

# A Report from the Visions and Strategies Sessions of the 2001 Pre-Canadian Yearly Meeting Workshop

## **We encourage Friends to discern the spiritual basis for caring for Creation, and to see how all is interconnected.**

As a way to do this, the Visions and Strategies sessions listed personal projects which could make a difference to the Earth. Then we brainstormed on strategies Friends could use in our Meetings, Working Groups and Committees. We offer them under the following headings:

### **Advocacy:**

- National bodies such as Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM) could pressure government to act on issues of climate change.
- We could encourage local governments to promote change in local bylaws, e.g. allowing for household systems that are healthful and practical such as composting toilets and use of grey water.

### **Education:**

- We could invite visitation to allow visitors to see Friends' organic farms.
- A work camp concept could assist sustainable development, train youth and ourselves, and share as part of another community in either Canada or the wider world.
- Have youth training in non-violence.
- Have funds for education in appropriate technology.

- Friends' schools and colleges to emphasise sustainable living.

### **Information and Communications:**

- Search, compile resources (from, and on the Web) for the various topics of sustainable life.
- Establish information-sharing exchanges.
- Increase communication via electronic mail for Committees.
- Meet via telephone or teleconference at least half the time.

### **Economics:**

- Reform the national and international credit union movement, starting with our local Credit Union's or co-ops.
- Invest in socially responsible ways.
- Monthly Meetings, Canadian Yearly Meeting and other Quaker bodies should hold their investments only in ethical instruments, giving priority to funds such as Oikocredit.\*

### **Our Homes:**

- Design homes that embrace appropriate technology, and nurture environmentalists to live in them.
- Retrofit existing housing for solar energy and heating.

### **Within our Meetings—Our Structure and Contents:**

- Use only re-usable plates, cups, utensils.
- Use compact florescent light

bulbs.

- Hold sustainable meetings free of non renewable energy resources and fast food imports.
- Construct Eco-Friendly Meeting houses.
- Do energy audits on Meeting-houses and correct problems.

### **Within our Meetings—Programs**

- Help establish groups who may wish to join in sustainable living: re: loans, management, etc.
- Explore ways to change attitudes (our own and the public's) so that "giving up things" evolves to "voluntary simplicity," evolves to a "world of Enough for all."
- Create simple living support groups.
- Monthly Meetings could have discussion groups, share ideas and support other members acting in sound ecological ways.

### **Within our Meetings—Yard and Transportation:**

- Reduce or eliminate the need to mow and water lawns by having less lawn, and by mowing with a rotary mower.
- Make Meeting-houses available for committed groups to reduce need for added buildings.
- Friends could consider whether we are using the world's resources well in the amount of travel we do by our memberships in so many organisations, and consider how much paper we use in our communications.

· Share transportation, encourage Friends to carpool, bike, walk, or take public transport to meeting for worship, committee meetings, CYM.

### Within our Meetings— Food:

- Serve only organic, fair trade coffee and tea; compost food scraps; encourage those without gardens to bring their own compost to the Meeting house.
- Set regular or time of prayer for change in humans' use of God's Creation, similar to worldwide Prayers for Peace.
- Hold meetings for business on same day as meetings for worship, to reduce transportation needs.
- Monthly Meetings and Canadian Yearly Meeting could commit to buying fairly traded coffee, tea, chocolate and sugar.
- Share excess food with Friends who have less. ☞

Note: \* Oikocredit is an international organisation founded in 1975 to provide credit for the productive enterprises of disadvantaged people worldwide who are systematically denied access to capital by financial institutions. At the heart of the Oikocredit mission lies the conviction that loans for productive business enterprises provide a stronger incentive for self-development than grants alone.

The foundations of global security are threatened.  
These trends are perilous  
— but not inevitable.  
— *Earth Charter*

# Wake up, Lake Mountain

By Lynne Phillips



PHOTO BY DONALD ALEXANDER

It's that time again.  
The grey mist of budding trees,  
cottonwood, tamarack, alder,  
jostle limb by limb with ever green trees,  
fir, spruce, pine, and cedar,  
dedicated to keeping you decent  
in wash 'n wear, serviceable dress all year round.  
Green and grey drape down your cliffs,  
onto your shelves, into your ravines and valleys.  
Places we call Violin Lake, Grouse Ridge, Cambridge Creek.

Spring dresses your granite bones  
formed by ancient volcanoes under a faraway sea.  
How long you've traveled,  
infinitesimal drifting on ancient terrain,  
powered from deep within the Earth  
to dock and scrape over ancestral North America  
eons before human named  
this or that or said "mine, not yours."

Who has given us the right to spoil your arboreal glory,  
to strip your garments for profit?  
Soon you will be naked and alone,  
bereft of the white-tailed deer  
who shelter under your trees for winter browse.  
Soon the grizzly mother and her two cubs, the golden eagle,  
the red-tailed hawk, the blue flash of jay will be  
evicted  
because we now have named  
what is yours — "mine."

*This was written by Lynne Phillips, a member of Argenta Monthly Meeting, while sadly watching clear-cut logging of a beloved mountain view, formerly enjoyed from her study window.*