

## Community Potluck

Transition Salt Spring is organizing a potluck, starting at 6:30pm on Friday, August 13, 2010 at Beaver Point Hall. The evening will include an introduction to Transition Salt Spring, time for discussion, idea-sharing around and how we can become a more resilient, sustainable, and self-reliant community. This will be the first of what will be monthly community gatherings in different parts of the island.

The Transition initiative is a grassroots citizens movement to address the challenges of peak oil and climate change at the community level, through projects that reduce our dependency on fossil fuels, reduce our energy use, reduce waste, and create new, sustainable systems to replace the ones that are breaking down all around us. The movement is based on permaculture principles, and is growing as more people are seeing that our own active engagement with our community is key to building our own resilience. Resilience is very closely determined by the ability of people to respond and work together.

Traditionally the potluck has been a popular and effective way for communities and groups to meet, have fun and to get to know each other better. Now, with the gathering storm clouds of Peak Oil threatening to engulf us as early as 2013, according to Lloyds of London "with catastrophic consequences" and even the US military complex and Pentagon predicting that a "crunch" will happen by 2013 with "severe shortages" as soon as 2011, we need to come together in our communities to prepare. How can we do this if we don't know each other?

An unintended consequence of the prosperity created by our current capitalist system is a significant reduction in real communal activity. Individually many now have the resources to frequently travel to exotic locations. Activities such as TV watching, surfing the net, shopping and other forms of consumption invariably take us away from connecting with those in our own community and even within our own families. Transition Salt Spring intends to engage all citizens in building a strong and resilient community.

Transition Salt Spring is one of several local "official" initiatives. Others are: Cowichan, Victoria, Port Alberni and Vancouver with groups forming on Pender and Galiano also. The first Transition Town (now known as Transition Communities) started in Totnes, Devon, UK in 2006. Since then the movement has spread virally across the globe with currently 323 communities worldwide. 17 are in Canada and 8 of these are in BC. For more information on the worldwide transition network see <http://www.transitionnetwork.org/>. For information on and to subscribe to Transition Salt Spring go to: <http://transitionsaltspring.ning.com/>. If you would like to participate in the organizing of this event please contact Daniel at (250) 537-8773 or Shoshanah at (250) 653-9329. We look forward to meeting you on the 13<sup>th</sup> for an evening of connection and fun.

The writer, ably assisted by Shoshanah Ray and Terry Oliver, lives on Salt Spring, is actively involved in the Transition initiative and has spent almost 1 year living in community and studying at Findhorn, Scotland.

