

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OPEN CINEMA Closes Season Nine with Sierra Club BC Partnership: "Surviving Progress" plus Special Guest, Author Ronald Wright

Victoria, BC – April 11, 2012. On Wednesday April 25th, <u>OPEN CINEMA</u> will complete its 9th season of thought-provoking films followed by open forum discussion, in style! In partnership with the <u>Sierra Club BC</u>, this special fundraising event will feature the intelligent and beautiful documentary <u>Surviving Progress</u> with special guest, author <u>Ronald Wright</u> in conversation with Sierra Club BC's Managing Director <u>Susan Howatt</u>.

This Canadian film is an impressive and visually stunning docu-essay, which opened in theatres across the US last week. Featuring luminaries such as Stephen Hawking, David Suzuki, Margaret Atwood and Jane Goodall (to name only a few) and executive produced by Martin Scorsese, this hard-hitting film is based on Wright's book <u>A Short History of Progress</u>, adapted from his 2004 <u>Massey Lecture</u> series. It aims to expose what Wright calls 'progress traps', which sacrifice the future of the environment for short-term gains.

OPEN CINEMA will bring its first decade to a close after screening almost 90 topical documentaries to approximately 10, 000 Victorian movie-goers and activists. Referred to in 2011 as "one of Victoria's most successful cultural enterprises" (Michael D. Reid, Times Colonist), OPEN CINEMA has gained national recognition through the Documentary Organization of Canada. Plans for the future include an enhanced online presence and the development of a national network of community cinemas.

In addition to a silent auction, Sierra Club BC will issue tax receipts for donations over \$10, to OPEN CINEMA's fundraising efforts. Please note: for the first time, advance tickets for this event are available online.

WHAT: OPEN CINEMA & Sierra Club BC present *Surviving Progress* with

Special Guest author & historian Ronald Wright. Fundraising event

with silent auction. Tax receipts for donations over \$10.

WHEN: 7pm Wednesday, April 25, 2012 (Doors 5:30pm)

WHERE: The Victoria Event Centre, 1415 Broad St (elevator access)
COST: \$15 Advance tickets www.opencinema.eventbrite.ca

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(9am-1pm only) (9am-4pm)

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