THE VILLAGE GREEN

Number thirty-six, August 31, 2021

Do you want to know what local environmental ecological and climate events (on-line and in person) have been scheduled for Grey, Bruce and environs?

They're listed and described at Grey Bruce Climate Action's event listing: https://greybruceclimateaction.ca/events,

where you can also add your own organization's upcoming events.

GREY COUNTY "CANADA ON FIRE" CLIMATE MARCH SLATED FOR SEPTEMBER 8

Local citizens have organized a Climate Action March for Grey County folks and their neighbors on **Wednesday September 8th** in Owen Sound, one of many such marches across Canada supported by the climate advocacy organization 350.org's "Canada on Fire" campaign (https://350.org/still-on-fire).

It will take place from **4:00 pm to 5:00 pm** (participants are asked to arrive 10 minutes early). The march starts and ends at Owen Sound Farmers' Market, 88 8th Street East, Owen Sound (just behind City Hall). Participants should register their attendance at: https://act.350.org/event/still-on-fire-doa/25291/ (necessary for contact tracing purposes during pandemic times). Masks, social distancing, and Covid self-assessment tests are required.

Say the event organizers:

> *We are in the midst of an urgent climate emergency, but our politicians aren't acting like it. The United Nations calls the situation a Code Red for Humanity. Yet, despite years of increasingly catastrophic weather events, Canadian policies addressing emissions to protect our air, water, land, and life remain woefully inadequate. That is why we march on September 8th – the day of the French Federal Leaders' debate and the day before the English Federal Leaders' debate.*
>
> *Under the rallying cry **Climate Emergency – Act Like It**, we demand politicians muster the courage, resources, and decisiveness to:*
> - *exceed our Paris Agreement emissions targets*
> - *make a fast and fair transition to 100% renewable energy*
> - *halt fossil fuel subsidization*
> - *increase protection for our carbon-capturing forests, oceans, freshwater systems and wetlands*
> - *strengthen our sustainable agricultural practices, and*
> - *publish, report on and meet annual accountability targets for ALL of the above.*
>
> *We call on fellow citizens to join us on September 8th. By acting as a community to demand change, we prioritize the climate crisis and advocate for a sustainable and just society. We can do even more by embracing a sustainable way of living. If we don't come together on this issue today, we close our eyes to an unimaginable legacy of harm impacting future generations."*

March organizers will have reusable signs for those who want them, and March representatives will deliver a handout to the three Federal candidates with offices in Owen Sound during the March.

SIMCOE-GREY CLIMATE ACTION GROUPS SPONSOR CANDIDATES' CLIMATE DEBATE

A virtual All-Candidates' Debate on the Environment will take place for the federal riding of Simcoe-Grey on September 8, 2021 – one of 100 Debates on the Environment, being held across Canada coordinated by GreenPAC, a non-partisan non-profit organization that builds environmental leadership in politics. The Collingwood Climate Action Team, the Wasaga Beach Climate Action Team, New Tecumseth Climate Action and the Climate Action Now Network in the Town of the Blue Mountains are sponsoring the event.

The debate will be held via Zoom, from **7 to 9 pm on Wednesday, Sept 8**. Registration is available through EventBrite: https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/debate-on-the-environment-tickets-168798459737.

Say the debate's organizers:

> *"Climate change is widespread, rapid, and intensifying according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report released in early August. Canada is experiencing droughts, forest fires, heatwaves, snow loss and other extreme weather making the environment a top voting issue. This is a debate about all the reasons why the environment must be front and centre in any government's plan for post-pandemic economic recovery, national healing and reconciliation."*

COLLINGWOOD TODAY COMPARES PARTIES' CLIMATE PLATFORMS

As a harbinger of comparisons to come over the next few weeks, the news outlet *Collingwood Today* has published a description and comparison of the climate platforms of the Conservative, Green, Liberal and NDP parties. It's at https://www.collingwoodtoday.ca/canadavotes2021/how-the-four-main-federal-parties-plan-to-fight-climate-crisis-4255107?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Email&fbclid=IwAR0ualQAPULaYmGmbnBP85nECJWh2m94s0VwYzRkjGCEReGDv0pw1C9AufY.

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS TREE TRUST CELEBRATES HERITAGE SUGAR MAPLE

On the warm sunny morning of August 13, a group of about 40 members and friends of the Blue Mountains Tree Trust gathered in the Thornbury-Clarksburg Union Cemetery, at the foot of a sugar maple tree more than 100 years old, to care for and commemorate the tree's continued life. This is the second sugar maple in that cemetery to receive recognition and arborist care through the Tree Trust. Betty Muise of the Tree Trust provided context for the morning's event, and Tobias Effinger, owner and chief arborist of Arboreal Tree Care, presented information on the health of the tree, the extent of its root system, the quality of the soil in which it grows, and its relationship to a neighboring row of coniferous trees. Thornbury climate activist Rosemary Gosselin then briefed attendees on her local group's plans to ask the Town of the Blue Mountains to support the development of a natural burial section in the Thornbury-Clarksburg Union Cemetery. Arboreal Tree Care's arborists then gently attacked the tree to make it healthier.

Blue Mountains Tree Trust was established in July 2020 to save some of the most important old trees in the Town of the Blue Mountains. As the Tree Trust says:

> *"While thousands of new saplings planted across the country are establishing themselves, right now it's the big trees that are doing the heavy lifting – providing a myriad of important ecological services, including storing and sequestering carbon."*

The Tree Trust preserved two legacy trees in 2021, it hopes to preserve a total of four in 2011, and thanks to a grant from the Town of the Blue Mountains Sustainability Committee it has started a native tree seed nursery. The Tree Trust is also working with the Town on the possibility of developing a tree canopy expansion and tree planting program in Blue Mountains.

BLUE MOUNTAINS COUNCIL CONSIDERS NATURAL BURIAL GROUND

At the August 24 meeting of the Blue Mountains Municipal Council, a delegation from the Blue Mountains Climate Action Now Network (CANN) asked for the Council's support for the development of a natural burial section of three to five acres in the Thornbury-Clarksburg Union Cemetery. The Council referred CANN's presentation to the town's community sustainability planning process that is currently underway, and instructed its Community Services Department to report on the implications of creating the natural burial section in the cemetery.

In natural burial, a body is interred, without embalming, in a biodegradable container or shroud in an area whose vegetation is left to develop naturally (i.e., no pesticide-laden mown lawn).

Blue Mountains is the second municipality in this area to consider the concept of a natural burial ground. On June 16 the Grey Highlands Council reviewed a proposal from a private landowner to create a natural burial facility on the property. The Council decided that a natural burial site in the municipality would be in the public interest if all regulatory approvals have been obtained, and it granted approval in principle pending permits and approvals from conservation authorities, the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario.

BEAVER VALLEY CONTROVERSY: ESCARPMENT BIOSPHERE CONSERVANCY BIDS

The latest chapter in the campaign to get the Municipality of Grey Highlands to opt for a not-for-profit, ecology-driven buyer for its lands in the Beaver Valley opened on August 20 when the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC), a leading Canadian land trust, submitted a formal written offer to the Municipality to buy for cash the Talisman lands owned by Grey Highlands in the Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This offer is follow-up to a letter of intent submitted to Grey Highlands by EBC on June 11.

Said Rob Barnett, EBC's Executive Director:

> *"While Grey Highlands has been negotiating with a development group to build multiple residential and other units on the site, we expect that the Municipality will see that our offer is consistent with the strong views expressed by hundreds of community members in the recent Beaver Valley Visioning sessions, as well as its own official plan and Climate Change policies. Large scale residential and commercial development is not an appropriate use for these lands, which should be preserved in their natural state and managed to provide ecosystem services, available for use by the wider community.*
>
> *Grey Highlands has not released the terms of its conditional agreement with this development group, but we assume that it has protected its right to consider our competing offer. Our offer is a demonstrably better use of public lands for the community than large scale development in an environmentally important UNESCO Heritage Site. Several past attempts to develop these lands have failed to obtain the necessary regulatory approvals, for good reason. We do not believe that the NEC, the Province and other relevant government bodies would permit the destruction of these public lands and their privatization."*

OWEN SOUND WASTE WATCHERS WAXES POETIC

On July 24, Owen Sound Waste Watchers ventured into the realms of poetry and music via a podcast that included a chat with Naomi Shihab Nye, the US Young People's Poet Laureate, who read a few of her trash-picking-up-related poems (she confessed to a life-long fascination with the stories behind discarded things). The on-line event also included a poem by Owen Sound Poet Laureate Richard-Yves Sitoski, a new song by david sereda (who doesn't use capital letters in his name) and a poem written by Owen Sound's first Poet Laureate Liz Zetlin. You can access the July 24 *Talkin' Trash: Poetry in Motion* video at https://oswastewatchers.ca/category/videos/?fbclid=IwAR2CVJr-48RFxQnROsECVAjaROBdzIhueNZ1x3IYOsPV6VmazP_cr-MclPg.

The video inspired other poets to post their trash poems on the Waste Watchers' Facebook page, including Norine Baron, who wrote in part:

"*Folks don't think, don't read, don't rinse,*
Blue bins are a mess.
Recycling doesn't happen much
Ten percent or less.

Why can't I get my yogurt
In cardboard or in glass?
Naked fruit is what I want
Plastic bags - I'll pass."

As well, Lori-Ann K E Caswell's poem *Briefly interrupts Forever* said:

"I was dinosaur bones
and ancient stuff
(forever)
resting
in the heat of the earth.

I was made
into a long, tubular thing
used
(briefly)
to suck up soda, chilled with jagged ice.

I was chewed
at one end
(briefly)
tossed to the ground
beside a tree, near a river
that empties into a lake.

Now I wait
(forever)
to be reclaimed, to once again
rest
in the heat of the earth."

ŁUTSËL K'É DENE FIRST NATION WINS U.N. PRIZE

The Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation of the Northwest Territories has been awarded the United Nations Equator Prize, an award that recognizes Indigenous peoples and local communities involved in innovative nature-based solutions to climate change. The First Nation is one of 10 winners this year from among 600 nominations in more than 120 countries. It's the first Canadian group to win the award.

The First Nation is being recognized for establishing the Thaidene Nëné or "Land of the Ancestors" Indigenous Protected Area on the east arm of Great Slave Lake's east arm, comprising 26,376 square kilometres of boreal forest, tundra, lakes, rivers, and waterfalls.

INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE PANEL: FUTURE DIM, NOT HOPELESS

Released in early August, a report from the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) paints a dire but not hopeless picture of the effects of human-induced climate change. This 3,500 page assessment by scientists, entitled *Working Group 1 (WG1)*, analyzed more than 14,000 scientific reports, and concluded that it's not too late to stave off the worst effects of climate change, but we're still in deep trouble.

Under the 2015 Paris Agreement, nations agreed to hold global warming to well below 2℃, and preferably limit it to 1.5℃, compared to pre-industrial levels. Canada's current commitment is to reduce carbon emissions by 40% to 45% below 2005 levels by 2030 – still critically insufficient and among the least ambitious compared to other developed countries.

Under all scenarios examined by the report, the Earth will reach the crucial 1.5℃ warming limit in the early 2030s, and will likely exceed the 2℃ limit thereafter, unless we make deep cuts to emissions of CO_2 and other greenhouse gases.

The report says the effects of global warming are already here. Levels of atmospheric CO_2 have not been this high in 2 million years, oceans rose an average of 8 inches in the last century, and heatwaves are hotter and longer lasting, and we are being pushed toward irreversible change.

The report is the sixth the IPCC has published since 1990. It is a crucial lead-up to the next major UN climate conference – COP26 – to be held in Glasgow in November.

It emphasizes the risks of natural gas, citing the destructive impact of short-lived carbon pollutants such as methane, the main component of natural gas, which is 80 times more potent than CO_2 when leaked into the atmosphere. Methane accounts for 25% of average global temperature increases.

The report's summary for policymakers is at https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_SPM.pdf. For data divers, these are excerpts from the summary:

A CURRENT STATE OF THE CLIMATE

A.1 It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land. Widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere have occurred.

A.2 The scale of recent changes across the climate system as a whole and the present state of many aspects of the climate system are unprecedented over many thousands of years.

A.3 Human-induced climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. Evidence of observed changes in extremes such as heatwaves, heavy precipitation, droughts, and tropical cyclones, and, in particular, their attribution to human influence, has strengthened since the fifth of the six IPPC reports was released.

A.4.3 Heating of the climate system has caused global mean sea level rise through ice loss on land and thermal expansion from ocean warming. Thermal expansion explained 50% of sea level rise during 1971–2018, while ice loss from glaciers contributed 22%, ice sheets 20% and changes in land water storage 8%. The rate of ice sheet loss increased by a factor of four between 1992–1999 and 2010–2019. Together, ice sheet and glacier mass loss were the dominant contributors to global mean sea level rise during 2006-2018.

B. POSSIBLE CLIMATE FUTURES

B.1 Global surface temperature will continue to increase until at least the mid-century under all emissions scenarios considered. Global warming of 1.5°C and 2°C will be exceeded during the 21st century unless deep reductions in CO_2 and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades.

This report assesses the climate response to five scenarios that cover the range of possible future development of anthropogenic drivers of climate change found in the literature. They start in 2015, and include scenarios with

- **high and very high** greenhouse gas emissions and CO_2 emissions that roughly double from current levels by 2100 and 2050, respectively,
- **intermediate** greenhouse gas emissions and CO_2 emissions remaining around current levels until the middle of the century, and
- **very low and low** greenhouse gas emissions and CO_2 emissions declining to net zero around or after 2050, followed by varying levels of net negative CO_2 emissions

B.2 Many changes in the climate system become larger in direct relation to increasing global warming. They include increases in the frequency and intensity of hot extremes, marine heatwaves, and heavy precipitation, agricultural and ecological droughts in some regions, and proportion of intense tropical cyclones, as well as reductions in Arctic sea ice, snow cover and permafrost.

B.2.1 It is virtually certain that the land surface will continue to warm more than the ocean surface (likely 1.4 to 1.7 times more). It is virtually certain that the Arctic will continue to warm more than global surface temperature.

B.3 Continued global warming is projected to further intensify the global water cycle, including its variability, global monsoon precipitation and the severity of wet and dry events.

B.4 Under scenarios with increasing CO_2 emissions, the ocean and land carbon sinks are projected to be less effective at slowing the accumulation of CO_2 in the atmosphere.

B.5 Many changes due to past and future greenhouse gas emissions are irreversible for centuries to millennia, especially changes in the ocean, ice sheets and global sea level.

C. CLIMATE INFORMATION FOR RISK ASSESSMENT AND REGIONAL ADAPTATION

C.1 Natural drivers and internal variability will effect human-caused changes, especially regionally and in the near term, but with little effect on a full century of global warming. These effects are important to consider in planning for the full range of possible changes.

C.1.1 The historical global surface temperature record highlights that variability over any single decade has enhanced and masked underlying human-caused long-term changes, and this variability will continue into the future. For example, internal decadal variability and variations in solar and volcanic drivers partially masked human-caused surface global warming during 1998–2012, with pronounced regional and seasonal signatures (high confidence). Nonetheless, the heating of the climate system continued during this period, as reflected in both the continued warming of the global ocean and in the continued rise of hot extremes over land.

C.2 With further global warming, every region is projected to increasingly experience concurrent and multiple changes in climatic impact-drivers. Changes in several climatic impact-drivers would be more widespread at 2°C compared to 1.5°C global warming and even more widespread and/or pronounced for higher warming levels.

C.2.5 It is very likely to virtually certain that regional mean relative sea level rise will continue throughout the 21st century, except in a few regions with substantial geologic land uplift rates. Approximately two-thirds of the global coastline has a projected regional relative sea level rise within ±20% of the global mean increase. Due to sea level rise, extreme sea level events that occurred once per century in the recent past are projected to occur at least annually at more than half of all tide gauge locations by 2100. Sea level rise contributes to increases in the frequency and severity of coastal flooding in low-lying areas and to coastal erosion along most sandy coasts.

C.2.6 Cities intensify human-induced warming locally, and further urbanization together with more frequent hot extremes will increase the severity of heatwaves. Urbanization also increases mean and heavy precipitation over and/or downwind of cities and resulting runoff intensity (high confidence). In coastal cities, the combination of more frequent extreme sea level events (due to sea level rise and storm surge) and extreme rainfall/riverflow events will make flooding more probable.

C.2.7 Many regions are projected to experience an increase in the probability of compound events with higher global warming. In particular, concurrent heatwaves and droughts are likely to become more frequent. Concurrent extremes at multiple locations become more frequent, including in crop producing areas, at 2°C and above compared to 1.5°C global warming.

C.3 Low-likelihood outcomes, such as ice sheet collapse, abrupt ocean circulation changes, some compound extreme events and warming substantially larger than the assessed very likely range of future warming cannot be ruled out and are part of risk assessment.

C.3.4 The Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation [north Atlantic ocean currents that include the Gulf Stream that warms Europe] is very likely to weaken over the 21st century for all emission scenarios. There is medium confidence that there will not be an abrupt collapse before 2100. If such a collapse were to occur, it would very likely cause abrupt shifts in regional weather patterns and water cycle, such as a southward shift in the tropical rain belt, weakening of the African and Asian monsoons and strengthening of Southern Hemisphere monsoons, and drying in Europe.

D. LIMITING FUTURE CLIMATE CHANGE

D.1 From a physical science perspective, limiting human-induced global warming to a specific level requires limiting cumulative CO_2 emissions, reaching at least net zero CO_2 emissions, along with strong reductions in other greenhouse gas emissions. Strong, rapid and sustained

reductions in methane emissions would also limit the warming effect resulting from declining aerosol pollution and would improve air quality.

D.1.4 Anthropogenic CO_2 removal (CDR) has the potential to remove CO_2 from the atmosphere and durably store it in reservoirs (high confidence). CDR aims to compensate for residual emissions to reach net zero CO_2 or net zero greenhouse gas emissions or, if implemented at a scale where anthropogenic removals exceed anthropogenic emissions, to lower surface temperature.

D.1.5 Anthropogenic CO_2 removal (CDR) leading to global net negative emissions would lower the atmospheric CO_2 concentration and reverse surface ocean acidification.

D.1.6 If global net negative CO_2 emissions were to be achieved and be sustained, the global CO_2-induced surface temperature increase would be gradually reversed but other climate changes would continue for decades to millennia. For instance, it would take several centuries to millennia for global mean sea level to reverse course.

D.2 Scenarios with very low or low greenhouse gas emissions lead within years to discernible effects on greenhouse gas and aerosol concentrations, and air quality, relative to high and very high greenhouse gas emissions scenarios. Under these contrasting scenarios, discernible differences in trends of global surface temperature would begin to emerge from natural variability within around 20 years, and over longer time periods for many other climatic impact-drivers.

D.2.2 Reductions in greenhouse gas emissions also lead to air quality improvements. However, in the near term, even in scenarios with strong reduction of greenhouse gases, as in the low and very low greenhouse gas mission scenarios, these improvements are not sufficient in many polluted regions to achieve air quality guidelines specified by the World Health Organization.

OUR READERS KNOW A THINK OR TWO

Several of our readers posted perspectives recently on climate action websites that should be shared with all our readers.

Said one climate activist:

"One of my concerns is that under the umbrella of climate change the focus seems to be on cutting emissions at the expense of all other debate on the environment. It would be great to see a much fuller discussion around this. I see things such as carbon sequestration, for example, being all about the numbers...we need x acres to sequester x amount of carbon etc. No mention of healthy ecosystems and how to protect those to help mitigate climate change. I feel the debates thus far are so narrow in their focus that so much damage is still being done in other areas just because they are not related to cutting emissions etc. I know you have to start somewhere but when it has gone this far I believe that a much wider lens needs to be applied to the problem."

Another activist added this perspective:

"*The need for debate is a good start. I fear, however, that it will be left at that. The issue is much broader than 'just' climate change. CC is really just a symptom of a greater ill. It's a wholescale change in lifestyle expectations and economic assumptions (unlimited growth, increasing acquisitions, competition...) as well as habitat/ecosystem destruction that really need to be dealt with. But I guess we try to deal with what we can, piecemeal as it may be."*

IN MY HUMBLE OPINION: IT HELPS TO BELIEVE

As the only non-Catholic in a Catholic high school in the 1960s, I developed quite a fascination with the concepts I was exposed to in Religious Knowledge class. My classmates generally found this material yawnable because they had been exposed to it for eight years in Catholic elementary schools, but it was all new to me (having grown up in a devoutly irreligious family).

I was particularly smitten with the idea of creeds – statements of belief that at their best provide people with a sense of purpose, and that at their worst lead to the persecution of those who don't subscribe to the creed. I remember one fervent classmate who cornered me on several occasions to denounce my non-Catholicism (he couldn't decide if I was a heathen, a schismatic or a heretic: categories mattered). Mild enough prosecution of course, but proof of the danger when we believe others must believe what we believe.

Still, creeds have their uses as long as we consider them personal and not enforceable on others. So a few weeks ago I got to thinking: *what do I believe about the environment and climate change? How would I put those beliefs into a pocket-sized creed?*

This is what I came up with:

EARTH CREED

Care for the Earth and she will care for us.

Care for the air and the creatures in it, and they will care for us.
Care for the water and the creatures in it, and they will care for us.
Care for the ground and the creatures in it, and they will care for us.

Care for us, and we will care for us.

The middle three lines are in no priority order, and the last line is intentionally awkward because we humans are awkward.

I like it. I think I might get it plasticized (horrors!) and carry it in my wallet. If I were a tattooing kind of a guy I might get it inked onto my left leg.

So, dear readers, what do you think of it? Do you have your own creed, and would you mind sharing it?

By the way, I got my revenge of sorts on the classmate who condemned me to hell for being a heathen, a schismatic or a heretic. I beat the hell out of him with my Religious Knowledge exam score. In fact, I got the highest score in the whole school.

The very fact that I raise this is, as my Religious Knowledge teacher taught me, a sin of pride. But a venial sin, not a mortal one.

Respectfully submitted to the polis,
John Butler

SHE SAID / HE SAID

“Scientists are warning us that because of global warming, civilization is headed toward the worst catastrophe in human history. Unlike a war, a pandemic or a depression, this is not a disaster we can recover from in a few decades. This is a calamity that will take centuries, if not millennia, to recover from, if recovery is even possible. Sadly, most people look upon scientists as Cassandras whose warnings can be ignored. ‘Sure, it is hotter; sure, forest fires are raging; sure, storms are bigger. But I have more immediate concerns to worry about is the response of most people. As a result, politicians are not willing to make the hard decisions that will save us from the coming apocalypse.”

Thomas Reese, *The climate apocalypse is real, and it is coming*, in *EarthBeat*, August 11, 2021

"There is no logical reason for the existence of a snowflake any more than there is for evolution. It is an apparition from that mysterious shadow world beyond nature, that final world which contains – if anything contains – the explanation of men and catfish and green leaves."

Loren Eiseley, *The Immense Journey*, 1957

“"If we choose to let conjecture run wild, then animals, our fellow brethren in pain, disease, suffering and famine – our slaves in the most laborious works, our companions in our amusements – they may partake of our origin in one common ancestor – we may be all melted together."

Charles Darwin, 1937, from *The Life and Letters of Charles Darwin*, Volume 1

“Parts of Afghanistan have warmed twice as much as the global average. Spring rains have declined, most worryingly in some of the country’s most important farmland. Droughts are more frequent in vast swaths of the country, including a punishing dry spell now in the north and west, the second in three years. Afghanistan embodies a new breed of international crisis, where the hazards of war collide with the hazards of climate change, creating a nightmarish feedback loop that punishes some of the world’s most vulnerable people and destroys their countries’ ability to cope. And while it would be facile to attribute the conflict in Afghanistan to climate change, the effects of warming act as what military analysts call threat multipliers, amplifying conflicts over water, putting people out of work in a nation whose people largely live off agriculture, while the conflict itself consumes attention and resources.”

Somini Sengupta, *A New Breed of Crisis: War and Warming Collide in Afghanistan*,
New York Times, August 30 2021

buzzing wasps hover
seduced by well ripened fruit
they sip drunkenly

Louise Leonard
(the latest addition to our panoply of haiku poets)

**one spoonful
of ice cream brings me
back to life**

Masaoka Shiki (1867-1902), written while he was dying

"GREEN LEAF FROM OLD RAG" DEPARTMENT

(In which we resurrect old poems for those in search of new visions of the natural world)

Fountains

Flesherton Advance, March 25, 1925, page 3

Few things are lovelier than fountains are,
Seldom in life can beauty be so free,
So disentangled from complexity
And clearly wondrous as a foundling star.
White water stabbing at a blue sky far
Or falling over in a crystal tree
With frozen fire in all its veins to see
Shuttled by winds into a rainbow bar.

Barely the miracle surpasses this
Silvery utterance of secret birth,
Spending the silence in a radiant rain.
As eloquent to tired souls as a kiss
A fountain is, flashing above the earth,
Driven and forceful, beautiful and vain.

George O'Neil

For information about *The Village Green*, or to subscribe to it (free), please contact John Butler at 519 923-6335 or agora@xplornet.com