

Kitchen Awards winners (and how to green your own)

# westernliving

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pesticides. The partners hope their product will be approved for the market in the next few years. **Find it** scottss.com—D.G.B.

**C** MARJ KNIVE REFERS to herself as a “**conscious realtor**,” as in ecoconscious. Her company, Living Places, helps house hunters find a place to match their environmentally friendly lifestyles: solar panels or an organic garden? In Vancouver, GreenerHomes trains realtors in green criteria (like energy efficiency and sustainable construction materials) and helps clients find homes with the green features they seek. **Find it** 800-750-2670, livingplaces.ca; 778-772-8979, greenerhomes.ca—Felicity Stone

**d** PAUL HADFIELD, OWNER of Spinnakers in Victoria, Canada’s oldest brewpub, struck liquid gold 225 feet beneath the brewhouse floor with an aquifer. The mineral-rich resource he tapped, dubbed O de Vie (above), is available “on tap” as **draught water** at the pub (or, if you must, in returnable glass and recyclable plastic). It also goes into Spinnakers’s India Pale Ale. **Find it** 308 Catherine St., Victoria, 1-877-838-2739, spinnakers.com—S.S.

**e** THE ERA OF the **eco-taxi** is here. The Hire a Hybrid program by Calgary’s



Climate Change Central (offering Alberta companies incentives to convert to hybrid vehicles) counts Checker Cabs, Associated Cabs and Mayfair Taxi as partners in Calgary. In Vancouver, Yellow Cab (below) has 40 hybrids on the road; thanks to operators like Yellow and BlueBird, more than one-third of Victoria’s taxi fleet is already hybrid cars. **Find it** hailahybrid.ca, taxicab.com, yellowcabonline.com—C.R.

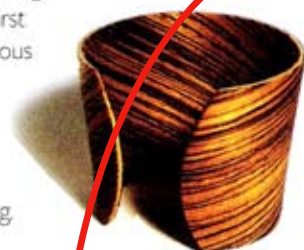
**f** STRATEGIES LIKE respecting traditional knowledge and developing a reverence for nature are the legacy of Sophia Rabliauskas’s Ojibway ancestors. They’re also the basis of a vision for **First Nations environmental stewardship** and sustainable land management. In 2007, the Poplar River First Nation leader received a prestigious Goldman Prize—one of six given out worldwide—for her work in preserving two million acres of boreal forest on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. **Find it** goldmanprize.org—A.G.

**h** “WE’RE SLOWLY MOVING Glencora out of Edmonton,” quips Tim Wilcox, president and co-owner of **house relocation** Wilcox Bros. The brothers save tony old homes from demolition by moving them to country lots north and west of



the city, then renovating them. Builders save on demolition and removal costs; buyers get a like-new home in only a few months. The best news is that tons of useful building materials stay out of local landfills. **Find it** 780-717-7173—D.R.

**i** PARKLAND INDUSTRIAL HEMP Growers Co-op in Dauphin, Manitoba, has created an alternative to traditional fiberglass **insulation**. With a \$3 million investment from Sustainable Development Technology Canada plus private investors, Parkland Biofibre has developed a process that uses raw hemp or flax residue to produce biofibre insulation and reduce agricultural waste. Expect to install it in your new home by 2009. **Find it** pihg.net—D.G.B.



**h** EVEN PRETTY THINGS can have a social conscience. In Vancouver, Contexture Design utilizes off-cuts from furniture makers to produce veneer

bracelets that double as reusable **java jackets** (left). “We don’t even think of it as being sustainable anymore,” says Contexture’s Nathan Lee. “It’s just the way we work.” The women of BauXo in Edmonton work with an artist in Bali to import **jewellery** in leather, bone and wood, providing fair wages and educational opportunities for a Balinese village. **Find it** Contexture in Vancouver at Lark, and in Edmonton at Nokomis, contexture.ca; BauXo in Vancouver at LouLou Lux, in Calgary at Wanderlust, in Edmonton at C’est Sera, in Victoria at Breeze, in Winnipeg at Bejeweled and in Saskatoon at East Village. bauxo.com—A.Q.

**g** YOU COULD ASK for permission to turn vacant plots of land into fertile ground—or you could just do it. That’s the tactic of **guerilla gardeners** worldwide, including Grant Neufeld. Last spring he and his crew (left) planted chard, herbs and other edibles in a handful of Calgary’s empty downtown lots. “We weren’t concerned with protecting our crops for ourselves,” says Neufeld. “If somebody else wants or needs the food we’re growing, fantastic.” **Find it** *Guerilla Gardening: A Manualifesto* by David Tracey (New Society Publishers)—Anicka Quin



**l** CALGARY-BASED WHITEMUD Resources Inc. is using **kaolin**, a white clay found in Saskatchewan, to make an ecofriendly cement supplement. It can replace up to 20 percent of the Portland cement content in concrete, lowering the cooling needs of concrete buildings through its light-reflective properties. The