

# finding SOLUTIONS



David  
Suzuki  
Foundation

summer 2017  
[www.davidsuzuki.org](http://www.davidsuzuki.org)



PHOTO: SCOTT GILLINGWATER

Snapping turtles have been around some 40 million years. Thanks to people who care, they now have a better chance of continuing.

## Safer snappers!

“We had over 10,000 comments about the situation, so that helped us to recognize that the public would be supportive if we closed the harvest.” That’s what provincial Minister of Forestry and Natural Resources Kathryn McGarry said when she announced the end of the Ontario snapping turtle hunt on April 1.

**What she didn’t say was that 6,859 emails demanding an end to that hunt came from Foundation supporters!**

In February 2012, the Foundation released *The Road to Extinction: A Call to End the Snapping Turtle Hunt*, in partnership with Ontario Nature and the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre. We also met with government officials in February 2017 to convince them to heed the science.

Snapping turtles are vulnerable because they:

- Reproduce late in life
- Have low egg and juvenile survival rates
- Have lost important wetland habitat
- Are often killed on roads

Hunting them just makes matters worse — and is certainly *not a way to manage an at-risk species!*

“Turtles are in decline across the planet. Ending the hunt is important not only at the local scale, but also on the global stage,” Foundation Ontario science project manager Rachel Plotkin said.

**Wow. You made a powerful difference for an ancient species.**



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# The dirty truth about B.C.'s fracking industry

Thanks to you, groundbreaking research reveals methane pollution from B.C.'s oil and gas industry is at least 2.5 times higher than the provincial government claims.

In 2015 and 2016, researchers from the David Suzuki Foundation and St. Francis Xavier University completed the most thorough ground-based measurement of methane emissions ever conducted in Canada. Using gas-detection instruments mounted on a "sniffer truck," they travelled more than 8,000 kilometres in northeastern B.C.

## Methane is the largest source of climate pollution in B.C.

Fracking is fast becoming the technology of choice for mining oil and gas in B.C.'s Montney region. Researchers found emissions there are far greater than what the provincial government estimated for the entire B.C. industry!

Fracking involves drilling deep into the earth, and injecting a high-pressure stream of water, sand and chemicals to break apart shale and release gas or oil. More than 80 per cent of B.C.'s natural gas is fracked.

Over a 20-year period, methane is 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a climate pollutant. Because of its potency and short lifespan, eliminating methane emissions is one of the cheapest, most effective ways to address climate change.

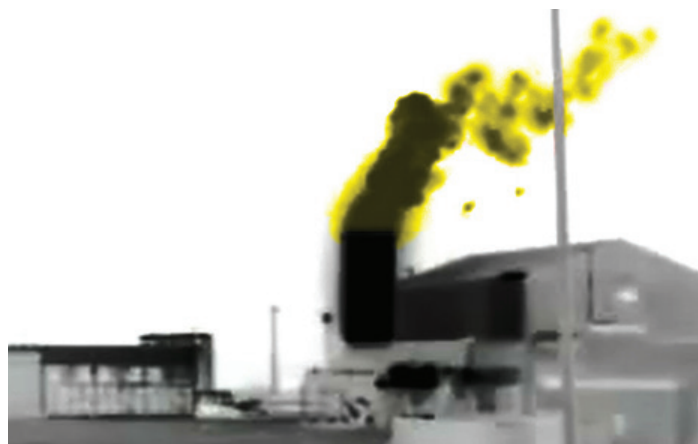


PHOTO: JOHN WERRING

Infrared image shows methane emissions from a gas compressor station. Even abandoned wells spew the toxic gas.

With your help, some 10,000 messages went to federal decision-makers via the Foundation's web platform, demanding Canada clean up its fracking mess. Using our easy, three-step process, concerned supporters also sent scores of letters to local newspapers. These appeared in papers from coast to coast, including the *Globe and Mail*, *Ottawa Hill-Times* and *Winnipeg Sun*.

*"This is the climate pollution equivalent of burning more than 4.5 million tonnes of coal, or putting more than two million cars on the road."*

JOHN WERRING, Foundation senior science and policy adviser, co-author of the study

The research is available in the peer-reviewed scientific journal *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*.

## MONTHLY DONORS ALREADY KNOW: MONTHLY GIFTS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE.

Beyond funding programs, monthly donations save paper, postage and staff time, so more of your donation goes to finding solutions to Canada's pressing environmental issues. And they're convenient. Just choose the amount that works for you and continue for as long as you want.

You can cancel or change your gift at any time — guaranteed!

**To set up a monthly gift, use the enclosed donation form or call our Community Giving Team at 1-800-453-1533 ext 1500.**

If you're already a monthly donor, thank you! If you didn't receive a donation form, it's because we're respecting your donation request preferences. Please just give us a call to set up your donation.

# First Fellows ready to lead their generation!

With your support, the Foundation launched the David Suzuki Fellowships in November 2016.

The program set out to find three young scholars who embody David Suzuki's special strengths: science excellence and the ability to inspire people to action. The response from the academic community was tremendous. We had the difficult task of choosing from scores of international applicants. And we are thrilled to announce the winners!

Each Fellow will spend 2017-18 studying climate change solutions and communications strategies, mentored by Foundation staff:



## **MELINA LABOUCAN-MASSIMO, INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND CLIMATE CHANGE FELLOW**

### **BACKGROUND**

Melina has a master's degree in Indigenous governance with a focus on renewable energy in First Nations communities. She also has more than 15 years of experience organizing with Indigenous communities to plan and install projects and campaigns. The culmination of her master's thesis was the completion of a 20.8-kilo-watt solar installation in her home community of Little Buffalo in Northern Alberta.

"Indigenous communities are on the front lines of resource extraction and climate change, but we are also on the front lines of solutions."

MELINA LABOUCAN-MASSIMO

### **FELLOWSHIP**

Melina will research renewable energy models that can be replicated in communities, push for more progressive renewable energy policy and put renewable energy projects into place in communities across Canada. She'll explore how blending traditional ecological knowledge with science can help chart a path to a sustainable, clean-energy future.

## **BRETT DOLTER, CLIMATE CHANGE ECONOMICS FELLOW**

### **BACKGROUND**

Brett has a master's degree in resource management and environmental science from the University of British Columbia, a master's in economics from the University of Victoria and a PhD in ecological economics from York University. He is currently a researcher affiliated with the University of Ottawa.

### **FELLOWSHIP**

Brett will research distributed renewable energy, carbon pricing effects and the impact of deliberative dialogues on Canada's energy future. He'll show how a clean energy economy is no longer just an idea — it's happening right now.



"I believe in a world where we learn to manage our economy sustainably within the bounds of our ecosphere."

BRETT DOLTER

## **JÉRÔME LAVIOLETTE, TRANSPORTATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE FELLOW**

### **BACKGROUND**

A trained civil engineer, Jérôme will complete his master's of applied science this summer from Polytechnique Montréal, using GPS data to understand the demand-supply profile of the taxi industry.

### **FELLOWSHIP**

Jérôme will focus on better understanding individual car dependency and the barriers and opportunities to change. He'll study how changing to lower-emission methods of transportation will help combat climate change.



"Transportation is a powerful vehicle for change."

JÉRÔME LAVIOLETTE

# Butterflyway Rangers produce pollinator paradises

We need pollinators. They need us.

So, thanks to you, our pilot Butterflyway Project trained more than 150 volunteer citizen Butterflyway Rangers in Markham, Montreal, Richmond, Toronto and Victoria.

Rangers in each city connected with local gardening and horticulture groups, businesses, municipal councillors and parks staff, teachers, students and daycares. They attended community events and hatched plans to establish new butterfly gardens in parks, schools and yards.

People put their heads together and their trowels in the dirt. They planted wildflowers and sowed seeds. Now Butterflyways are blooming across the country!

**We can all help beneficial critters by providing habitat throughout the places we live, work and play:**

- Replace exotic flowers and shrubs with native plants.
- Encourage neighbours to add pollinator patches to yards and gardens.
- Create butterfly gardens at schools and daycares.
- Encourage local park staff to turn places difficult to maintain, like steep slopes or wet areas, into pollinator paradises.

Here are some Butterflyway stories to inspire you:



PHOTOS: WINNIE HWO

## RICHMOND, B.C.

One dozen butterfly gardens earns a neighbourhood official Butterflyway designation. The combined efforts of Richmond's 40 Butterflyway Rangers have already far surpassed that goal. Their projects include pollinator plantings on rooftop gardens at Richmond City Hall and Richmond Cultural Centre, and in high school and preschool yards and neighbourhood parks.

## MONTREAL, QUEBEC

More than 3,500 people joined the Foundation's Urban Picnic in Montreal on May 19 to celebrate monarch butterflies and pick up milkweed plants and seeds. Montreal became the first Quebec municipality to sign the Mayors' Monarch Pledge. Our campaign won the grand prize at the City of Montreal's environmental gala. L'effet papillon inspired 40 schools in Montreal and 25 other Quebec municipalities to plant Butterflyway gardens.



PHOTOS: CAROLINE DOSTIE AND ESTHER SAURO



PHOTOS: JODE ROBERTS



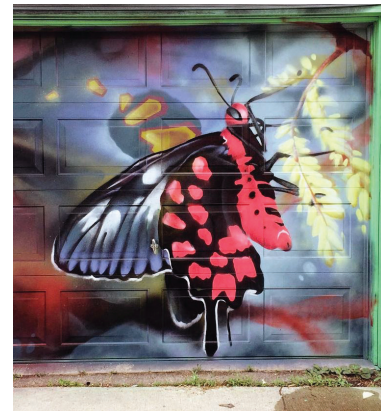
## MARKHAM, ONTARIO



Markham's Butterflyway Rangers organized a spring social street festival and led community members of all ages in planting four canoe gardens along Pomona Mills Creek, in partnership with the City of Markham, Thornhill Horticultural Society and local conservation groups.

## TORONTO, ONTARIO

Butterflyway Rangers in Toronto's east end created Canada's first official Butterflyway — a network of more than 15 butterfly-friendly gardens — in the Beaches neighbourhood, including schoolyard butterfly gardens and wildflower-filled canoes in parks. And they've planned a fall Butterflyway Parade along the Beaches boardwalk. In Toronto's west end, a pair of Rangers led the Butterflyway Lane art project, painting butterfly-themed murals on 25 garage doors, walls and fences in a laneway next to a new pollinator garden at Garrison Creek Park.



PHOTOS: JODE ROBERTS



PHOTOS: KATHLEEN MATTHEWS

## VICTORIA, B.C.



Victoria's 25 Butterflyway Rangers planted more than 10 pollinator gardens across the city. They created a bicycle-propelled flower buggy, butterfly puppets and a Butterflyway float to help teach people what they can do to support pollinators. They joined the Oak Bay Tea Party Parade and won second prize!

# Defending pollinators in court

"The federal government has taken a see-no-evil, hear-no-evil, speak-no-evil approach when it comes to regulating pollinator-killing pesticides, which is why we're taking it to court," Foundation director general Faisal Moola said.

The Foundation and its partners filed a lawsuit last year to protect pollinators from two widely used neonicotinoid

pesticides: clothianidin and thiamethoxam. The government and several multinational pesticide companies want the case dismissed before it's heard!

Thanks to you, we're speaking up for bees and other pollinators. Stay tuned!

## Four edible “weeds”

By definition, a "weed" is a valueless or undesirable plant. But that's a matter of perspective!

Enrich your diet with these four edibles that are as delicious as they are common. (You'll also avoid harmful herbicides and support beneficial insects.)

Nikki Sanchez, current “reigning” Queen of Green, is covering Lindsay Coulter’s one-year maternity leave. A wilderness educator, community organizer and social justice advocate, Nikki is also working on her PhD in Indigenous governance at the University of Victoria. She believes “building strong communities of people who share a common love for Earth and want to create a sustainable future is one of the most important endeavours of our time.”



### SUBSTITUTE CHICKWEED FOR SPINACH

This spade-leaved plant has small, white flowers. It's high in beta carotene, calcium, magnesium and zinc. Look for it at the edges of pavement, garden beds and gravel areas. At night, it "sleeps" by folding its leaves over its buds and new shoots.



### BRIGHTEN MEALS WITH DANDELION

Find these bright yellow flowers in fields, lawns and garden edges. They're high in vitamins A, B, C and D, as well as iron, potassium and zinc. Every part of the plant is edible, from the roots to the blossom!



### SPRUCE UP YOUR SALAD WITH MINER'S LETTUCE

Find this plant in most backyards and parks, in shady areas near fences, in gardens and at the base of trees. Named for the nutrition it gave early miners struggling to find food, it contains high levels of chlorophyll and vitamin C.



### ADD WOOD SORREL TO YOUR SMOOTHIE!

This dainty plant resembles a clover. Look for it along garden edges, fences or your home's exterior walls. Its heart-shaped petals have a bright, citrus flavour and are high in vitamin C.

## finding SOLUTIONS

A publication of the David Suzuki Foundation, a registered Canadian charity working to protect the diversity of nature and our quality of life, now and for the future.

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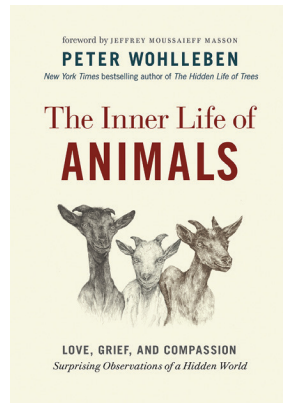
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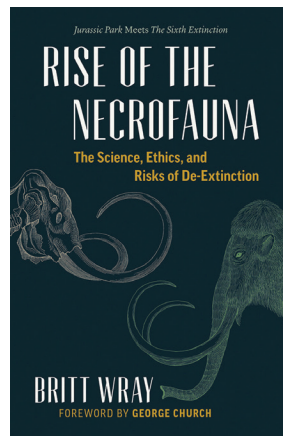
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### The Inner Life of Animals By Peter Wohlleben

Greystone Books / David Suzuki Institute

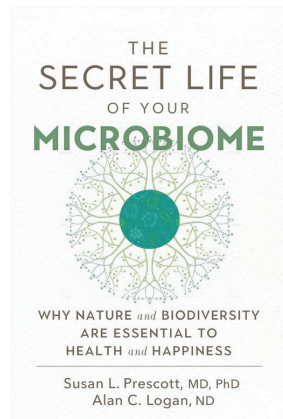
Following up on his hugely successful *The Hidden Life of Trees*, German forester Peter Wohlleben examines the emotions, feelings and intelligence of non-human animals. As with his previous book, the author draws on scientific research and his own observations and experiences to show that animals may differ from humans, but they also share traits. Goats discipline their kids, ravens know their friends by name and horses feel shame. Learning more about trees and animals helps us connect with and appreciate nature, which is essential to keeping the planet healthy.



### Rise of the Necrofauna By Britt Wray

Greystone Books / David Suzuki Institute

Advances in biotechnology mean it's possible to bring extinct species back. Humans were responsible for wiping some of them out, so it seems right that we could reverse some of our mistakes. But is it a good idea? What effect would woolly mammoths or passenger pigeons have on today's ecosystems? In this thought-provoking book, Britt Wray interviews scientists at the forefront of this research to examine the complex ethical, scientific and practical questions around this controversial idea.



### The Secret Life of Your Microbiome

By Susan L. Prescott and Alan C. Logan

New Society Publishers

No, it's not another book about improving your health through probiotics — although it does include useful information about diet. Immunologist and pediatrician Susan L. Prescott and medical researcher Alan C. Logan explore the fascinating world of the diverse and rich microbial ecosystem in our guts and on our skin. Drawing on current research, the authors explain how the microbes on and in our bodies affect our mental and physical health. It's also a brilliant illustration of the fact that all life is interconnected, and that biodiversity of life, from large to small, is important.

## Thanks to CEO Peter Robinson as he leaves Foundation

The David Suzuki Foundation is fortunate to have had great leadership. Our first executive director was charismatic politician and rabble-rouser Jim Fulton. Sadly, Fulton died in 2008 from cancer. Although he was a tough act to follow, our second CEO Peter Robinson brought terrific business skills gained as CEO of Mountain Equipment Co-op and in other roles, as well as a humanitarian perspective from his work with the International Red Cross. Robinson is leaving for greener pastures — he bought a farm! In the fall, we'll welcome our new CEO, Stephen Cornish, former executive director of Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières Canada.

The Foundation has come a long way under Robinson's 10-year tenure. As CEO, he transformed it into a national bilingual organization, and helped it become the most trusted

environmental voice in Canada. Under his stewardship, it became more focused on climate change and clean energy, biodiversity and environmental rights. Programs such as the Blue Dot environmental rights movement are bringing many people in Canada together to speak for values we all share. Its success is evident in the dramatic growth of the Foundation's community throughout the country.

Robinson also advocated on behalf of charities throughout Canada. In the wake of a Canada Revenue Agency political audit of the Foundation, completed in 2016, the federal government appointed Robinson to a five-person advisory panel on charity political activities policy, which led to recommendations to modernize the rules governing non-partisan political work charities can engage in. He also supported meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous communities and



ensured that the Foundation's environmental work respects Indigenous rights and title.

The important environmental policy reforms he has advocated for will have long-lasting effects on Canadian society. As he moves on, we offer our sincerest gratitude for all he has done. Here's to you, Mr. Robinson!



## HELP SHAPE TOMORROW WITH YOUR PLANS TODAY!

*"I often think about my grandchildren and the kind of world I want them to grow up in. I'm hopeful — and hope you'll join me in investing in the Foundation's future, to ensure our work can continue."*

DAVID SUZUKI

Legacy donors create real, lasting change by including the David Suzuki Foundation in their estate plans.

This sentence is kind of convoluted. Maybe: A gift in your will can help further the Foundation's mission to achieve science-based solutions to pressing problems and create a sustainable society for generations to come.

**To learn more about leaving your legacy for the future, contact Ashton Orr-Frayn at 1-800-453-1533 ext. 1214 or [aOrrFrayn@davidsuzuki.org](mailto:aOrrFrayn@davidsuzuki.org).**

If you've already made your legacy plans and included the Foundation, thank you!