



# The Seed

Newsletter

The Western  
Environment  
Centre  
wecnl.ca



## In this issue....

- **The Community Greenhouse**
- **Building your own greenhouse**
- **Book recommendations**
- **And much more**

Spring/Summer 2023

## From the Editor

Usually, we choose an image for the cover that conveys the natural beauty of Western Newfoundland, its awe-inspiring mountains, forests, and seascapes. This time, we are doing something different, showcasing an image that regrettably has become all too familiar across the country: a strange orange hue in the air, caused by drifting smoke from forest fires. This image was photographed in Corner Brook. What is striking about the image is that it was taken in June, a month that seems to be early for forest fires. According to the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, as of July 12th almost 4,000 forest fires had burned 9.7 million hectares in Canada in 2023. That devastation far exceeds previous years; and the fire season is not over. Will future years be even worse? If we proceed on our current tangent, the scientific consensus answers that question in the affirmative.

If these smoky viewsapes herald a future of increased forest fires, air quality warnings, not to mention increased hurricane activity, what are we willing to do to avert that future? What are we willing to sacrifice? Each one of us must ask these questions. There is much in this newsletter that documents the activities of individuals who inspire us to embrace change. Abdul-Latif Alhassan, for example, speaks of the many social-enterprise initiatives that he has undertaken, particularly in the realm of microplastics.

WEC recently acquired major funding to build a large geodesic dome community green house in partnership with the Centre for Research and Innovation (Grenfell Campus) and other organizations. The greenhouse will not only be a site for growing food, but it also will facilitate new and exciting synergies in the community. This issue provides some preliminary details and photos.

Speaking of greenhouses, you might consider building your own. This issue features an interview with Geoff Shinkle, an avid gardener living in St. John's, who has been very generous in sharing his knowledge about building and maintaining a greenhouse. It's a great way to save money on groceries in this period of higher inflation.

WEC has secured several new grants to pursue multi-year-long projects; and in that sense the organization seems to be changing and growing. Having been in existence for over twenty years, WEC has built a solid foundation with which to pursue larger and more ambitious endeavours. We are always interested in conversations about sustainable futures through action and engagement at local and regional levels.

Edwin Bezzina

### Contact info

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 (p) (709) 640-1734  
 (w) [www.wecnl.ca](http://www.wecnl.ca)  
 Have a look at our redesigned website!

### Check us out on Facebook!



You can find us by searching 'WEC NL'

### We're also on Twitter



([www.twitter.com/wecnl](http://www.twitter.com/wecnl))

### We welcome comments, questions, and submissions!



Feel free to write to the editor

(Edwin Bezzina,  
[ebezzina@grenfell.mun.ca](mailto:ebezzina@grenfell.mun.ca))

cover photo:  
 Corner Brook in June  
 (photo courtesy D'Arcy Wilson)

## WEC's Mandate

We're dedicated to engaging our community in food and climate action through impactful, educational initiatives.

## WEC's Mission

### Projects

We aim to initiate, manage, and run interactive community environmental projects.

### Engagement

We're committed to engaging citizens in dialogue on environmental issues in a balanced and informed manner.

### Community

We strive to help build a community of environmentally active citizens.

## How to become a WEC member (and how to encourage friends to become members)

Becoming a member is a fabulous first step to becoming environmentally involved in your local community! As a member, you'll receive the WEC newsletter, updates on WEC events, and free entry to WEC workshops. Please contact Katie Temple at [info@wecnl.ca](mailto:info@wecnl.ca)

In addition to the newsletter, updates, voting privileges at the AGM, and free access to WEC workshops, WEC Members also will receive access to:

- all workshop videos
- prize draws for eco-friendly products
- input into upcoming WEC projects
- first notification on jobs and volunteer opportunities
- the chance to take part in group-buying opportunities for products like seeds, sprouting supplies, and more
- a private members-only Facebook page where resources will be posted

Other new services or resources may be added in the future. All incoming and current members for 2023 will automatically get access to these services and resources. Our annual fee is \$15 and can be paid by e-transfer to [info@wecnl.ca](mailto:info@wecnl.ca) or cheque/cash to 50 Main St, Corner Brook, NL A2H 1C4. If you have any questions, please email Katie Temple at [info@wecnl.ca](mailto:info@wecnl.ca)

## Board of Directors

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**Executive Director....**Katie Temple



## Community Greenhouse Update

Earlier in the winter we revealed that we will be building a geodesic dome greenhouse in Corner Brook, thanks to funding mainly from the Local Food Infrastructure Fund from Agriculture Canada, with additional financial support from the City of Corner Brook. We are now excited to announce that the construction of our greenhouse is underway! Work on the foundation began April 20<sup>th</sup> and construction on the shell proceeded in May and June. Keep your eyes peeled for the greenhouse behind the Centre for Research and Innovation on Mill Road!

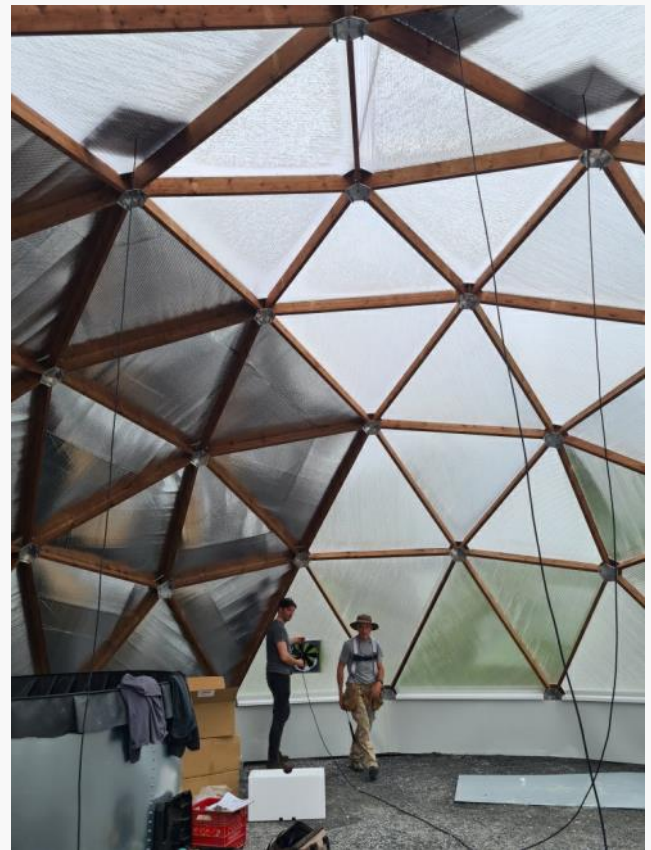


Above ground pond – image from Growing Spaces  
<https://growingspaces.com/>

### Greenhouse Features

The greenhouse is 33 feet in diameter with a 850 square-foot interior. The greenhouse kit, purchased from Arctic Acres, has been designed with Canadian climates in mind and features shatter-proof polycarbonate panels that can withstand heavy wind and snow loads while allowing for ample light to enter the greenhouse. It includes passive features for heating, cooling, and lighting, thus allowing the greenhouse to be operational off-grid throughout the year, greatly extending its growing season. Air flows through the greenhouse using a solar powered fan and undersoil ventilation system. Supplemental heat is provided by an above-ground pool which captures heat from the sun during the day and releases the heat in the evening as temperatures decrease (the pool also can be used to grow aquatic plants and raise fish). Furthermore, reflective insulation on the north wall of the greenhouse ensures that the plants receive even light and heat throughout the winter while providing shade in the summer to prevent overheating.

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The Corner Brook greenhouse under construction

## Community Greenhouse Update *(continued from the previous page)*

### Partnerships

Partnering with the Vine Place Community Centre and the Association for New Canadians, our community greenhouse will be more than a site for growing food. By engaging in a collective gardening model, where gardeners work together to communally manage the garden plots, the greenhouse will be a site for sharing knowledge and culture and creating connections within the community. Gardeners will work together to decide what will be grown, how to divide the workload, and how to share the harvest. The goal of the collective gardening model, popularized in France and Québec, is not only to address food security, but to also break social isolation and *empower* participants by allowing them to operate in a collective and take ownership over their project. In this regard, collective gardens become a context in which skills can be discovered, developed, and applied. By partaking in the collective garden, participants develop democratic skills surrounding decision-making and consensus-building by allowing them to take action to improve their quality of life, their environment, and the community in which they live.



A community supper consultation that took place earlier this year

Our community greenhouse will enable newcomers to Canada to grow vegetables from their home countries that could not otherwise be grown in our environment, increasing their access to culturally appropriate foods while allowing them to share their unique food culture with locals. The extended growing season and heat provided by the greenhouse will allow vegetables from all around the world to be grown within Corner Brook! By growing food from around the world, it will also act as a demonstration site for workshops and tours, providing educational opportunities for the greater Corner Brook community. We hope to see our greenhouse as a hub for sharing food skills and knowledge well into the future!

Natasha Pennell (Ph.D. student in Transdisciplinary Sustainability Studies, Grenfell Campus, Memorial University)

## Great Ways to Get Involved in WEC

\*\*join the Facebook group and invite others to do the same\*

\*attend WEC events and workshops\* \*become a WEC volunteer\*

\*participate in the WEC community gardens\* \*attend the WEC AGM\*



## Demystifying Backyard Greenhouses – An Interview with Geoff Shinkle

*The benefits of greenhouses have been discussed extensively in recent years, especially for more northern places where they greenhouses can help extend the natural growing season. But what does it take to build and maintain a greenhouse in Newfoundland? Is it feasible for backyard gardeners to add a greenhouse to their gardening portfolio? We asked Geoff Shinkle, an avid backyard gardener and greenhouse owner in St John's, to tell us about his greenhouse and share his perspective on the challenges and opportunities of greenhouse-growing here on the island.*

*Hi Geoff. Tell us a bit about yourself and what are you passionate about?*

My name is Geoff Shinkle and I have been gardening here in Newfoundland for the past forty years. I started as a child, learning from my parents and, as time went on, I branched out and started learning on my own. I have worked on many farms here in the province and have studied botany and plant pathology at the graduate level.

*Let's talk greenhouses. How would you describe your greenhouse? Did you construct it yourself or was it a home greenhouse kit?*

My main greenhouse is in my backyard and is 8x12 feet, thus almost 100 square feet, but we manage to pack a lot of plants in there. I built the greenhouse ten years ago and with minimal maintenance it is still standing. I came up with the design on my own and built it with a bit of assistance. The long axis of the greenhouse runs west to east to maximize the amount of southern exposure on the long axis, and the roof is sloped from the taller northern side (11 feet tall) down to the shorter southern side (7 feet tall). This allows the roof to capture as much sunlight as possible to heat up the greenhouse. The greenhouse is built out of regular cheap lumber (spruce or fir?), not pressure-treated. The structure is covered in 6mm vapor barrier, the same stuff that is used when building houses. People often say not to use the vapor barrier because it will decay when exposed to UV light. I have had no problems with this, and the vapor barrier is much cheaper than "official" greenhouse plastic. The 4x4 foot posts used for the main structure are pressure-treated because they needed to stay strong and not rot in the ground. You can wrap the bottom of these posts with plastic so that they are not in contact with the soil. This will help minimize chemicals leaching out of the pressure-treated lumber.

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## Demystifying Backyard Greenhouses – An Interview with Geoff Shinkle

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*How did you decide where to place your greenhouse?*

When planning my garden and greenhouse, I took some time to observe where we get the most sunlight. These observations are best done when any large trees on the property have all their leaves. If you have any trees casting shade, the sunlight profile in winter is very different than the profile in summer. Another concern is the shade that the greenhouse itself is going to cast; you do not want to take sun away from the rest of your garden. Once the location is determined, it is a good idea to get a compass and find out which way is north. You want as much southern exposure as you can get; every little bit will help. Ideally, I would have built my greenhouse in full sun, but there are a couple of maple trees nearby that cast some shade in the summer.

*What plants do you intend to grow in your greenhouse this year? What have you grown in the past?*

We divide our greenhouse growing into two seasons. The first season starts in April and at that point we will grow cold-tolerant greens including spinach, lettuce, kale, bok choy, pak choi, and mustard greens. The second season begins in June and that is when we start the actual greenhouse crops. We have grown a large variety of crops including regular greenhouse crops such as peppers, hot peppers, cucumber, tomato, basil as well as some uncommon things such as pineapples, cantaloupe, watermelon, ginger, lemongrass, and soybean. With the cost of food rising, I am focusing now on good producers to maximize our overall harvest.

*Are there any plants that you've found particularly well-suited for growing in your greenhouse?*

Cucumbers do really well in our greenhouse; we grow a variety called 'roxynante' from West Coast Seeds. The seeds are expensive, up to five dollars per seed, but the yield is unbelievable. We grow a lot of hot peppers as well, six or seven different kinds, and after processing them into hot sauce or drying them we have enough to last us a year.

*Do you sow plants in the greenhouse directly from seed or use as starter plants?*

Some plants will be direct-seeded in the greenhouse; others will be started as seedlings under lights in the house. This is done on a case-per-case basis as each plant has its own requirements. Some seeds like a cold treatment so we will plant spinach in October so the seeds can overwinter in the soil and start growing in April. Other things like hot peppers need the soil to stay warm at 20°C or they won't germinate.

*Have you incorporated any technology into your greenhouse, like hydroponics, temperature controls, or ventilation?*

No technology at all, keeping it simple.

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## Demystifying Backyard Greenhouses – An Interview with Geoff Shinkle

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*How about water management—how do you water your plants and how often?*

Once the greenhouse starts heating up at the end of May, the greenhouse will need watering every day. I hand-water with a hose mostly because this forces me to spend time observing the plants. If there is any sign of pests or diseases, I will have a better chance of noticing. If the greenhouse looks dry after hand-watering, I will sometimes leave a sprinkler on to get a good soaking.

*Do you amend your soil? What soil amendments do you use and how often do you use them?*

I will incorporate a generous amount of my own compost as well as some of the locally produced Pisces Compost (made from fish discards and saw dust) as well as some pelletized lime and chemical fertilizer. This is added in the spring and will usually last the whole season.

*How do you manage heat and light in your greenhouse?*

The outside of the greenhouse is stained black to absorb as much heat as possible. Any holes or gaps are kept sealed. The greenhouse is positioned to maximize southern exposure. With these few considerations our growing season in the greenhouse runs from April to December. There are several windows, and in the summer if it gets too hot we open the windows.

*How early do you have plants in the greenhouse and how late do they continue growing?*

As mentioned, our growing season in the greenhouse is typically April to December with the majority of production happening at the end of our two growing seasons. For the greens, there is a large harvest in May and for the greenhouse crops there is a lot of harvesting from August to October.

*What would you say is the biggest challenge when it comes to using and maintaining a backyard greenhouse?*

Keeping on top of watering can be difficult in July. If a pest gets in and establishes itself (e.g., aphids) it can be very time-consuming and annoying. Finding the time to preserve excess harvest so food isn't going to waste is very important. Dealing with unexpected crop failures can be discouraging. Structural damage from snow load in the winter is a concern. Plant diseases such as grey mold, powdery mildew, and other assorted rots can be a problem later in the season as things cool down. You also need to keep the plants thinned out to promote adequate ventilation.

*What would you say has been most rewarding about having a greenhouse?*

Sitting inside the greenhouse in April when it is freezing outside and yet it is 20°C in the greenhouse and there are plants growing. Getting an early start to the growing season is encouraging.

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## Demystifying Backyard Greenhouses – An Interview with Geoff Shinkle

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*What advice would you give to gardeners who are considering using a greenhouse?*

Take your time and plan it right. It is well worth the investment and opens up a whole new world of possibilities. Take advantage of the early season to grow some greens in your greenhouse.

*Do you have any resources (like books or websites) to recommend that could be helpful for new gardeners and greenhouse owners?*

No resources come to mind, but find a local expert and ask for some advice. Most gardeners love to talk about gardening.

*Is there anything else that you would like to share?*

Keep your greenhouse clean. Clean it before the growing season starts and at the end of the season. Watch out for pests getting into your greenhouse. The most common way to get rid of pests (aphids, spider mites, molds, etc.) is by buying a plant from a nursery that has not managed their pest pressures properly. One pepper plant with aphids on it is enough to ruin your whole growing season, as they will spread everywhere. Closely inspect all plants before you move them into your greenhouse, maybe even quarantine them somewhere for a few days in case the pests haven't hatched yet. Watch out for tall trees on windy days in June. When you are working in your garden under tall trees, aphids will be blown out of the trees and land on you. When you then go in your greenhouse you will transfer the aphids into the greenhouse and that will cause problems. I usually start my garden work in the greenhouse and then move out to the garden as the day progresses.

Interview conducted by Leanna Butters

### Stay Tuned for More Wonderful Workshops!

Over the upcoming months, WEC will continue to hold workshops on a variety of topics, such as this one held in May on small space gardening, led by experienced gardener Dan Rubin.



### Project Nujio'Qonik GH2: Wind Energy on the West Coast

WEC has submitted statements about the current proposal for Project Nujio'Qonik GH2, which involves a major wind energy farm on the Port-au-Port peninsula, along with a hydrogen/ammonia production facility in the port of Stephenville. The Western Environment Centre supports wind energy in principle as a way of moving our societies in a just transition away from reliance on fossil fuels and avoiding the disastrous effects of climate change. But this must be done correctly and with full environmental assessments as well as community input and engagement. WEC is continuing to monitor developments.

## ***Environmental Innovator Q & A: Abdul-Latif Alhassan***

*For this issue of The Seed, we connected with a local environmental innovator, Abdul-Latif Alhassan, to learn about the initiatives that he is contributing to here in Newfoundland and Labrador. Abdul-Latif is a Ph.D. candidate in the Transdisciplinary Sustainability program at Grenfell Campus, Memorial University. In 2022, for his volunteer initiatives he won numerous awards, among them the Student Entrepreneur of the Year Award by the Navigate Entrepreneurship Centre. The clean tech social enterprise which he co-founded, AbbaTek Group Inc., has received funding through the Ocean Startup Project (OSP) and was one of the top five finalists in the 2023 Mel Woodward Cup Finals and made it to the final round in the Enactus National Student Entrepreneur competition. In the interview that follows, we ask Abdul-Latif to share what he is passionate about and what we can look forward to with regards to his work in monitoring ocean microplastics.*

*Hi Abdul, please tell us about yourself.*

Hi, I am Abdul-Latif Alhassan (most people here call me Abdul and I love it) - a Ph.D. Candidate in Transdisciplinary Sustainability at the School of Science and the Environment, Grenfell Campus of Memorial University of Newfoundland. I am a father, husband, carefree philosopher, and nature lover. I am also a 2019 Mandela Washington Fellow, a 2020 African Leaders of Tomorrow (ALT) Scholar, an emerging trans-disciplinary scholar with expertise, experiences and interests in leadership, project management, sustainability, environmental policy, circular economy, food security, climate change and entrepreneurship.



*What are you passionate about?*

I am passionate about solving problems and making a difference wherever I find myself. I have done this through some of my initiatives such as the Civil Society and Institutional Foundation (CSIF) – Ghana (<https://csifghana.org/>) and currently, AbbaTek Group Inc. (<https://abbatekgroup.com/>)

*Tell us about your current work.*

AbbaTek Group Inc. is a cleantech company (a social enterprise) that is on a mission to democratize and increase capacity for the collection, analysis, and reporting of pertinent environmental data, starting with microplastics. AbbaTek's activities include software development, ethical machine learning development and deployment, cloud computing, and community outreach activities. Our flagship product, MPCConnect, is targeted at making microplastics monitoring, characterization, analysis, and reporting more affordable, standardized, and scalable.

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**Environmental Innovator Q & A: Abdul-Latif Alhassan** *(continued from the previous page)*

Aside from this, my Ph.D. research examines and investigates innovative ways and policy options to enhance all year-round local vegetable production through the efficient utilization of by-products in commercial greenhouse farming in Newfoundland and Labrador. It combines methods from policy and agriculture and involves stakeholders in academia, government, Indigenous communities, and industry in a transdisciplinary approach.



*How is your work contributing to environmental concerns in NL, particularly in terms of local and regional contexts?*

At AbbaTek, we envision a future where all environmental data is comprehensive, accessible, easy to understand, comparative and actionable for all stakeholders, so that we can reach global sustainability. As a social enterprise registered in NL, we're doing so while creating a healthy business environment where technological development, institutional change, and social impact are harmonized. To do so, communities need to be empowered with the tools necessary to collect meaningful intelligence. Locally, the impacts of plastic pollution on the health of oceans are drastic. Our approach not only provides the necessary data, but also produces significant community engagement, increased awareness, and activism towards making our oceans healthy and ensuring environmental sustainability. My Ph.D. research also will contribute to food security, more employment, enhanced economic well-being, and the reduction of carbon footprint in NL.

*Why is this work important to you? What is the value of this technology for sustainability?*

What is important to me is, as aforementioned, to help create a healthy business environment where technological development, institutional change, and social impact work together. The value of my business is that it will not only generate profit, but will also have a positive impact on the environment using a social enterprise model. We have entered the market early and this market is about to explode with growth, with several policy catalysts appearing here in Canada and others taking off elsewhere, ones that would help make testing for microplastics in environmental site assessments become law. I am passionate about contributing to solve some of the most challenging issues of our time and microplastics is one of the emerging contaminants of concern. We're at the forefront of providing a solution that is cost-effective, saves time, and promotes collaboration amongst and between stakeholders. It is also important that we're able to produce our own food locally, cope with climate change and ensure that we contribute positively to reducing the impacts of climate change and it means a lot to me to be part of the process.

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**Environmental Innovator Q & A: Abdul-Latif Alhassan** *(continued from the previous page)*

*Let's talk about your future work. What is on the horizon for you (and your organizations)?*

My vision with this business is to make it possible to have accurate, accessible, and actionable data for every contaminant for every community. I hope and will continue to work to make AbbaTek grow to achieve its vision, but I am also open to other ideas and ventures. Maybe my environmental policy and sustainability expertise and background could be better utilized in other ventures either in government, industry, or civil society. Also, I still support my non-profit organization in Ghana, and I hope that it will grow into a big organization and continue to impact lives.

Leanna Butters

**Welcome to our new Board Members!**

**Tom Boland** grew up in Corner Brook, where he developed a deep appreciation for nature during family camping trips and travelling in NL. He earned a B.Sc. (Biology) from Memorial University, an IT diploma in Halifax, and lived in Torbay and St. John's until 2011, when he returned home to Corner Brook. Tom is interested in food security issues and environmental advocacy. He is an avid backyard and community gardener, and enjoys organic gardening, making compost, and learning ways to live more sustainably. He enjoys making healthy, biodiverse soil, and recently started vermicomposting at home. Away from the garden, Tom is a musician and enjoys hiking and cabin time with his dog, Buddy.



**Emma Howell** is currently completing her undergraduate studies in Environment and Sustainability with a focus on resource management. She has been involved with a rural non-profit sustainable housing project and is very interested in environmental education and highlighting sustainable solutions within the community. She enjoys spending time being surrounded by nature, foraging, hiking, or poking around in her greenhouse. In the winter she loves to ski and adventure.



**Andrea Neville** was born and raised in Corner Brook, developing a substantial love of the west coast of Newfoundland in the process. She has education degrees from Memorial University and Brock University, an environmental science degree from Grenfell Campus, as well as IT certifications. Her main interests are food security including gardening, sustainability including product transport and waste disposal, and spending time outside.

Many thanks to departing Board members Liz Combdon, Lauren Duffell, and Courtney Mills for their valuable work on the Board. We wish them all the best!

## WEC hires more staff!

WEC's new Community Outreach Manager, **Andrea Coombs** was born and raised on Ktaqmkuk (the island of Newfoundland) in Mi'kma'ki. She has an MSc in Conservation Biology and her life mission is to be a conduit for knowledge and wonder. Andrea can be found outside—running, hiking, mountain biking, camping, and skiing her way into the wilderness. A dedicated yoga practitioner, connecting deeply to Mother Earth through yoga, meditation, and mindfulness is crucial to her wellbeing. After years of experience in natural resource management with both industry and government, Andrea is thrilled to join the WEC team.



## Helping WEC as You Recycle

Here is a creative way to donate to WEC financially. WEC has an account at Scotia Recycling on 55 Maple Valley Rd (709-634-2025). When dropping off your recyclables, donate by telling the people at the desk that you wish to give the proceeds to the Western Environment Centre. Visit the Scotia Recycling website:

<https://scotiarecyclinggroup.com/>

For information on recycling in Corner Brook, visit <https://www.cornerbrook.com/curbside-recycling/> or phone their recycling line at (709) 637-1630.



## WEC is grateful for the recent grants acquired from the following agencies and partners



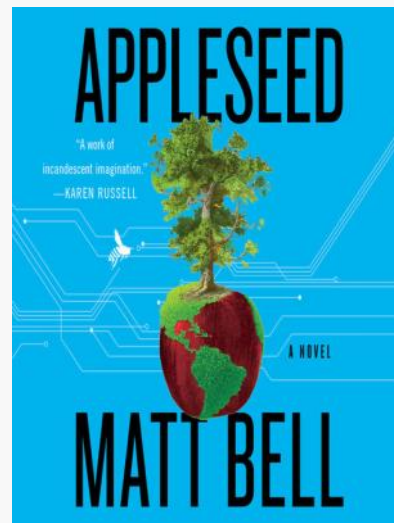
Canadian Red Cross



## Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries Book Recommendations

### *Appleseed*, by Matt Bell (Custom House, 2021).

A "work of incandescent imagination" (Karen Russell) from Young Lions Fiction Award–finalist Matt Bell, a breakout book that explores climate change, manifest destiny, humanity's unchecked exploitation of natural resources, and the small but powerful magic contained within every single apple. In eighteenth-century Ohio, two brothers travel into the wooded frontier, planting apple orchards from which they plan to profit in the years to come. As they remake the wilderness in their own image, planning for a future of settlement and civilization, the long-held bonds and secrets between the two will be tested, fractured and broken—and possibly healed. Fifty years from now, in the second half of the twenty-first century, climate change has ravaged the Earth. Having invested early in genetic engineering and food science, one company now owns all the world's resources. But a growing resistance is working to redistribute both land and power—and in a pivotal moment for the future of humanity, one of the company's original founders will return to headquarters, intending to destroy what he helped build. A thousand years in the future, North America is covered by a massive sheet of ice. One lonely sentient being inhabits a tech station on top of the glacier—and in a daring and seemingly impossible quest, sets out to follow a homing beacon across the continent in the hopes of discovering the last remnant of civilization." Horizon Library Catalogue (catalogue.nlpl.ca).



### *Jabbour, Niki. Growing under cover: techniques for more productive, weather-resistant, pest-free vegetable garden*, by Niki Jabbour (Storey Publishing, 2020).

"Increasingly unpredictable weather patterns and pest infestations are challenging today's vegetable gardeners. But best-selling author Niki Jabbour has a solution: *Growing Under Cover*. In this in-depth guide, Jabbour shows how to use small solutions like cloches, row covers, shade cloth, cold frames, and hoophouses, as well as larger protective structures like greenhouses and polytunnels, to create controlled growing spaces for vegetables to thrive. Photographed in her own super-productive garden, Jabbour highlights the many benefits of using protective covers to plant earlier, eliminate pests, and harvest a healthier, heartier bounty year-round. With enthusiasm, inventive techniques, and proven, firsthand knowledge, this book provides invaluable advice from a popular and widely respected gardening authority." Overdrive Catalogue (elibrary.overdrive.com).



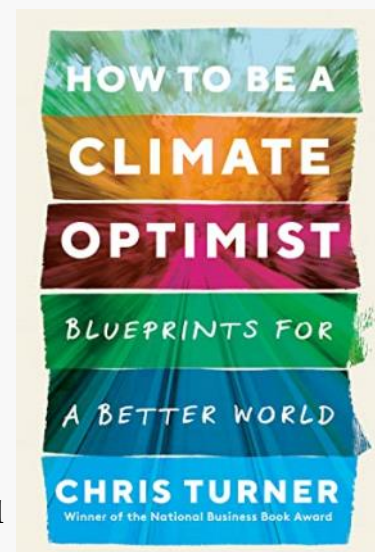
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## Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries Book Recommendations *(continued from previous page)*

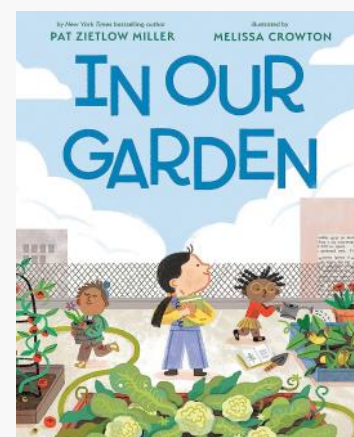
### ***How to be a climate optimist: blueprints for a better world, by Chris Turner (Random House Canada, 2022).***

“A very different book about facing the climate crisis, and what awaits us on the other side. Chris Turner has reported from the places where the sustainable future first emerged—from green islands in Denmark and green office parks in southern India, to solar panel factories in California and idealistic intentional communities from Scotland to New Mexico. Here, he condenses the first quarter century of the global energy transition into bite-sized chunks of optimistic reflection and reportage, telling a story of a planet in peril and a global effort already beginning to save it. This is a book that moves past the despair and futile anger over ecological collapse and harnesses that passion toward the project of building a twenty-first century quality of life that surpasses the twentieth-century version in every way.” Horizon Library Catalogue (catalogue.nlpl.ca).



### ***In Our Garden, by Pat Zietlow Miller, (G.P. Putnam’s Sons Books for Young Readers, 2022).***

“Millie has recently moved to a new city, from a place more than an ocean away. More than anything she misses the garden where her family used to grow food. Then one day she has an idea—the school has a fine flat roof, perfect for a garden. Soon her teacher and classmates are on board, but it takes more than ideas to build a garden. It takes supplies and hard work; it takes a lot of learning; and it takes a whole school—a whole community—coming together to help. And of course, it also takes a lot of waiting. But as Millie’s teacher Miss Mirales says, 'Be patient. Good things take time.' From building the beds and planting the seeds to the first glorious harvest, here’s the story of a garden—and a girl—in bloom, and what it takes for a new place to finally feel like home.” Horizon Library Catalogue (catalogue.nlpl.ca).



### ***Maybe You Might, by Imogen Foxell (Lantana Publishing, 2022).***

“A young girl makes a choice to plant a seed by a long dead riverbed. Little does she know that from this single, small act, a vibrant ecosystem will grow ... This inspiring poem -- bursting with hope for a greener world -- is a love letter to our ailing planet. It shows us that even when the future appears most bleak, each one of us can make a difference. A positive and optimistic story full of hope that it is not too late to mitigate climate change.” Horizon Library Catalogue (catalogue.nlpl.ca).



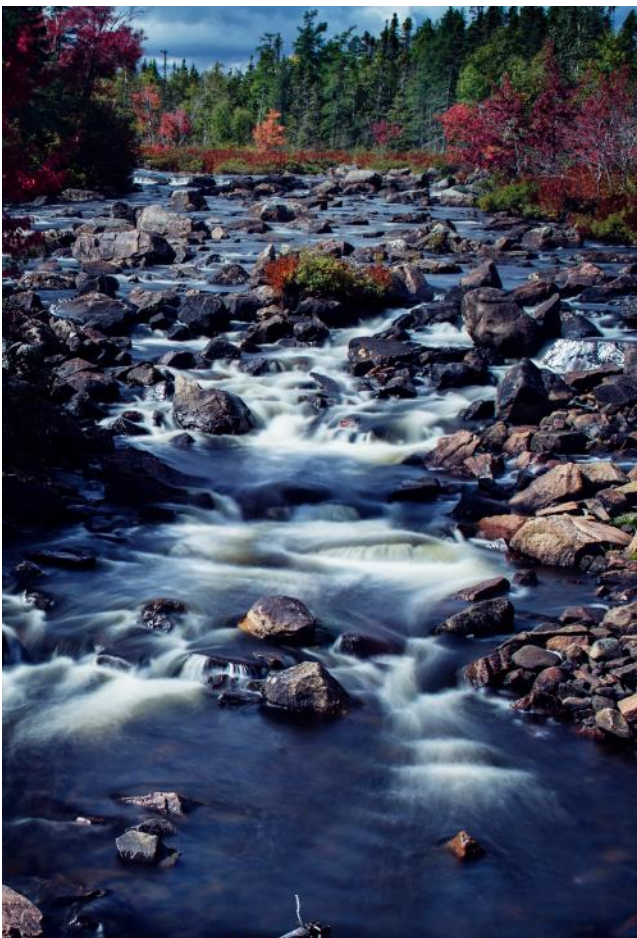
Natasha Wells, Western Division Manager

To request a copy of a book, visit the Library Catalogue at [www.nlpl.ca](http://www.nlpl.ca). You can also visit, call or email your [local branch](#). To register for a library card, visit [getthecard.nlpl.ca](http://getthecard.nlpl.ca).

## Check out the wonderful website of the David Suzuki Foundation!

The David Suzuki Foundation website not only showcases its well-researched scientific and policy endeavours, but also provides the environmentally conscious citizen with so many tips on how to make your life and your home more environmentally sustainable, how to get friends and family involved in nature, how to write a letter to the editor of a newspaper, how to protect wildlife, how to grow your own food, and so much more.

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