



## THE DR. WIGGLES “STRAIN YOUR BRAIN” COMPOST QUIZ

By Pauline Brest van Kempen, Office Supervisor  
and Lynn Marie, Coordinator.

In celebration of 10 years of composting and conservation education at the Compost Centre, Dr. Wiggles challenges you to show your compost power by answering these questions about the Centre’s history and composting! Answers are on page 5.

1. Prior to the Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre and Fernwood allotment gardens, what was at 1216 North Park Street?
  - a) Two private homes
  - b) A demonstration solar farm
  - c) An extension of Victoria High School
  - d) A Christmas tree farm
2. The Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre was a project started by:
  - a) Capital Regional District
  - b) Pamela Anderson, an avid composter
  - c) David Suzuki
  - d) Fernwood Community Association
3. In 1998, during National Composting Awareness week, which of the following activities took place all across Canada:
  - a) Hot composting as an alternative to barbequing
  - b) Jean Chretien officiated at the opening ceremonies for five new Compost Education Centres.
  - c) Groups planted trees in compost made from “Flowers for Diana” – those flowers that had been given in tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales.
  - d) Elementary school children learned the words to “Wiggle, wiggle little worm”, sung to the tune of “Twinkle, twinkle little star”
4. What did the GVCEC need to get a permit to build in the spring of 1998?
  - a) Composting toilet
  - b) Straw bale building
  - c) Greenhouse
  - d) Tool shed
5. In 1998, Jason’s June Jam Was:
  - a) Strawberry Jam that Jason made to raise funds for the Centre.
  - b) A benefit for the Compost Centre featuring live music
  - c) A 24 hour drumming marathon to raise money for constructing the straw bale building
  - d) A Compost Club canning workshop
6. When was the new web site up and running? ([www.compost.bc.ca](http://www.compost.bc.ca))
  - a) December 1995
  - b) Spring 2002
  - c) Spring 2001
  - d) Fall 2000

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### Staff

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Louise Ditmars  
Geoff Johnson  
Lynn Marie

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long weekends and the  
month of December.

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**Website: [www.compost.bc.ca](http://www.compost.bc.ca)**

### Board of Directors

Angela Deering  
Kathryn Cook  
Colleen Loader  
Donna Sanford  
Tom Watkins  
Pamela Dinn

### Contributors to this issue of THE LATEST DIRT

Pauline Brest van Kempen  
Louise Ditmars  
Lynn Marie  
Megan Rathwell  
Susan Tychie  
Rossalynn Woodgate  
**Newsletter Editor**  
Ray Turner

## AGM SEES CHANGE IN THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At our Annual General Meeting on March 20, we said good-bye and thank you to our president of two years, Maria Miller. Maria became a Master Composter in 1996, volunteering her time at outreach events. She joined the Board of Directors in 1998, becoming president in 2000. We thank her for her many years of service.

We welcome Colleen Loader to the Board of Directors. Colleen has been a dedicated volunteer since 1998 and is currently chairing the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary raffle committee. Thank you!

Welcome also to Pamela Dinn, an enthusiastic new board member who is also a student in the Environmental Technology Program at Camosun College.

Briony Penn, our guest speaker at the AGM, gave an insightful and humorous talk on working with the media. Thank you, Briony.

Thank you also to Neil Williams for facilitating the election of officers. The new Board of Directors is as follows:

Angela Deering - President

Tom Watkins- Vice President/CRD Representative

Kathryn Cook, Treasurer Colleen Loader, Secretary

Donna Sanford Pamela Dinn

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## STUDENT PROFILE

“Hi, my name is **Megan Rathwell**. I’m a grade 11 student at Vic High and I’ve been doing volunteer work experience at the Victoria Compost Education Centre for about two months. I’ve always been interested in nature and conservation, wanting to make a difference somehow, if not in the world, then at least in my own life. I participated in the Student Conservation Association (SCA) for five weeks last summer, and it was a key part of the reason I chose to take the environmental route. The SCA is a non-profit volunteer organization that sends teams of teenagers out into different national parks to camp out and perform trail repairs, construction, and general park maintenance. I would recommend it to anyone who loves nature and the outdoors and hard work.”

“Anyway, back on track. When my CAPP teacher told me about the Compost Centre I knew I wanted to get involved, so I did. The staff are friendly, and the work is enjoyable. What more could you ask for? I also believe that it’s everyone’s part to get involved in the environment, because if the environment wasn’t around, you wouldn’t be either!”

“So, I would just like to say that I like the Compost Centre and what it does for the community. It’s an important part of the future of our planet.”

*Megan Rathwell is completing 30 hours of work experience at the Compost Centre. She is a dedicated garden caretaker and worm bin maker!*

We gratefully acknowledge the core funding support that we receive from the CRD and the City of Victoria. Additional support is provided by the Fernwood Community Association and through the generosity of our Compost Club Members and the residents of Greater Victoria.

## “Strain Your Brain” quiz continued

7. The Waterwise Program, started by the Centre in 1996 and subsequently adopted by CRD Water, taught Greater Victoria citizens how to:

- a) Water their gardens without getting hurt
- b) Drill their own wells
- c) Construct rain barrels
- d) Use water efficiently and effectively in their gardens

8. Which of the following commercial composters has NOT been demonstrated at the Compost Education Centre (in fact it doesn't exist).

- a) Green Genie
- b) Earth Machine
- c) Plant Producer
- d) Soil Saver

9. What is the scientific name for the composting worm (red wiggler- the worm specialized to consume organic matter)?

- a) *Eisenia foetida*
- b) *Redus compostus*
- c) *Allolobophora caliginosa*
- d) *Lumbricus terrestris*

10. If a night crawler worm (not specialized to consume fresh organic waste) was to be thrust into a nice, warm, active compost pile it would:

- a) Party down with the rest of the red wigglers until the wee hours of the morning.
- b) Mate with the red wigglers to produce a breed called *Eisenia halftida*, able to consume organic waste but less of it
- c) Die and melt
- d) Nothing. Just sit/lie there until the end of its days

11. In 1995, who won the “Name the Newsletter Contest” by suggesting the name “The Latest Dirt”?

- a) JoAnne Flores
- b) Dr. Wiggles
- c) Y. Compost
- d) Alan Lowe

12. What newsletter name was given honourable mention in the “Name the Newsletter” contest?

- a) Wiggle it, Just a Little Bit
- b) Dirt, Dirt and more Dirt
- c) As the Worm Turns
- d) The Latest Stink

13. Which of the following “layering techniques” is ideal for backyard composting?

- a) Green material alternated with brown material
- b) Wet material alternated with dry material
- c) Soil alternated with each layer of organic matter
- d) Meat, dairy, then bread, followed by grass

14. What did David Anderson, MP for Victoria, say when he visited the Compost Centre in 2000.

- a) “Let’s all get out there and compost!”
- b) “When you asked me to dig for worms from the compost bin, it brought back memories of my childhood. You were right...it’s like riding a bike; you never forget how to do it.”
- c) “Composting is something that everyone can do, whether you live in an apartment or have a backyard.”
- d) “I extend my thanks to the Compost Education Centre for promoting composting and healthy communities since 1992”

## Answers on Page 5

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Compost Club	Topic	Facilitator	Date
	Winter Gardening	Geoff Johnson	June 22
Workshops	Composting Toilets	Angela Evans	July 27
	No Dig Gardening	Geoff Johnson	August 24
	Saturdays from 2-4 pm. Free for members and \$ 3 for non-members		
Other Workshops	Topic	Facilitator	Date
	Basic Composting	Staff	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed. every month, 7-9pm
	Permaculture	Geoff Johnson	July 20
	Pesticide Free Naturally	Guest speaker	Jun 12, Jul 17, Aug 14, Sep 11

Call 386-9676 to register and/or for confirmation of dates and times.

## FUND-RAISING RAFFLE IS UNDER WAY

How would you like to be the owner of a hand made oak bench? Or a barbeque? What about a gift basket from Cannor Nursery or Chintz and Company? These are just some of the 24 prizes, grouped into 5 categories, being raffled off in our 10 year anniversary raffle.



*This handsome garden bench is part of the Grand Prize*

Raffle ticket sales started on May 4 and will continue until the draw on September 4 at the University of Victoria's Environmental Fair. If you would like to purchase tickets (one for \$2, three for \$5), or are interested in selling tickets, contact the Centre at 386-WORM.

We are very grateful to the following organizations and businesses for donating prizes for the raffle. It is because of their support that we have the potential to raise significant funds for our educational programs:

- Cannor Nursery
- Do-it Centre
- Cakes Etc.
- Bike Cellar
- Fresh Piks
- Babe's Honey
- Fish Hair Salon
- Dig This
- William Head Institution
- Fairfield Bicycle Shop and Tony Hoar
- Silk Road Aromatherapy and Tea Co.
- Gardens and Gateposts Property Enhancement
- Chintz and Company
- Poor Richard's Books
- Home Depot, Nanaimo
- Garden Path Nursery
- Michell Brother's Farm
- Lifestyle Market
- Munro's Books
- Capital Iron

## THANKS FOR YOUR DONATIONS

We wish to extend our sincere thanks to the following people for their generosity in donating to the Centre.

**Elizabeth Garrett**  
**Patrick and Elizabeth Mulvey**  
**Eline Rutherford**  
**Peter and Elizabeth Campbell**  
**Myrna Ladouceur**

## VICTORIA TO HOST ORGANIC FOOD CONGRESS AND EXHIBITION

by Susan Tychie

From August 21 to 24, 2002, Victoria and the local organic community will host the International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements' (IFOAM) 14th Organic World Congress. Over a thousand people from around the globe will come together in recognition of organic agriculture's increasingly important role in food and fiber production.

As an accompanying event to the Organic World Congress, the 7<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Organic Viticulture and Wine will be held on August 20-21 at the Ocean Pointe Resort. In addition, the 4<sup>th</sup> IFOAM Organic World Exhibition will be hosted at St. Ann's Academy on August 24-25. Open to the general public, this exhibition will feature music and certified organic products from Canada and around the world.

The theme of the IFOAM Congress and its accompanying events is "Cultivating Communities" As such, IFOAM is creating a community of volunteers who will be instrumental in showcasing Victoria to the world.

If you are interested in meeting people and sharing in this global organic experience, call the volunteer hotline at 595-6785.

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**THE LATEST DIRT** is published quarterly. The deadline for submissions for the fall issue is August 8, 2002. Submissions to the newsletter can be sent to the Compost Education Centre. Unless otherwise noted, articles appearing in this newsletter may be reprinted only in other not-for-profit publications, with credit given to the author (when named) and **THE LATEST DIRT**.

## BE PART OF A “WILD GARDEN PARTY”

by Rossalyn Woodgate

The Victoria Flower and Garden Show holds a flower and garden competition each July at Royal Roads University. For this year’s show, July 12-14, “The Wild Garden Party” presents a cutting-edge, richly productive landscape. It is an easily maintained organic home garden that uses little water. It welcomes songbirds, hummingbirds, ladybugs and butterflies—and you, your family and friends.

The Wild Garden Party represents a natural partnership of a variety of groups including: The Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre, Capital Regional District, Water Management Branch, City Green, The Native Plant Study Group of the Victoria Horticultural Society, The Native Plant Society of British Columbia, Naturescape British Columbia, Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary, Lifecycles and the South Island Organic Producers Association.

Come and visit our garden display during the show! Or, become more involved by volunteering your time. We would love to have your help with a wide range of volunteer tasks before, during and immediately after the show. You don’t have to be an expert or be affiliated with any of these groups to be involved. Please contact Linda at [halcyon@telus.net](mailto:halcyon@telus.net) or Susan at 361-3122. We promise good company and much appreciation for any time you can volunteer.

### COMPOST CLUB MEMBER HAS SUITE TO RENT

Waterfront, Gorge Inlet (View Royal), 2 bdrm, bright newly reno’d lower suite with large windows over-looking garden and water. Looking for nonsmoker(s), quiet composter(s), garden space available. Lease, references, \$800/month plus 1/2 utilities. July 1. 385-0510

**ANSWERS** to the Dr. Wiggles “Strain Your Brain” contest.

1) a and b 2) d 3) c 4) b 5) b 6) c 7) d  
8) c 9) a 10) c 11) a 12) c 13) a 14) b

## DR. WIGGLES A FEATURED GUEST AT OPEN HOUSE



On Saturday, May 4, Dr. Wiggles joined 150 other guests to celebrate 10 years of composting and conservation education. Dr. Wiggles enjoyed the time spent in the children’s zone, reading celebrity composting quotes, and cooking with hot compost. “I liked waving to people on the corner of Chambers and North Park”, said Dr. Wiggles, “Although I had to tone it down when cars started spending more time looking at me than at the road”.



After a long but eventful day, Dr. Wiggles was happy to be reunited with the rest of the worm family in the worm benches but looks forward to promoting composting throughout the CRD this summer.

**A special thank you goes out to the following donors. Their generosity in providing food and beverages to guests was very much appreciated.**

Moka House

Patisserie Daniel

Solstice Café

Tim Hortons

The Thin Edge of the Wedge

Wild Fire Bread and Pastry

The Market on Yates

Wellburn’s Market

Silk Road Aromatherapy and Tea Co.

Thanks also to The News Group Weekend Edition

