

# COURSE TRENDS

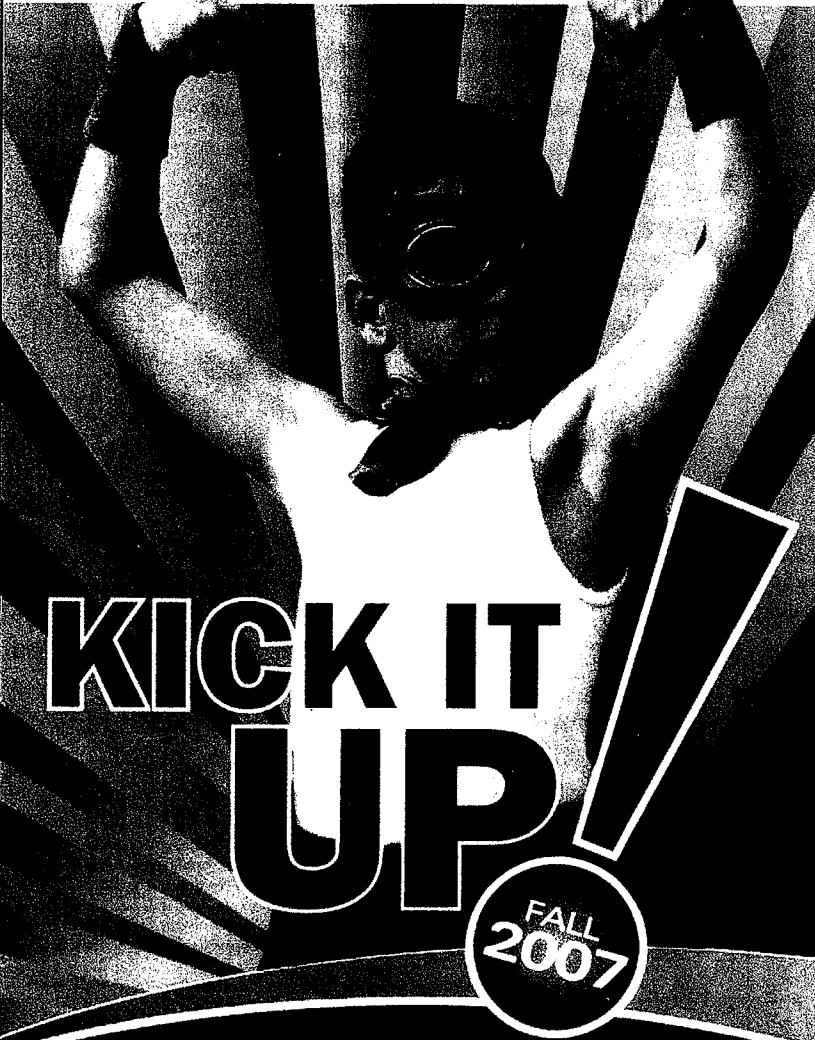
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Volume 25, No. 5

Williamsville Community Education

## edVentures

Explore. Expand. Enjoy.



# KICK IT UP!

FALL 2007

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*"Information That Works!"*

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# Course of the Month

In the first semester that the new Organic Master Gardener program was offered, it filled quickly and generated a waiting list of eight more students. Karen Flynn, Program Administrator for Adult & Continuing Education at Burnaby School District 41 in Burnaby, British Columbia told us "This is unusual, as it often takes a few semesters to get a new program up and running."

The Organic Master Gardener program is based on the Master Gardener's program that is popular throughout North America. It grew from Burnaby's very popular Ecological Landscape Design program, which focuses on educating the public to move away from pesticides and chemical fertilizers. Burnaby partnered with Gaia College, specialists in regenerative agriculture and committed to organic practices. The partnership has proven very successful.

The program runs in the evening, which allows those working for landscaping companies to attend after working hours. It is offered twice a week for 16 weeks. Interestingly, most of the first-semester students were home gardeners, not professionals—and many had already taken the Master Gardener's program. Congratulations to Burnaby School District and Gaia College on providing an innovative and successful new opportunity!

## Organic Master Gardener

Finally, a comprehensive organic gardening course for urban garden enthusiasts! Come and gather with like-minded, environmentally conscious students, and:

- Learn to create fabulous gardens without pesticides and other harmful chemicals
- Become an Organic Master Gardener and share your knowledge with others through mentorship programs, workshops, talks and other creative options

- Gain essential organic gardening skills to start or enhance your own business in the rapidly growing organic land care industry
- Earn generous Continuing Education credits to maintain your industry certifications (ISA, CNLA, BCSLA, SOUL, BC Provincial Pesticide Applicator).

The Organic Gardener program follows in the footsteps of the highly successful Master Gardener programs in North America. The difference is, organic gardening practices are based on the understanding that we are but stewards of the land, and can best hope to work with nature, never to dominate it.

## Curriculum:

Botany/Adaptations with Ecosystems

Soils 1 – The Soil Ecosystem

Soils 2 – Soil Testing

Soils 3 – Fertilizers

Soils 4 – Teas and Brews

Soils 5 – Composting

Water-wise Gardening

Garden Bed Installation

Landscape Health 1 – Principles

Landscape Health 2 – Problem Solving

Lawns

Permaculture Design

Pruning 1

Pruning 2

Garden Design & Construction

Student Presentations

This is a practical, experienced-based program, consisting of hands-on exercise as well as lectures. To receive a Certificate of Completion, you must attend all sessions and complete and present a satisfactory assignment. You must have Internet access, an email account, basic gardening tools (including bypass pruners) and transportation to offsite events. Offered in partnership with SOUL (Society for Organic Urban Land Care) and Gaia College.

## Course Trends

is the most-read newsletter on programming and marketing classes with more than 8,000 readers in six countries.

Use *Course Trends* to explore demographic groups, discover course trends, acquire successful new class ideas and gain new marketing and promotion techniques.

*Course Trends* is published bimonthly by the Learning Resources Network (LERN), the leading association in lifelong learning programming, providing information and consulting services to organizations offering lifelong learning programs.

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