In BC, the first Monday in August is Our Day. Many of us use the holiday for an extra day camping, a trip to the beach, lunch at the park. CSSI’s favourite picnic poster is here. We encourage you to pack real cutlery, washable dishes, and even reusable napkins in your hamper. We promise that all the other picnickers will eye you enviously.

The problem isn’t a shortage of food
A new report by the Overseas Development Institute, a London-based think tank, links progressively higher prices for healthy food to poorer diets that encourage weight gain. At the same time, millions of tonnes of fresh food go to waste, which a House of Lords committee described as “morally repugnant.” The European parliament has urged EU member states to encourage supermarkets to give away the estimated 89m tonnes of unsold food that is otherwise binned. France has already passed legislation that threatens large retailers with a fine of up to €75,000 for disposing of edible food. Learn what some retailers and not-for-profits are doing about the obstacles in The Guardian’s The scandal of the 89m tonnes of food binned while millions go hungry.

Surprising (and very entertaining) movie coming to UVic!
The Capital Regional District and the UVic Sustainability Project will host a FREE screening of Just Eat It at UVic on Aug 11. The Vancouver filmmakers wonder why someone tossed cartons(!) of perfectly good Green & Black’s chocolate bars – could it really be because the labels were in English only? You’ll find out.

Local v. renewable: Do we have to choose?
Is it more important to support local business or renewable energy? Grist’s advice columnist weighs in on which is greener: beer brewed on wind energy and then trucked 1,000 miles to the consumer, or beer brewed on coal energy with minimal transport needed? Inquiring minds want to know. Of course, Victoria breweries don’t rely on coal. Just saying.

The elevator pitch for steaks
Denis Hayes, the author of Cowed: The Hidden Impact of 93 Million Cows on America’s Health, Economy, Politics, Culture, and Environment, goes on camera to tell Katy Herzog the quick solution to bad burgers.

Green grocers
American grocery retailers are setting goals in energy, waste and emissions reduction. Sustainable Goals in the trade journal Progressive Grocer looks at the 2014 sustainability progress report released by Delhaize Group, the parent company of grocers Food Lion and Hannaford Supermarkets; the views of Meg Ham, president of Food Lion on the store’s commitment to sustainability; and Kroger Company’s award-winning energy management program.

Slavery in food supply chains
The food sector braces itself for crackdown on modern-day slavery, according to The Guardian on July 17, 2015. In October, supply chain regulations in the UK’s Modern Slavery Act 2015 will come into effect, and large businesses across multiple sectors will have to publish what, if any, anti-slavery and human trafficking precautions they have in place.