

October 19, 2015

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**Don't toss it. Repair it!**

If you have a broken bike, busted appliance, or a torn sweater that you have no idea how to fix, rather than tossing the item, visit the Repair Café, and learn how to fix it.

On Saturday, Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sportsplex, bring small appliances, stereos, music players, video components, electronics, personal computers, laptops, tablets, phones, cell phones, digital cameras, wooden chairs, toys, bikes and clothes. At the Repair Café, with support from knowledgeable repair volunteers, you'll learn how to fix your broken item.

*"We are trying to empower people to be less wasteful,"* said Gayle Bates, Comox Strathcona waste management's waste reduction educator. *"The café will help participants make broken or damaged items functional again, and keep them out of the landfill."*

One of the fixer volunteers, Dr. David Baar, will be available to help participants fix electronics such as computers, digital cameras, audio-visual components, cordless phones, corded phones, and headphones. Dr. Barr is a physicist, engineer and computer scientist and an advocate for repair and reuse.

*"One of my particular repair priorities is electronic devices of all kinds,"* said Dr. Barr. *"That is partly because of my own technical background, but also because of the various toxic materials in their components. I would like to see them kept out of the waste stream."*

Repair Cafe, is a worldwide initiative started in Amsterdam in 2009 to encourage people to repair their broken things, and learn some practical skills while enjoying a cup of coffee or tea. In the six years since the first event took place, 750 cafes have taken place across 18 countries.

No pre-registration is required, and the event is free, but donations of non-perishable food items, for the foodbank, are encouraged and will be accepted.

For information, call the Sportsplex at 250-923-7911, or check out the Repair Café event on Campbell River Recreation's Facebook page.

The Repair Cafe event is presented by the City of Campbell River and the Comox Strathcona Waste Management Service.

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