



get local

get local newsletter

A brief taste of BC food & agricultural news
www.getlocalbc.org - MAY 2009

Rossland Joins the Growing List of G.E. Free Communities

ROSSLAND, British Columbia - On May 11, 2009, the City of Rossland, British Columbia took leadership on a controversial food and agricultural issue. Through the efforts of the regional G.E. Free Kootenays campaign, a sub-group of the Kootenay Food Strategy Society, Rossland's council voted in favor of a resolution to oppose the cultivation of genetically engineered plants and trees.

G.E. Free Kootenays is only one of a number of initiatives across Western Canada seeking to create G.E. Free regions. The Society for a G.E. Free B.C. and G.E. Free Yukon are both working hard to see similar resolutions passed. The Regional District of Powell River, B.C., became the first G.E.-Free zone in the country in 2004, followed by Saltspring Island, B.C. in the same year.

To read more on Rossland's resolution visit the web site of Deconstructing Dinner... www.cjly.net/deconstructingdinner/gefreezones.htm

The American Academy of Environmental Medicine calls for immediate moratorium on Genetically Modified Foods (www.aaemonline.org)

On May 19, 2009 The American Academy of Environmental Medicine (AAEM) released its position paper on genetically modified (GM) foods, stating that "GM foods pose a serious health risk" and calling for a moratorium on GM foods. "Physicians are probably seeing the effects in their patients, but need to know how to ask the right questions," said Dr. Jennifer Armstrong, President of AAEM. "The most common foods in North America which are consumed that are GMO are corn, soy, canola, and cottonseed oil." The AAEM's position paper on Genetically Modified foods can be found at <http://aaemonline.org/gmopost.html>.

Look for the new Canada Organic Logo



The Organic Products Regulations come into full force on June 30, 2009. Voluntary use of the "Biologique Canada Organic" designation and logo will be permitted on the labeling of those food products certified as meeting the National Organic Standards (Canadian Organic Production Systems General Principles and Management Standards CAN/CGSB 32.310 and Permitted Substances Lists CAN/CGSB 32.311). For more information, standards and regulations visit: www.inspection.gc.ca

What is a Sustainable Food System?

- **Primarily local and regional**
- **Ecologically responsible in its operations**
- **Socially responsible**
- **Respectful of humans and other species**
- **Financially viable for all stakeholders**

(source: www.fooddemocracy.org)



Industrial Local ? written by Honor Schauland

- The New York Times, May 12, 2009 - When 'Local' Makes It Big, that outlines the latest attempt by Big Food to cash in on the growing sustainable food and farming movement. This time, they've gone after "local."
- Frito-Lay North America (owned by PepsiCo) is portraying Lay's potato chips as local food in regions where potatoes are grown.
- ConAgra is trying to say that because Hunt's canned tomatoes are mostly grown within 120 miles of its processing plant in Oakdale, California, that makes them "local" for Oakdale, and maybe even Californians.
- "Kraft is trying to figure out whether people in Wisconsin will buy more pickles if they know the cucumbers that go into a jar of Claussen's are grown there." Read more on... <http://www.organicconsumers.org>

Vancouver Farmers Market

New Location at the Main Street Station – The market will open June 10th and run until October 21st. The hours are 3pm - 7pm. The new location is adjacent to Thornton Park near Main Street & Terminal Avenue. This market replaces the previously located market at the Riley Park Community Centre and will serve a wider community and suit the needs of commuters heading home from work around Downtown Vancouver. Access by bus and skytrain is exceptional at this central location. There's a great selection of vendors at this market - everything from produce to meat and cheese, baking and more! Have dinner at the market and watch a chef demonstration, or relax in the park on a warm summer evening. (www.eatlocal.org)



Canada Must Support UN Negotiations on Labeling of Genetically Modified Foods

Codex meeting in Calgary could suspend work on GM food labeling May 5, 2009, Ottawa – In Calgary, as the international meeting of the UN Codex Alimentarius negotiates the future of labeling genetically modified (GM) foods, the Québec Network Against GMOs (RQcOGM) and the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN) denounce the delaying tactics of the Canadian and US government delegations. The two networks are afraid that the U.S. government will ask Codex to suspend its work on GM food labeling, and are asking the Canadian government not to support this U.S. position.

“The Canadian government position on labeling GM foods clearly does not represent public opinion in Canada,” said Charles Tanguay, spokesperson for the Consumers Union (Union des Consommateurs) in Québec and representative for the Québec Network Against GMOs, “All surveys show that Canadians are squarely and consistently in favour of mandatory labeling for GM foods and food ingredients,” The Codex Alimentarius, recognized under the World Trade Organization, is the international authority for standardizing food labeling and works under the auspices of the United Nations. Codex does not have the authority to impose mandatory labeling of GM food, but is tasked with developing guidelines that countries are to follow if they establish labeling. Keep reading.... <http://www.cban.ca/Press/Press-Releases/Canada-Must-Support-UN-Negotiations-on-Labeling-of-Genetically-Modified-Foods>

Spring 2009 issue of YES! Magazine: Food for Everyone

This great magazine launches its spring issue with the theme "How to Grow a Local Food Revolution" Imagine a food system that delivers fresh, organic food to everybody. Can't be done in a world of industrial food? YES magazine says it can, and it must, especially in these economic hard times. Here's how: <http://www.yesmagazine.org/article.asp?id=3271>

