

A Month for the Planet: EarthDays Nelson kicks off series of community events

Living in rural BC, we are fortunate to be able to have a daily connection to the earth. Our lakes, rivers, forests, mountains, trails and gardens are so accessible. And this year, during the month of April we have a specific time to celebrate our world.

The traditional **April 22 Earth Day** celebration was expanded last year to **Earth Week**, featuring 25 events involving 1000 participants and hundreds of volunteer hours over the week. This year **Earth Days** will take place over the whole month of April. With over 40 events and activities, covering almost every day in the month, the website www.earthdaysnelson.ca/ has a full calendar with all the details.

“The theme this year is **Celebrate - Connect- Engage**,” says organizer Suzanne Simoni of the West Kootenay Climate Hub. “Our goal is to involve more people in both leading and participating in events that engage the community with the planet. The earth has taught me that **we are all kin** and need to protect and support each other.”

“Canada is no different than other countries with the majority of people experiencing climate anxiety, while not knowing what to do and not **realizing almost everyone has the same concerns**. EarthDays is about bringing people together to share what they love about the planet, what they understand about how to support it and how to engage together on this topic,” says fellow lead organizer Judith Fearing. “We know that working together not only brings **hope and inspiration**, it is much more effective.”

Over 34 community groups and individuals have volunteered to lead over 40 events and activities. Everything is free and open to everyone. Some key events include a **Festival and Parade** with music, art, speakers, info booths, and kids’ activities; the Green Film Festival on Thursday evenings; A Day on the Rail Trail, a family friendly event; the Green Home and Energy Show; and many themed nature hikes focusing on birds, wildlife, geology and plants.

Check out the website earthdaysnelson.ca to see everything on offer, including music, art, reflection, hiking, recycling and repair, and clean-ups - there is something for everyone!

