



A First In Canada! Victoria's OPEN CINEMA Screens W. Canada Premiere of Acclaimed Sundance Film *FLOW: For Love of Water!*

Victoria/March 27, 2008 - After five successful years, screening over 60 thought-provoking films followed by discussion, OPEN CINEMA (OC) is inviting community support to its first fundraising event on Monday April 21, 2008 at the Victoria Event Centre (1415 Broad St). This Earth Day celebration with VIDEA will feature the Western Canada premiere of the award-winning film *FLOW: For Love of Water* (2008), followed by open forum discussion with **Richard C. Bocking** (author of *Mighty River*) and **Gwen Barlee**, Policy Director for Western Canada Wilderness Committee. Featuring complimentary food provided by Paisley Restaurant/Sanctuary Café, many silent and live auction items (including a night at Sooke Harbour House), cash bar and more! Twenty percent of the proceeds will go to VIDEA's *Women For Change* water project in rural Zambia, with tax receipts for donations over \$10.

Critically acclaimed at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival *FLOW: For Love of Water* is a powerful, sobering and inspiring film that chronicles the precarious relationship between humanity and water. With an unflinching focus on politics, pollution and human rights, this stunning film by Irena Salina provides a global perspective on local water issues in India, Africa, California and Canada. The message of the film is clear: make water free, clean and available to the citizens of the world.

OC is honoured to be hosting the first Canadian screening of this powerful new film about a vitally important issue. "We have worked hard to serve Victoria since 2003, bringing in notable documentaries and creating the opportunity for dialogue to inform, inspire and motivate." says OC Director Mandy Leith, "We are now asking for support to build on our success, to ensure that our vibrant community event can continue to thrive and grow for another five years and more." OC plans to continue working in collaboration with community organizations, developing a much-needed sustainable economic model for community screening initiatives in Canada and beyond. Don't miss this exciting and meaningful fundraiser, and an opportunity to build on the successes of Victoria's successful and unique documentary film screening initiative.

WHAT: OPEN CINEMA/VIDEA Fundraising Event - *FLOW: For Love Of Water* (2008)
WHEN: 7pm, Monday April 21, 2008 (Doors open at 5.30pm)
GUESTS: Richard C. Bocking (author, filmmaker) & Gwen Barlee, Policy Director, WCWC
PARTNERS: In collaboration with The Council of Canadians & Victoria Water Watch Coalition
WHERE: Victoria Event Centre, 1415 Broad St, 2nd Floor (we are sorry there is no elevator access)
COST: **Admission by donation.**
Complimentary food, cash bar, silent & live auction, and much more!
20% of proceeds go to VIDEA's *Breakthrough for Africa* project. Tax receipts available.
No Reservations. Please come early to avoid disappointment.

Contact: Mandy Leith
Email: opencinema@shaw.ca
Phone: (250) 882-7441

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Backgrounder follows



BACKGROUNDER

1. ***FLOW: For Love of Water* (Irena Salina 2008)**
2. **Richard C Bocking**
3. **Gwen Barlee**
4. **Silent and Live Auction donors**
5. **Paisley Restaurant/Sanctuary Café**
6. **VIDEA**
7. **Council of Canadians**
8. **Victoria Water Watch Coalition**
9. **Thanks to OC's sponsors**

1. FLOW: For Love of Water – A film by Irena Salina (2008)

Water is the essence of life, sustaining every being on this planet. Without water, there would simply be no plants, no animals, and no people. But the global water supply isn't just at risk, it's already in crisis.

FLOW: For Love Of Water, a new film by Irena Salina, highlights the local intimacies of an emerging global catastrophe: African plumbers reconnect shantytown water pipes under cover of darkness to ensure a community's survival; a Californian scientist forces awareness of shockingly toxic public water sources; a 'Big Water' CEO argues privatization is the wave of the future; a "Water Guru" in India sparks new community water initiatives in hundreds of villages; a Canadian author uncovers the corporate profiteering that drives global water business.

With an unflinching focus on politics, pollution and human rights, this award-winning film ensures that the precarious relationship between humanity and water can no longer be ignored. While specifics of locality and issue may differ, the message is the same; water, and our future as a species, is quickly drying up. Armed with a thirst for survival, people around the world are fighting for their birthright; unless we instigate change, we face a world in which only those that can pay for their water will survive. ***FLOW: For Love of Water*** is a catalyst for people everywhere: the time has come to turn the tide and we can't wait any longer.

Please visit www.flowthefilm.com for information, filmmaker bios and trailer.

To obtain a preview copy of the film, please contact Mandy at opencinema@shaw.ca

2. Richard C. Bocking

Richard C. Bocking is an award-winning filmmaker whose documentaries on the environment and the performing arts have aired on Canadian and European network television for the past twenty-five years. He has written and lectured extensively on Canada's water resources, and his 1972 book on water export issues, ***Canada's Water---For Sale?*** was adapted from his film of the same name.

In 1997, Mr Bocking published ***Mighty River: A Portrait Of The Fraser***, for which he won the Roderick Haig-Brown Prize, in addition to being nominated for the Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize in 1998 and awarded a certificate of merit by the B.C. Historical Federation. In 2001, he was made the Trent University Ashley Fellow for 2001/2002. Born in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Bocking graduated from the University of Manitoba as an agricultural economist. He has lived and worked in Edmonton, Vancouver, Quebec City, Rome, Toronto, and Montreal.

3. Gwen Barlee, Policy Director for Western Canada Wilderness Committee

Gwen came to the Wilderness Committee in 2001 with a background in political science and a passion for environmental and social advocacy. Her diverse education and experience includes social work, film production, and web development, and she is a past executive team member of the Victoria chapter of the Council of Canadians. Today, Gwen is the Wilderness Committee's Policy Director, and

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a member of the executive team. Although her focus has been on species at risk, Gwen is also active in our resource policy and parks campaigns, and she can be found working passionately on almost any issue the Wilderness Committee is involved with.

4. OC Fundraising Silent and Live Auction Items (more to come)

- **Grand Prize - [Sooke Harbour House](#)**, a luxury night for two!
- **Framed, signed limited edition print** of PM Trudeau (1968) by Ted Grant
- **[Art Gallery of Greater Victoria](#)**, one year family membership
- **Victoria Operatic Society**, 2 tickets to *Hello, Dolly!*
- **[Small Potatoes Urban Delivery](#)**, \$75 gift certificate
- **[Shea Butter Markets](#)**
- **Oak Bay Home Hardware**
- **[The Superior Restaurant](#)**
- **Global Village Store**
- **[Honestly Tea & Gifts](#)**
- **[The Good Planet Co](#)**
- **[Hemp and Company](#)**
- **Instinct Gifts**
- **[Fibre Options Naturals](#)**
- **[Green Cuisine](#)**
- **[Plenty Epicurean Pantry](#)**
- **Many more to come!**

5. Paisley Restaurant/Sanctuary Café

Paisley Restaurant
880B Esquimalt Road
Victoria, BC V9A 3M4
(250) 380-1105

Sanctuary Café
1215 Government St
Lower Level Trounce Alley

6. VIDEA - www.vida.ca

7. The Council of Canadians – www.victoriacouncilofcanadians.ca

8. Greater Victoria Water Watch Coalition - www.GreaterVictoriaWaterWatchCoalition.ca

9. Thanks to OPEN CINEMA sponsors

- Vancity - <http://www.vancity.ca>
- Capital Regional District Arts Development <http://www.crd.bc.ca/arts/index.htm>
- BC Arts Council <http://www.bcartscouncil.ca/>
- Laurel Point Inn <http://www.laurelpoint.com>
- ID2 Communications <http://www.id2.ca>
- WeDoHosting <http://www.WeDoHosting.com>
- CineVic Society of Independent Filmmakers <http://www.cinevic.ca>
- MediaNet <http://www.media-net.bc.ca>
- The Power of Hope <http://www.powerofhope.org>
- VIDEA <http://www.vida.ca>

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