



Campaign Update

January 29, 2018

Campaign Goals

- ❖ **Climate change mitigation.**
- ❖ **Increase community awareness of how to capture rain.**
- ❖ **Provide examples of catchment in action.**
- ❖ **Encourage residents to ‘store more’ and conserve water for summer use.**
- ❖ **Calculate litres saved by community.**



Workshops

Three workshops have been offered to the community:

- ❖ **Rainwater Harvesting Basics**
December 9
- ❖ **Rainwater Harvesting: Case Studies & Implementation**
January 20
- ❖ **Efficient Irrigation Systems**
February 17



“I especially enjoyed the design spreadsheet where he could instantly show graphically the effect of changing 1 or 2 parameters. The diagrams with the animated water flows are also a wonderful teaching tool.”

Participant feedback

Rain Harvester Profiles

❖ Partnership with the Cowichan Valley Citizen

FEATURE

Capture the Rain: Underground cistern helps expand gardens

Cowichan's Capture the Rain campaign: Part III

The Cowichan Watershed Board is sharing this series of profiles on landowners in our region who are doing their part to prepare for Cowichan's changing climate by capturing rain. From small cisterns to irrigation ponds, each is collecting rainwater to supplement their garden or farm needs in the face of increasing summer droughts. More info at www.cowichanwaterchallenge.ca



An underground cistern has helped Sandy McPherson and Alan Philip expand their gardens without decimating their water. (CITIZEN FILE)

Rain Harvesters: Sandy McPherson & Alan Philip

Who they are: On their rural property in North Cowichan Sandy McPherson and Alan Philip are continually working towards low-impact living. They are early adopters of water-wise gardening, supplement their home energy use with solar panels, and collect rainwater for their garden irrigation.

Why they collect rainwater:

Sandy and Alan are avid gardeners and grow as much of their

didn't want a large cistern in the middle of the yard.

How they collect rainwater:

Combination of cistern, micro-drip irrigation, and mulch: Sandy and Alan opted for a 2,800-gallon underground cement tank and situated it on the lowest aspect of their property. The tank captures the roof run-off from two downspouts and has two levels of filtration. There's minimal maintenance other than a monthly cleaning of a micro-fil-

rain, which is much faster than if they were to use a hose from their well. The added bonus of this installation was that the cement pad over the cistern created a natural outdoor patio. They built a pergola over it, and planted fruiting vines at the posts, for summer entertaining.

Words of Water Wisdom:

Sandy and Alan highly recommend capturing rain as it helps you develop a conservation mindset and an awareness of your

By: [unreadable]

Location: [unreadable]

Image: [unreadable]

SPECIAL FEATURE

Capture the Rain part 4: Collection tank DIY

Cowichan's Capture the Rain Campaign

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Rain Harvester: John and Susan Smith

Technique(s): cistern, micro-irrigation

Who are they: John and Susan Smith have long been working towards sustainability in their lives by adopting low impact solutions to environmental issues. They grow vegetables in summer in raised garden beds. Their property has no lawns. It is naturescaped with drought tolerant native trees and shrubs. Susan and John also mulch their



garden with grass clippings and leaves. Mulching around plants keeps moisture in the soil, acting as a blanket to protect the soil from harsh and drying summer rays. Additionally, they chip all of their tree prunings placing the chips in the bottom of raised garden beds. The chips effectively act as a sponge to hold water that can be drawn up by the plants as needed.

John and Susan are on North Cowichan's municipal water system, but they are concerned about the effects of climate change and look for ways to actively reduce their impact. They installed a rainwater collection tank 10 years ago for garden use — John is a retired plumber so it was an easy DIY installation.

Why they collect rainwater:

Susan and John noticed the declining rain in the summer months and wanted to create some resiliency in their neighbourhood.

"First of all it's free!" Susan says. "Who doesn't like free?"

They use the excess free water in summer to keep their perennial gardens irrigated through the dry summer months and it goes a long way if you're careful.

Paul Galà

FREE Speaker Series for Seniors
January 31st, 2018

John and Susan Smith use a cistern and micro-drip irrigation to help meet their water needs during the summer months, which have been drought-stricken.

Rain Harvester Profiles

“Our favourite thing about it is that there are ideas for everyone. You don’t have to have a giant acreage to implement some great water saving measures.”

FEATURE

Capture the Rain: Don and Jeanne Ross do a lot with a little space

Cowichan's Capture the Rain campaign: Part II

The Cowichan Watershed Board is sharing this series of profiles on landowners in our region who are doing their part to prepare for Cowichan's changing climate by capturing rain. From small cisterns to irrigation ponds, each is collecting rainwater to supplement their gardens or farm needs in the face of decreasing summer droughts. More info at www.cowichanwatershedchallenge.ca

Don and Jeanne Ross

Who they are: Suburban dwellers Don and Jeanne Ross built their house on a small lot high above the Cowichan River 12 years ago.

Why they collect rainwater: The house sits on rock that makes gardening a challenge with little topsoil. But as any gardener knows, where there's a will there's a way.

How they collect rainwater: With little room for cisterns to collect rainwater, they had to find ways to deal with the excessive drainage while reducing their water use. The Rosses tried some innovative approaches to collecting rainwater and slowing



A few innovations in the garden can save a lot of water Don and Jeanne Ross found.

the flow of water off their land.

Ponds: Over the years they developed a number of very small ponds in the gardens around

their home. The water in these

ponds slowly seeps into the surrounding soil providing moisture to the roots of shrubs and per-

ennials. The ponds also provide

water as well as habitat for insects and other wildlife when they are dry in summer. Building

OUR VIEW

Rain inspiration

As the rain intermittently poured down in torrents over the weekend, turning the highways into swimming lanes and lawns into shallow lakes, we thought longingly of the warm summer breezes of July and August.

What we weren't missing, though, was the drought threat that has hung over our warmest months in the last 10 years or so, worsening as time marches on and climate change becomes more and more apparent, even in our relatively lucky corner of the world.

Why, one might wonder, can't we shift some of that rainfall to our drought times?

Over the last three weeks the *Citizen* has partnered with the Cowichan Watershed Board to bring you a series of features on what individuals in the Cowichan Valley are doing to capture the rainfall for those water-lean months.

There have been some pretty amazing ideas presented, and readers have chimed in with comments on the stories telling everyone what they're doing, as well. Our favourite thing about it is that there are ideas for everyone. You don't have to have a giant acreage to implement some great water saving measures.

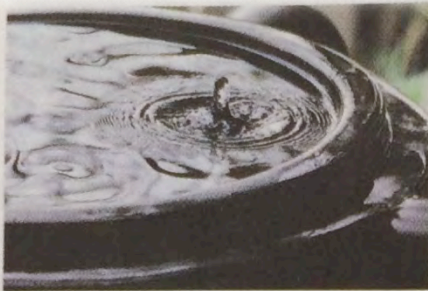
We've had a farm that dug out an irrigation pond, a pair of rural homeowners who've installed a cistern, micro-drip irrigation and mulch, and a suburban couple who have put in very small ponds, and underground liners to hold in moisture in their raised beds.

On commenter said they had also installed a huge underground cistern before they had their house built, which provides for their summer water needs. This is an excellent idea that anyone who is building should consider. Continued droughts are the wave of the future, and the more winter rainfall we can carry into the summer, the better.

And this is the most effective way to do it, one person at a time, one property at a time. We can all contribute.

Additional Articles

❖ Cowichan Valley Voice



Improving Resilience Capture The Rain

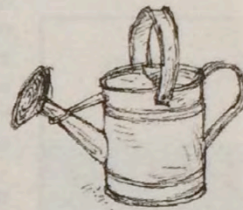


Nora Arais, Project Lead - Capture the Rain, Cowichan Watershed Board

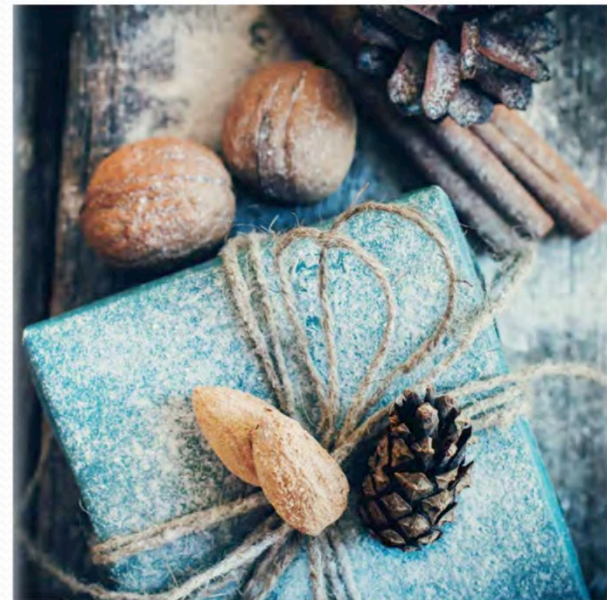
It's raining. The Cowichan River is brimming, the lawns are lush, and the trees are getting a deep soak. But imagine what it will be like in

up 15 times per month and will reduce your water consumption by 27,000 litres per growing season. You can also add additional barrels in series, connecting them with PVC piping to essentially create one holding tank from all of these barrels. Ensure your connections are secure, so there are no leaks. Larger cisterns from 4,500 up to 22,000 litres are available from local tank suppliers, and are more efficient – bigger is better! Rainwater is a valuable and free resource - what's not to love about self-sufficiency?

The CVRD released a comprehensive report in 2017, Climate Projections for the Cowichan Valley, which provides climate projections for the region that illustrate the dramatic changes we can expect in years to come. The report predicts, “the amount of rain in summer is expected to decrease by 17%, and the duration of dry spells will be lengthened by about 20%.” You can



Valley VOICE owichan



DECEMBER 2017 ISSUE 109
HOLIDAY FOOD | BUY LOCAL | BEST OF COWICHAN GIFT GUIDE

Classroom Education

- ❖ Measuring rain catchment potential
- ❖ Home exercise



Promotional Materials

- ❖ Rainwater Harvesting brochure
- ❖ Watershed information brochure
- ❖ Workshop poster



The Basics of an Efficient System:
Saturday, December 9th 10am - 12 noon

Case Studies & Implementation:
Saturday, January 20th - 10am - 12 noon

Island Savings Centre, Mesachie Room
2687 James Street, Duncan

\$10 for each session - available online

Tickets and information at: <https://goo.gl/Eixjvi>

Social Media

- ❖ Regular posts on Facebook. 
- ❖ Content on website
- ❖ March 17: Duncan Farmer's Market outreach



Water Woman and Friends - Cowichan Water Challenge

Published by Nora Aarjts [?] · January 16 at 11:13am · 🌐

Our changing climate is affecting our water sources. Are you harvesting rain and holding it for the summer months? Now's the time to capture the rain!



The impact of climate change — including shifts in temperature and precipitation — on Canada's sub-watersheds.

If it's not green on this map, it's a water source that's been hurt by climate change: report

But agriculture also bears some blame for deteriorating water quality.

GLOBALNEWS.CA

World Water Day

- ❖ **March 24:**
Dinter Nursery information table & rain barrel discount.
- ❖ **Partnerships with other local suppliers to promote and award water conservation.**



Sponsor

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