

## **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Day Events Kick Off with Cake & Celebrations Saturday, April 19**

**Parksville/Qualicum KAIROS and local community groups are kicking off Oceanside's Earth Day celebrations with displays, music and fun for the whole family this Saturday, April 19 on the front lawn of the Qualicum Beach Town Hall. Activities go from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm with the cutting of the "Happy Earthday" Cake at noon.**

**"While the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Earth Day events get started with the Saturday Town Hall celebration," comments Annette Tanner, Western Canada Wilderness Committee Mid Island spokesperson and organizer of the events, "We continue the weekend fun on Sunday with a tour to the 3<sup>rd</sup> tallest Sitka Spruce in BC, located along the Little Qualicum River, in what the community is calling, the Qualicum Beach Salmon Forest."**

**"Tours to the record tree started in 2000 as part of negotiations with Weyerhaeuser, to protect the 60 hectares of forested floodplain for clean, clear drinking water as well as the famous salmon runs and for public access to recreational fishing," explains Tanner. "Before the deal to protect the area could be finalized, Weyerhaeuser sold their assets to Island Timberlands and the community is still waiting for the famous Sitka Spruce and Qualicum Beach Salmon Forest to become a park."**

**"Since our discovery of the Giant record Sitka Spruce, research by the Ministry of Forests is confirming that this tree is producing seeds that have the rare characteristic of being genetically resistant to the Spruce Leader Weevil," adds Tanner.**

**The Tour to the Sitka Spruce meets Sunday, April 20, 1:00 pm at the junction of Kinkade Rd. and the Old Island Highway, (next to Riverside Resort) Qualicum Beach.**

**On the actual Earth Day date, Tuesday, April 22, there will be a movie night starting at 7:00 pm with "Gimme Green", and at 7:45 pm, "Garbage! The Revolution Starts at Home", to be held at Knox United Church, Parksville.**

**Everyone Welcome    All events are free    752-6585**