



MEDIA RELEASE

## **FILM HOPES TO FOSTER CHANGE FOR LOCAL ECONOMIC THINKING**

Why is 'going local' so important? Find out why, during the Sarnia Justice Film Festival's third free screening in its 2011–2012 season: *The Economics of Happiness*, a documentary about the worldwide movement for localization, held at the Sarnia Library Theatre at 7 p.m. on Saturday, February 18.

Individuals and organizations that have an interest in addressing and learning more about Sarnia-Lambton's role in 'going local' are particularly invited to attend.

Both hard-hitting and inspiring, *The Economics of Happiness* demonstrates that millions of people across

the world are already engaged in building a better world – that small-scale initiatives are happening on a large scale. The film shows that countless initiatives are united around a common cause: rebuilding more democratic, human scale, ecological and local economies – the foundation of an 'economics of happiness'.

Economic globalization has led to a massive expansion in the scale and power of big business and banking. It has also worsened nearly every problem we face: fundamentalism and ethnic conflict; climate chaos and species extinction; financial instability and unemployment. There are personal costs too. For the majority of people on the planet life is becoming increasingly stressful. We have less time for friends and family and we face mounting pressures at work.

*The Economics of Happiness* describes a world moving simultaneously in two opposing directions. On the one hand, government and big business continue to promote globalization and the consolidation of corporate power. At the same time, all around the world people are resisting those policies, demanding

a re-regulation of trade and finance—and, far from the old institutions of power, they're starting to

forge a very different future. Communities are coming together to rebuild more human scale, ecological economies based on a new paradigm – an economics of localization.

We hear from a chorus of voices from six continents who tell us that climate change and peak oil give us little choice: we need to localize, to bring the economy home. The good news is that as we move in

this direction we will begin not only to heal the earth but also to restore our own sense of well-being.

*The Economics of Happiness* restores our faith in humanity and challenges us to believe that it is possible to build a better world.

A panel discussion will immediately follow the film, including conversation leaders from local organizations that are playing important roles in this topic locally.

Conversation Leaders:

Nathan Colquhoun – community builder  yes

Michael Kooy – financial advisor  yes

Rev. Deacon Mary Belnap – community builder

Dianne Holdaway – Neighbour Link

Dianne Holdaway is the Associate Director of NeighbourLink Sarnia-Lambton. NeighbourLink is a Christian faith based ministry that networks and equips local churches in the Sarnia-Lambton area to work together to respond to the practical needs of others in their communities.

Michael John Kooy is an Investment Advisor with RBC Wealth Management. He grew up in downtown Sarnia and went to school locally. He holds a doctorate from the University of Oxford, and spent several years working in higher education in the UK and France, before joining RBC. While he has extensive international experience, his focus is local and he is deeply committed to a variety of initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life locally.

Nathan Colquhoun lives with his wife Rachel on College Ave. He lives in community with Dan, Tim and Chris and his direct neighbours are the Shantz family, and the Smith Family. They all live together on the same street with hopes of doing life together in a sustainable way and bringing along as many others as possible along the way. He co-planted a downtown church called theStory five years ago and is a director of Storyboard Solutions, a media company based in Sarnia.

Rev. Deacon Mary Belnap, ordained in 2008, has been a member of All Saints' Anglican Church since 2003. Ever since Mary was 12 years old, she has identified herself with the marginalized - all those whom the rest of the world customarily dismiss with contempt. She believes that her life and her teaching are to show Christ's people that in serving the helpless, we are serving Christ himself. When she took early retirement in 1988 she chose to become involved in local social justice issues. Mary advocates locally to those with low-income empowering them to negotiate the systems. This includes the programs of All-Saints church including: pastoral care at Bayside Mall; Legacy for Smiles which provides emergency dental treatment for low-income adults; the Everlasting Eyes program which provides funding for eye examination and one regular pair of glasses for low-income adults. Prayer shawls are provided for warmth for those who feel cold and numb as well as giving comfort, peace and hope at their deepest place of need. All Saints provides money management programs to help eliminate

the need for Credit Counselling and or the need to declare bankruptcy. As well, the church is closely allied with the Circles coaches and serves a monthly meal at the Inn of the Good Shepherd.

*Economics of Happiness* is the third film in the Sarnia Justice Film Festival's 2011-2012 season, a series of engaging documentaries shown freely to the Sarnia-Lambton community in order to foster awareness and understanding of people around the world who suffer injustice and indignities, including those close to home, here in Sarnia-Lambton. In doing so, the Festival hopes to create positive change to the world.

Admission is free, but donations and sponsorships are welcomed. Contact: [justicefilm@sympatico.ca](mailto:justicefilm@sympatico.ca) for more information.

Visit the Sarnia Justice Film Festival online at [www.Facebook.com/SarniaJusticeFilmFestival](http://www.Facebook.com/SarniaJusticeFilmFestival)

### **Sarnia Justice Film Festival's 2011-2012 Upcoming Films**

The remaining films of the 2011–2012 season are being screened at the Sarnia Library Theatre on Saturday evenings at 7 p.m.:

February 18 – *Economics of Happiness* – Going local!

March 17 – *The Market* – Overseas organ transplants.

April 21 – *Queen of the Sun* – What are the bees telling us?

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View the film's website: <http://www.theeconomicsofhappiness.org>

View the film's trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkdnFYDbiBE>

Please add the above film listing to your event calendar.

For more information, please contact [justicefilm@sympatico.ca](mailto:justicefilm@sympatico.ca)

For interviews, photography or posters regarding the Sarnia Justice Film Festival or the films that it screens, please contact either Thea at 519-542-5009 or Darren at [darren.hakker@gmail.com](mailto:darren.hakker@gmail.com)

*We're always looking for corporate sponsors to assist us in the cost of screening our documentaries, which are free for attendees. Should you know of anyone who would be interested in doing so, please feel free to contact us.*