

Book inspires change

By **SUSAN LUNDY**
Staff Writer

Seventy-one-year-old Dorothy Cutting is setting out to change the world.

The island woman says a book by Robert Hunter on global warming has changed her life. And now she's hoping his words will set others on a more environmentally-responsible path.

To this end, she has provided the Sierra Club of Canada with enough money to purchase every MP in the House of Commons a copy of Hunter's book.

Spending "every dime (she) has," Cutting has purchased at least 50 additional copies and distributed them around Salt Spring and as far away as California.

She has sent out dozens of e-mails and written Internet reviews on the book. She has marched into local bookstores and requested it be displayed with the best-sellers.

And now she plans to drive across Canada in a newly-purchased hybrid (gas and electric-powered) vehicle to a press conference with the author in Ottawa.

"All we have to do is get
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SAVING THE EARTH: *Donating books*

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people to read the book," she says, certain the author's powerful words speak for themselves.

In 2030: Confronting Thermageddon in Our Lifetime, Hunter predicts that by the year 2030, climate changes on earth will be irreversible and the consequences devastating.

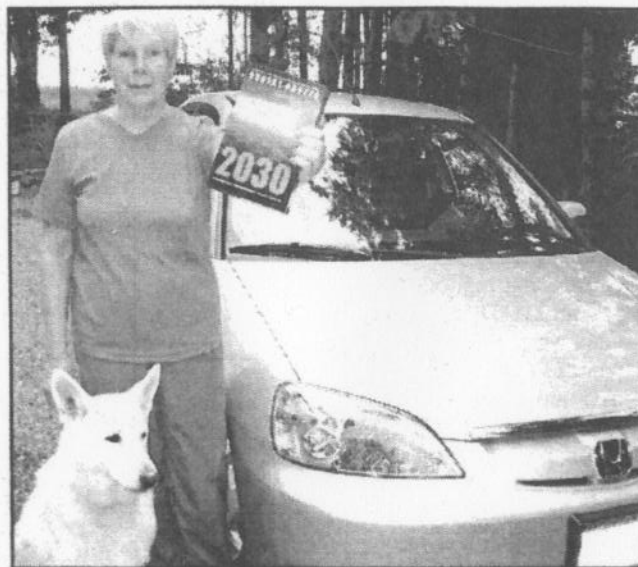
He shows the effects of global warming and the role humans — especially Canadians — play in it, but also claims that changed lifestyles now could reverse the trend.

As Cutting sat reading 2030 on a "gas-guzzling super-jet" late last month, she knew she had to spread the word. She was en route to a family reunion in Québec and the sight of her grandchildren strengthened her desire to save earth.

"At times in my life there have been occasions when something like this happens," says Cutting. "A door or a window opens and I can walk through it and do something good."

Cutting says she is usually "respectful" of books, careful to avoid turning down corners or marking passages, but in this book she has broken all her own rules.

"Half the pages are turned down and I've underlined whole sections."



Dorothy Cutting and Arta with hybrid car

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Once people start reading it, she adds, "they have to finish it."

And once the decision-makers in Canada grasp its concepts, she believes, they will act accordingly.

Colin Dobson, Sierra Club climate change campaigner, has welcomed Cutting's MP book donation proposal as an indication "the older generation is concerned (about climate change) to the point of action."

He added, "There are people alive today who want things to be done now; who are not going to just pass the

responsibility on to their children. In part (it is) because they helped create the problem, but mostly (it's) because they love their children and their grandchildren."

The Sierra Club will hold the Ottawa press conference with Cutting and Hunter around September 18.

Cutting decided last week she could not travel to the conference in a jet — something Hunter pinpoints as a major offender in global warming.

"I thought suddenly — I could drive," she recalls.

And even though Hunter's book does not actually suggest everyone purchase electric-powered cars, Cutting says, "it plants ideas in the mind" which germinate later.

That planted seed led to test drives of both Toyota and Honda hybrid cars. Hearing about her cross-Canada trip, the Honda dealership offered her a discount and, after borrowing money from her son, Cutting picked up her new car Friday.

She is currently equipping it with a roof rack for her long drive east because her companion, Arta, a white German shepherd, takes up most of the back seat.

This is not Cutting's first attempt to save the environment. In the late 1960s as a Seattle resident, she worked tirelessly to protect Washington shorelines.

For her efforts she can now call herself the "mother" of the State Shoreline Management Act on which national legislation was later modelled.

But she believes the significance of her current project outweighs the others.

"This may not be the hardest thing I've ever done," she says. "But it is the most important because the planet is in such trouble."