



FAITHFUL GREEN ACTIONS NEWSLETTER

From your North Toronto Cluster
Faithful Green Actions Team

Deer Park United
Glebe Road United
Manor Road United
Lawrence Park Community Church

Calvin Presbyterian
Leaside United

Fairlawn United
Rosedale United
Northlea United
Eglinton St. Georges United

The Faithful Green Actions Team is a mission within the North Toronto Cluster. Currently, the representatives from various churches in the cluster join monthly to discuss initiatives and share in the planning of various green projects like this newsletter. The group is concerned with education and action regarding environmental justice and advocating for a healthy planet. In this fledgling edition of the Faithful Green Actions Newsletter, you will find helpful resources, excellent reading materials and lots of interesting videos to help you learn and grow in your efforts to take Faithful Green Actions in your life!

“For scientists, reality is not optional.”
.—Barbara Kingsolver, Flight Behavior

Edition 1, Volume I, 2022
Save a tree, read digitally.



Earth Day
is
April 22, 2022



Novels with Environmental Themes

Great reading to keep you busy and entertained!

Barkskins by Annie Proulx

Barkskins begins in 1693 when two young Frenchmen arrive in North America and traces their story and that of their descendants across three centuries. *Barkskins* is a compelling history of the destruction of the forests across North America and the devastating environmental and human costs on the lives and culture of indigenous people. The reader is left wondering what our continent would look like today and how our lives might be different if the loss of so many arboreal species had not occurred.

Published in 2016, 736 pages. Readily available from the Toronto Public Library as a book, large print book, e-book, audiobook and CD talking book.

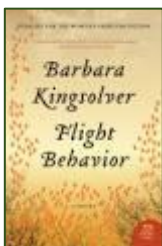
Coffin Road by Peter May

A man washes up on a beach in the Hebrides with no idea who he is or how he got there. Detective Sergeant George Gunn crosses rough seas to a remote island off the Outer Hebrides to investigate the death of a man who has been murdered. A teenager in Edinburgh is desperate to discover the truth about her father's death. *Coffin Road* is a fast-paced tale where these characters each struggle with a mystery; but then the suspense thickens as the book takes a sudden, disturbing environmental twist.

Published in 2016 303 pages. Readily available at the library as a book, large print book, and e-book

Flight Behaviour by Barbara Kingsolver

Set in a rural community in Tennessee, *Flight Behaviour* tells the story of a young mother who cares for her family on a failing farm and whose life is transformed when she sees huge numbers of monarchs looking like fire on the mountainside. A biologist arrives to study why the monarchs have been displaced from their winter habitat and fears they will not survive a Tennessee winter. A poetic story about life in a poor community and the ravages of climate change.



Published in 2012, 436 pages. Available at the Public library as a book, e-book, audio book CD and e-audio book.

The High House by Jessie Greengrass

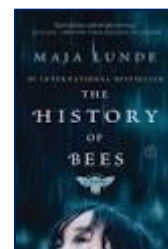
Scientist and mother Francesca foresees floods happening because of climate change and turns her former holiday home — the "high house" perched atop a stretch of UK coast — into a self-sufficient ark. The novel examines how people can adapt to change and balance family life and learn what they can salvage at the end of the world.

Published in 2021, 272 pages. Readily available at the library on audio discs, or as an audio book, CD talking book, e-book or book.

The History of Bees by Maja Lunde

Spanning three different countries and eras —1852 England, 2007 United States, and 2098 China — this haunting, thought-provoking novel by Norwegian author Maja Lunde was a European bestseller in 2015. The symbiotic bond between humanity and the environment is the focus of this novel, especially how bees are crucial to humankind's survival.

Published in 2017, 340 pages. Available as an e-book, e-talking book, audio book, book and large-print book.



The Ministry for the Future By Kim Stanley Robinson

Ministry sets out a path for winning the battle against climate change and offers hope for the future. Established in 2025, the Ministry advocates on behalf of all living creatures. It takes many decades to save the planet with triumphs and failures, human bumbling and false starts as governments, organizations and people work to redesign our world. Finally, Earth is transformed —not into a Garden of Eden—but a place where all species have

a place to live well and humans live in harmony with nature.

Hardcover, 563 pages, Published October 6th 2020 by Orbit/ Readily available at the library as an e-book, audio book, or hardcover.)

New York 2140

By Kim Stanley Robinson

The second climate novel by Robinson, *New York 2140* paints a climate change scenario where New York City becomes a new Venice with every street a canal where people make their way through life amidst rising tides. Although optimistic and funny, Robinson also points out the dangers of unfettered capitalism during a time of global warming and he warns that unless society responds to existential climate threats, the people of the future will have to live with the consequences of our failure to act.

Published 2017, 613 pages. Available at the library as a book, e-book, audio book, and audio CD book



The Overstory by Richard Powers

This Pulitzer Prize-winning novel is the story of people who see a world in peril and who are drawn into its unfolding catastrophe. The book is told by several narrators who are interconnected due to their relationship with trees. One life touches on another and then another, similar to an ecosystem, where species are bound together for mutual survival. *The Overstory* ranges from antebellum New York to the late twentieth-century Timber Wars of the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

Paperback, 502 pages, Published April 2nd 2019 by W.W. Norton & Company. Readily available as an e-book, audio on player and a book.



Once There Were Wolves by Charlotte McConaghy

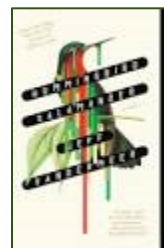
Once There Were Wolves depicts how nature can clash with human priorities and put a species at risk. Two sisters arrive in Scotland from North America to lead a team of biologists who are reintroducing gray wolves into the remote Highlands. The reintroduction is a success, despite although many of the local people fear that the wolves will kill their livestock. The project is jeopardized when a local farmer is mauled to death, an attack bound to be blamed on the wolves.

Hardcover, 258 pages, published August 3rd 2021. Available at the library as an audio-book, e-book, hardcover book and large print book.

Hummingbird Salamander by Jeff VanderMeer

Hummingbird Salamander is a brilliant, suspenseful thriller about a conspiracy, endangered species, and the possible end of all things. The book begins with security consultant Jane Smith receiving an envelope with a key to a storage unit that holds a taxidermied hummingbird. By taking the hummingbird from the storage unit, Jane sets in motion a series of events that quickly spin beyond her control. *Hummingbird Salamander* winds is a thriller about climate change, identity, and the world we live in full of unexpected twists and elaborate conspiracy

Published in 2021. 351 pages, available from the library as a book and e-book.



Non-fiction Books with Environmental Themes

A sampling of recent and noteworthy titles – there are many more!

NB – Many of these books have on-line videos and websites.

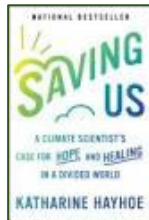


Regeneration: Ending the Climate Crisis in One Generation by Paul Hawken (2021, 255 pp, large format)

A thorough guide to the ways the natural world absorbs carbon, how we can regenerate natural habitats, and our connection to nature.

Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World by Katherine Hayhoe (2021, 250 pp plus notes)

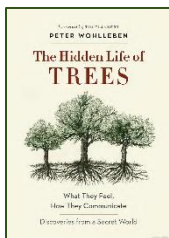
Canadian scientist, educator and communicator Hayhoe looks at science, faith and human psychology in outlining how to talk with others about climate change.



Science

Hurricane Lizards and Plastic Squid: The Fraught and Fascinating Biology of Climate Change by Thor Hanson (2021, 213 pp plus notes)

A wonderfully written exploration of how different species have and are responding to climate change.



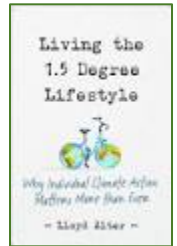
The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate

by Peter Wohlleben (2015, 245 pp plus notes)

The first of Wohlleben's trilogy, the author presents a vast body of knowledge about how trees and forests thrive, and in doing so, makes a compelling argument that trees are social beings, communicating with and supporting each other. "A walk in the woods will never be the same again."

Living the 1.5 Degree Lifestyle: Why Individual Climate Action Matters More than Ever by Lloyd Alter (2021, 142 pp plus notes)

Toronto author reveals the carbon cost of everything we do, identifying where we can make big reductions, so that we can journey toward a life of "sufficiency".



Consumerism & Individual Action

The Day the World Stops Shopping: How Ending Consumerism Gives Us a Better Life and a Greener World by J.B. MacKinnon (2021, 292 pp plus notes) - (and previous books *The 100 Mile Diet* and *The Once and Future World*)

What would happen if we all drastically reduced our consumption, to our economy, to the planet, to our culture? Shortlisted for the 2021 Governor General Award for non-fiction.



Imagine It: A Handbook for a Happier Planet by Laurie David and Heather Reisman (2021, 256 pp)

A handbook for living more sustainably.

Government Policy

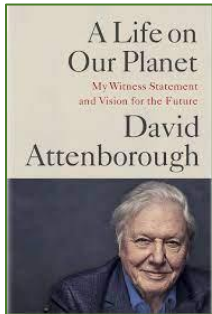
A Good War by Seth Klein (2020, 464 pp)

Comparing Canada's response to the climate crisis with how Canada responded to WWII, Klein outlines what Canadian governments must do to reach our climate goals.



Films & Videos with Environmental Themes

A Life on Our Planet Sir



David Attenborough's Witness Statement

One man has seen more of the natural world than any other. This unique feature documentary is his witness statement. In his 93 years, David Attenborough has visited every continent on the globe, exploring the wild places of our planet and documenting the living world in all its variety and wonder. Now, for the first time he reflects upon both the defining moments of his lifetime as a naturalist and the devastating changes he has seen. Honest, revealing and urgent, this is a powerful first-hand account of humanity's impact on nature and a message of hope for future generations. Created by award-winning natural history filmmakers Silverback Films and global conservation organization WWF. Available on You tube and Netflix. 2020, 1 h 51 min

The Magnitude of All Things by Jennifer Abbott

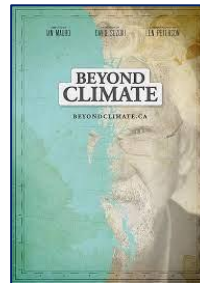
Filmmaker Jennifer Abbott explores the emotional and psychological dimensions of the climate crisis and the relationship between grief and hope in times of personal and planetary change. When Jennifer Abbott lost her sister to cancer, her sorrow opened her up to the profound gravity of climate breakdown. This documentary draws intimate parallels between the experiences of grief—both personal and planetary. Stories from the frontlines of climate change merge with recollections from the filmmaker's childhood on Ontario's Georgian Bay. What do these stories have in common? The answer, surprisingly, is everything. For the people featured, climate change is not happening in the distant future: it is kicking down the front door. Battles waged, lamentations of loss, and raw testimony coalesce into an extraordinary tapestry, woven together with raw emotion and staggering beauty that transform darkness into light, grief into action. Available through National Film Board. 2020, 1 h 26 min.

Force of Nature:

The David Suzuki Movie

This feature documentary profiles the life and work of world-renowned Canadian scientist, educator, broadcaster and activist David Suzuki on the occasion of his last lecture in 2009—a lecture he describes as “a distillation of my life and thoughts, my legacy, what I want to say before I die.” As Suzuki reflects on his family history—including the persecution of Japanese Canadians during WWII—and his discovery of the power and beauty of the natural world, we are spurred to examine our own relationship to nature, scientific knowledge, and sustainability throughout modernity and beyond. Possibly available through National Film board or DVD purchase, 2010, 1 h 32 min

Beyond Climate



This documentary takes viewers beyond the headlines and into the heart of the issues. The film holistically connects the larger patterns of climate change with the human dimension, and what it looks like across BC from the top of the mountains to the depths of the oceans. Shot throughout the

province over many years, the collective wisdom and perspectives of Indigenous leaders, local communities, scientists, and policymakers are featured. Available on You tube. Narrated by David Suzuki. 2020, 48min 19sec

Sharkwater Extinction

This is a thrilling and inspiring action-packed journey that follows filmmaker Rob Stewart as he exposes the massive illegal shark fin industry and the political corruption behind it--a conspiracy that is leading to the extinction of sharks. Watch for free on Crave or buy the DVD or Blu-Ray. 2018, 1 h 28 min



There's Something in the Water

In this urgent documentary on Indigenous and African Nova Scotian women fighting to protect their communities, their land, and their futures, Elliot Page brings attention to the injustices

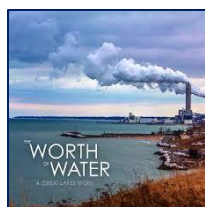
and injuries caused by environmental racism in his home province. Available on Netflix and You tube. 2019, 1h 13 min.

2040

This award-winning Australian environmental film, presents an uplifting look at what we can potentially achieve just by using all the science and technology we have now. Director, Damon Gameau embarks on journey to explore what the future would look like by the year 2040 if we simply embraced the best solutions already available to us to improve our planet and shifted them into the mainstream. Structured as a visual letter to his 4-year-old daughter, Damon blends traditional documentary footage with dramatized sequences and high-end visual effects to create a vision board for his daughter and the planet. Available to rent on YouTube, iTunes, Google Play and Vimeo. 2019, 1h 32 min

Hear the Call: Salmon Nation

In this documentary, singer Ashleigh Ball of Hey Ocean! travels with filmmaker Josh Thome to BC's remote coast to meet Alexandra Morton, one of the worlds most celebrated marine biologists for her work with BC's keystone species, salmon. Exploring the coast with Alexandra, Ashleigh is amazed to learn about the elaborate role salmon play in weaving together the entire coastal ecosystem. She is equally disturbed to learn that the wild salmon are being decimated by disease and pollution introduced from Atlantic salmon farms. Author Living Ancestors. Available from Vimeo. Google the title to reach film. 2018, 23min 37 sec.



The Worth of Water: A Great Lakes Story – 2020

This film is a feature length documentary that follows the co-creators of Walk to Sustain Our Great Lakes, Julia Robson &

Alyssa Armbruster, as they embark on their 343 mile

walk from the shores of Lake Michigan in Milwaukee, WI to Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The two women interview political leaders, educators, activists and professionals to help bring a greater understanding of the issues these Great Lakes face, as well as highlighting the progress that has been made in restoring the lakes since the establishment of the Clean Water Act in 1972. Available n You tube, 2020, 1 h 25 min.



The Biggest Little Farm

Documentarian John Chester and his wife Molly work to develop a sustainable farm on 200 acres outside of Los Angeles. A testament to the immense complexity of nature, the story follows two dreamers and a dog on an odyssey to bring harmony to both their lives and the land. When the farm's ecosystem finally begins to reawaken, so does the Chester's hope - but as their plan to create perfect harmony takes a series of wild turns, they realize that to survive they will have to reach a far greater understanding of the intricacies and wisdom of nature, and of life itself. Available on Netflix and for rent or purchase on You tube. 2018, 1 h 31 min

Don't Look Up

Two low-level astronomers must go on a giant media tour to warn mankind of an approaching comet that will destroy planet Earth. American apocalyptic black comedy film It tells the story of two astronomers attempting to warn humanity about an approaching comet that will destroy human civilization. The impact event is an allegory and the film is a satire of government, political, celebrity, and media indifference to the climate crisis. Starring actors Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Lawrence, Meryl Streep, Cate Blanchett etc. Available on Netflix. Rated as restricted. 2021, 2 h 18 min



Spring Cleaning??

Charities in Toronto accepting donated items

By Scarborough Mirror March 1, 2018 - Updated March 8, 2022

Spring is the season of rebirth – also, of cleaning. There are many organizations and charities that will take unwanted clothing and household items all in the name of a good cause. You'll not only be helping others, but also the environment, by keeping waste out of landfills. Here are seven charities to donate your spring cleaning items to in Toronto.

The Children's Book Bank



The Children's Book Bank provides free books and literacy support to children living in low-income communities across Toronto. It operates storefront space where school and camp groups, families and their children can visit to listen to stories and choose a favourite book to take home to keep. It collects gently used children's books from families, publishers and retailers for children age birth to 17 years old with print date from 2011. See website for guidelines and drop off process.

Storefront--585 Dundas Street, Suite 260 (in Daniels Spectrum) Toronto, 416-922-7323, info@childrensbookbank.com

Diabetes Canada and Canadian Diabetes Clothesline Program

Your donations support Diabetes Canada by investing \$5 million annually to diabetes research; help children with type 1 diabetes and their family members attend camp programs, divert 100 million lbs. of textile and household items from landfills while supporting 11 million Canadians who live with diabetes or prediabetes. They accept clothing and small household items. Donation bins are open and they have resumed household pick up in many parts of Toronto.

Canadian Diabetes Association Clothesline 1400-522 University Ave, Toronto, 416-363-0196, <https://declutter.diabetes.ca/> Diabetes Canada, 522 University Ave, Toronto 416-363-3373

Furniture Bank



Furniture Bank is a charity and social enterprise that collects gently used furniture/ household items and provides them to those transitioning from homelessness or displacement. With the community's support, Furniture

Bank helped to create homes for almost 11,000 people in 2016 while providing jobs for those facing barriers to employment. **200 Madison Ave, Toronto, 416 934-1229, www.furniturebank.org**

Habitat for Humanity ReStore

Habitat for Humanity GTA operates non-profit home improvement retail stores, which sell donated new and gently used home furnishings, appliances and renovation materials at a fraction of the cost of the original price. Donors can donate items they no longer need and receive a charitable gift receipt.

National Office Email: habitat@habitat.ca Phone: 416-644-0988 - <https://habitat.ca/en/restore>

The Salvation Army

One of the world's largest social service agencies, the Salvation Army supports vulnerable families and individuals in 400 communities across the country. Salvation Army Thrift Stores collect clothing, housewares, furniture, electronics, toys, media and books, accessories, antiques and collectibles, and computers.

2 Overlea Boulevard, Toronto 416-425-2111 <https://salvationarmy.ca>

St. John the Compassionate Mission

St. John's Thrift Store donations are reinvested into the community. The store is also a place where community members can meet to exchange news and connect with each other. Volunteer help and donations are welcome.
155 Broadview Ave, Toronto 416-466-1357 https://stjohnsmision.org/contact_us.php

Value Village

Value Village repurposes hundreds of millions of items each year. It accepts used goods on behalf of its non-profit partners, purchases these items from them, providing revenue to fund their charitable efforts. The thrift retailer purchases, resells, and recycles gently used clothing, accessories, and household goods, helping non-profit organizations by paying them for donated items. **Note:** Value Village is a for-profit thrift retailer. They help more than 120 non-profit organizations by paying them for donated items. May 10, 2018

1319 Bloor St W, Toronto 416-539-0585, <https://stores.savers.com/on/toronto/valuevillage-thrift-store-2038.html>



Waste Wizard--Know Before You Throw!

Use Waste Wizard to find out what waste items go where or call 311. If you live in an apartment, condo or co-op, check with your Property Manager or Superintendent to find out where to properly dispose of garbage, recycling, organics and other items in your building.

<https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/recycling-organics-garbage/waste-wizard/>

