environment, Eco-Business.

Next Moves

It is important that we establish secure funding to expand our most popular activities, including the College, referral and support networks and collaborations with the many groups that are now committed to the Good Life Gatherings.

We are steadily collecting equipment to continue producing video documentation and teaching materials to show our communities what we're doing and enlist their support. On the editing table at the moment is the Ecoforestry workshop, a GLG promotional piece for 2007 and individual productions to help groups who need to document their activities. We are still short of some of the necessary resources and consequently this is a fundraising priority.

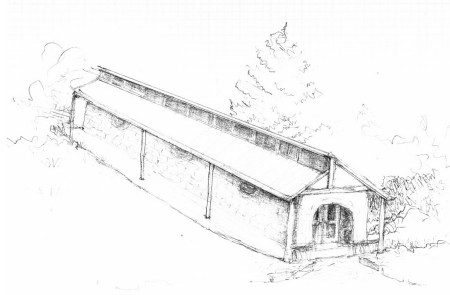
For next year's Gathering, we are expecting to serve at least as many (and likely more) people than this year. We need to provide a few structures for cooking, serving, a wash-house and more space for group activities. We need to winterize the Youth Lodge to accommodate a request to host a winter Youth Action Gathering.

Thanks to all who contributed time, skills and money to support the Good Life Gathering. Stay tuned for our annual newsletter and newest video productions!

All My Relations

Willi Nolan, Host, Good Life Gathering

Contact Willi Nolan at (506) 785-4660 or willi@web.ca.



Good Life Gathering Fundraising Projects

<i>Annual Gathering</i>	<i>Costs</i>
Coordination and hosting, Seasonal Labour, office expenses. (1 year)	33,300.00
Participant Travel, Honoraria and Accommodation (Elders & Youth)	22,000.00
Built Structures: Large Group Meeting Space; Cookhouse/Eating Area; Wash House; Outdoor Toilets	6,800.00
Delivery of Educational Workshops – Honoraria & Expenses for Educators	10,000.00
<i>College of Applied Sustainability</i>	
Mobile Classroom (Upgraded industrial trailer or RV) – Containing Educational Materials, Demonstration Projects, Teaching Space,	50,000.00
Audio-Visual Production & Distribution	6,500.00
- Videotaping, Duplication, Printing and Editing Capability – Macintosh Computer, Large Capacity External Drive, DVD Recorder, Disks, Cases, Printed Covers, Digital Camcorder, Tapes etc.	
Curriculum, Governance and Management Development: meeting costs (travel, expenses, honoraria):	3,500.00
- Traditional-Cultural Ecology-based Curriculum Collaboration.	10,000.00
- Applied Sustainability Research Project – Market Development	20,000.00