

Inviting YOU.

*A Chester Ronning Centre Series*

# Caring for All Creation

## LAND, WATER, AND OUR COMMUNITIES

Victoria: Monday Evenings, March 3 – May 12, 2014

Vancouver: Tuesday Evenings, March 4 – May 13, 2014

### THE WHY

*Whether we are of Indigenous, Immigrant or Settler story, spiritual, religious or not: we are called to care for our lands, waters, and communities.*

The instability of our climate is by now undeniable. The contamination of land for unfettered resource extraction is proceeding at an extreme scale and pace. The economic inequality between rich and poor is growing. We have exceeded the safe limit of carbon in the atmosphere. And yet we hear the mantra that ongoing and rapid 'economic growth' will save us.

It is time to re-lect, re-pent, and re-imagine, *together*. So many of us care about our lands, waters, wildlife, communities and future generations. And so many of us have been working relentlessly to protect these gifts of life. Yet, so often we feel alone in our works. How can this be?

We are an invisible majority. Our works and stories are different, but we share a commonality: love for our Earth. We must recognize this commonality in each other for, despite valiant efforts, **we cannot realize the kinder future about which we dream if we do not do so together.**

Many others care for these gifts also, but believe economic growth is the engine through which to do so. Although many of us see this engine as the very source of suffering, we cannot oppose each other.

We are beginning to speak about each other in war language. This is increasing our alienation. We must oppose only the system that causes suffering – in which we are all caught.

**Do you care about good water and soil? Do you care about right relationships with peoples and creatures? Do you care about someone? Do you care about something?**



Calling all children, young adults, elders, non-religious, religious, spiritual, long-term activists, industry workers, unemployed, the hopeful, the doubtful. Calling all *lovers*.

It is time to recognize each other and learn from our lands. Only together can we create the peaceful vision for which so many have lived and died. Our terrifying horizon is calling us to do something, perhaps, even more difficult than fighting for something: it is calling us to love something - each other and our Earth.

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# THE WHAT

The *Caring for All Creation: Land, Water, Our Natural Community* series is a weekly gathering of the diverse peoples who care about our lands, waters and communities in different ways. The series is premised on having to create a caring community that knows and supports each other as we take on the vital task of seeing, thinking and acting in new ways. Every 2 weeks, we gather as large groups (one in Vancouver, one in Victoria, or listen online) to reflect about the various aspects caring for our Earth implies. Each gathering begins with a shared meal, followed with facilitated dialogue, guest speakers, and reflection around a central theme. It addresses the head, the heart, and our hands.



In the weeks between large gatherings, participants meet in smaller neighbourhood groups. A guideline of readings, activities and "field" trips are provided, as well as opportunity to meet with the facilitators and guest speakers again. Neighbourhoods gather to re-localize caring relationships - with each other and with their lands. The diverse gifts within their own neighbourhood will become known, enabling neighborhoods to better care for their community. In so doing, they will be simultaneously responding to global suffering. And will know they do so in solidarity with many others.

By facilitating an understanding of how injustices around the world are connected, this series lifts up local acts of care as the way to respond to global systemic-injustice. This series differentiates by gathering *diverse* peoples. Its intent is to reveal just how many others are working in different ways towards peace also and that when recognizing this in each other, we might actually do so. Overcoming the crises upon our horizon requires us to re-knit ourselves to each other and our lands. Only by gathering regularly over a period of time can a land-based community to this liking be built. This series is an effort to begin

building this resilient community; the beginning of what Aldo Leopold terms, "a Community Land-Ethic."

All are welcome. All are needed.

## THE WHERE

*This series occurs on the **Unceded Territory of the Coast Salish Peoples**. For this we give many layers of thanks.*

### Vancouver Series

375 West 10<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday Evenings, 6-9pm  
March 4<sup>th</sup> - May 13<sup>th</sup>

### Victoria Series

3787 Cedar Hill Road  
Monday Evenings, 6-9pm  
March 3<sup>rd</sup> - May 12<sup>th</sup>

Or, from anywhere!

Tune in "**Live**" Online  
March 3<sup>rd</sup> - May 13<sup>th</sup>

*Bring your neighbours.*

## THE WHO

*Sponsors:*

The Chester Ronning Centre  
KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives  
The Faith & Society Committee  
The Eco-Justice Unit, Anglican Diocese of New Westminster  
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, BC Synod  
Vancouver School of Theology, UBC (*accredited*)  
The Surrey Urban Mission Society



*Facilitators:* Rev Dr. Dittmar Mündel, Tiffany McNaughton,  
Carmelle Javney Mohr

*Guest Speakers:* TBA!

## CONTACT

Join the conversation and **register** here:

[www.spiritoftheland.ca](http://www.spiritoftheland.ca)

Email:

[caringforallcreation@gmail.com](mailto:caringforallcreation@gmail.com)



**NOT BECAUSE WE FEAR WHAT MIGHT BE, BUT BECAUSE WE LOVE WHAT IS.**