

THINCPOD'S BLASTING OFF AGAIN!

Yowza, this summer has blown past and we bet you're eager to know what the ThINCpod has been up to! The crew, under the close eye of Charlotte Fesnoux, has been tackling the creation of a community-rooted approach to organic waste diversion in tandem with the reopening of activities at the Nature House.

As suggested to the Pod by the community, we laid the



Above left: Jacob demonstrating how to conduct a forage fish sample at The Portal
Above right: Hiking up Moore Hill (by special permission only - normally no public access)

Right: Connor McRae-Pharo, Jacob Frankel, Charlotte Fesnoux and Bree Sadler on the steps of the Nature House

foundation for the creation of a community scale composting system. Our goal was to conduct a feasibility study, clearly identifying the major barriers to creating a community composting site, such as funding, community perceptions, regulations, and proper methodologies. We quickly got to work researching regulations, reaching out to regulatory bodies, and engaging multiple levels of government. With our metaphorical machetes in hand, the ThINCpod began hacking away at the red tape to find a glimmer of clarity that we could pass on to Thetis residents. In the end, we delivered a report and a two page summary to TIRRA and other partners in the community. The report and summary are available on ThINC's website.

After we identified the major regulations and bylaws that are preventing shovels in the ground, we decided it would be good to gauge the attitudes and perceptions of the community. We circulated both an online and an in-person survey to Thetis Island residents. We received a total of 85 responses! The majority of respondents stated that they were interested in composting and were keen to improve their own composting methods! The crew was

elated to hear this, as everyone on the team is a strong believer in lifelong learning, so we set about to develop educational materials on the topic.

Our plan of attack was two pronged. For those more visually inclined, we designed a comprehensive infographic (located on our website), which lays out the importance of composting and how the process works. For those who prefer in-person and hands-on activities, we organized a Compost Crawl, (similar to a pub crawl, but with less beer and more composting) which highlighted a number of different methods of composting that are already successfully used by various Thetis Island residents. All in all, we feel we helped raise awareness of and appreciation for composting on the island!



Finally, the Nature House activities! The crew organized seven Nature House activities, all of which were enjoyed by those who participated. Favourites included "The Moore You Know: Moore Hill history and habitats", "Tide-y the Beach: seastar count and intertidal walk", and "Dye Tryin': natural dyes". Moore Hill was very special as Harold Joe, an elder from the Cowichan Tribe represent-

ing the Penelakut Tribe, was able to come over to give us some cultural context for the site. With the cultural stage set, the group hiked up to the top of Moore Hill with ThINC director Ann Eriksson to enjoy the space and to learn about its ecological sensitivity and significance. Another fun activity was the intertidal walk with Andy Lamb. It's always a real treat to have an expert guide like Andy reveal the secrets of the intertidal zone. Finally, we ran a

workshop on natural dyeing, (definitely not dying) where we showed participants how to dye their own clothes with plants found on Thetis Island!

Well, there you have it, that's what the ThINCpod has been up to this summer. We are all so grateful for the input and support from the residents of Thetis Island, and we hope to come back again soon!

Until next time,

Your ThINCpod Team