

## Environmental Leader Sarah Newton

Before moving to Revelstoke, Sarah Newton was a sprinter on a women's bicycle racing team that toured North America. Training involved 15,000 kilometres of riding per year. Today she channels that energy volunteering for many community initiatives, including the North Columbia Environmental Society.

Sarah and husband Rory Luxmore also spent fourteen months cycling and backpacking through Europe, Africa, and Asia where the inequities of life informed her world view. "I believe in the cause of bringing harmony to how we live on this planet. I weigh how each decision I make can have a positive or negative contribution to that cause."

After their world tour Sarah and Rory sought out a community to start a family and chose Revelstoke for its strong identity and social networks, and its diversity of economic and recreational activities. "I couldn't do what I do without the support of Rory." An avid environmentalist in his own right, Rory teaches at the high school and shares in the parenting of Nelson, age six, and Alexandra, age four.



**Sarah Newton**

Sarah isn't shy at expressing her opinions because she feels well supported by others who care about the well being of the community. "The community is loaded with passionate people ready to donate their expertise when called upon to assist. It's a privilege to work with them, especially my colleagues at NCES."

This shared passion for the environment extends throughout the interior of the province. Tapping into the successful Car Share program in Nelson, Sarah created its first offshoot in Revelstoke with the help of the Columbia Basin Trust and the City of Revelstoke. The local group now has twenty five members.

"Members find the cooperative a more efficient use of resources, more enabling for persons who may not otherwise be able to afford a vehicle, and less stressful for drivers who worry about maintenance and repair costs. Car Share has inspired me. Good ideas work and Revelstoke is fertile ground for them."

Alternative transportation, along with environmental education and food security are the leading priorities of the North Columbia Environmental Association. As President, Sarah leads a group with a number of projects on the go. She enjoys that Revelstoke is a size where it is possible to influence what goes on.

"It's an exciting time to be a part of Revelstoke. Though it is a stable community it is not stagnant. There are new people moving in and new activities starting up."

What Sarah most appreciates about living here is the positive relationships among individuals. "I always find that everyone respects everyone else's efforts even if they don't happen to agree on a particular matter."

*Submitted by Michael Morris, CFDC Volunteer Committee*