

Coming very soon—a conventional homepage. Although you won't open to the front page of the newspaper, we hope the link will let you download it faster.

Keep checking us out to see what's up next! Happy Spring!—Christa G-W

Gulf Islands' Island Tides

'News & Views from the Southern Gulf—Every Second Thursday

Volume 15 Number 8

The Spirit of the Westcoast

April 24—May 7, 2003

Attractions & Accommodation

Vancouver Island & The Gulf Islands, Page 8

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Photo: Christa Grace-Warrick

Community markets are getting back into action—this one on North Pender was well-attended by locals and visitors getting into spring mode. Markets are a delightful low-key way to get delicious food, catch-up with acquaintances and make new ones—not to mention a great place to see what the creative hands of your friends have been up to this last winter.

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Pender girls lead the ethical way

In contrast to the world news of violence and destruction, Natasha O'Reilly and Linda Searle, grade eight students from Pender Island have become leaders in Gulf Islands School District's ethical education. The girls who attend Pender Island Elementary/Secondary School are ready to take their message on the road.

Along with almost twenty adults representing School District #64, O'Reilly and Searle participated in a multi-district Global Ethics Symposium in Saanich last January. The event was sponsored by the BC School Superintendent's Association and strongly supported by Gulf Island's superintendent, Wendy Herbert. Staff, parents, students and partner groups met to learn about the urgent necessity of ethical education.

According to Rushworth Kidder who spoke at the symposium, disasters such as Chernobyl, Exxon Valdez, and 9-11 were caused by the unethical actions of a few people with access to technology. They would not have had the means to cause the same widespread destruction even three decades ago. We need to take seriously the ethical education of the upcoming generation if our world is to survive.

According to Kidder, the good news is that people of all races, colours and creeds hold the same ideals for behavior. But not everyone lives up to that standard. Sometimes people's thinking is skewed. At other times they don't think at all. Ethical education is aimed at helping people to stop and think before they act.

When asked what she learned at the conference Natasha O'Reilly said, 'No matter if you're in Iceland or New Zealand or anywhere, everyone wants the same values. It made me think that everyone is similar in ways. It opened my mind to possibilities.'

Linda Searle discovered that conflicts are not just 'right' versus 'wrong'. Some questions are 'right' versus 'right' or 'wrong' against 'wrong'. It takes discernment to understand those dilemmas.

Inspired by the conference, the girls decided to go to the students at their school and survey them to find a word to describe their ideal school.

ETHICAL ED, please turn to page 3

NorskeCanada introduces new power plan for Vancouver Island; claims Hydro tried to suppress it

Pulp mill operator NorskeCanada, the largest consumer of electricity on Vancouver Island, has proposed a plan to generate power at its plants, and save power it presently uses. The proposal has been made through an April 14 letter to the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC), framed as an intervention in the Commission's consideration of the Vancouver Island Generation Project (VIGP) proposal put forward by Hydro subsidiary Vancouver Island Energy Corporation (VIEC).

NorskeCanada's lawyers, Bull, Housser & Tupper, indicate in their letter that they understand that BC Hydro wished to avoid making the proposal public during the BCUC hearing process. However, NorskeCanada made it clear that they wished to advise BCUC of their proposal at the beginning of the process.

NorskeCanada's total proposed new generation and savings, 362 Mw, might be sufficient to make it unnecessary for BC Hydro to build the Georgia Strait Crossing (GSX) pipeline and the proposed VIGP plant at Duke Point, south of Nanaimo. NorskeCanada estimates its costs at \$420 million, considerably less than BC Hydro's estimates for the combined GSX/VIGP project.

The NorskeCanada plan includes new gas turbine and condensing steam turbine projects at Elk Falls, Crofton, and Port Alberni, totalling 257 Mw, and power savings from new technology and demand management of 105 Mw, totalling 362 Mw. The plan would

necessitate agreement with BC Hydro on the exchange of power. It would also necessitate a pressure increase in Centra Gas's existing pipeline to Vancouver Island, but no additional pipeline building.

NorskeCanada claims that the plan would produce more power than Hydro's VIGP/GSX proposal, at lower cost to Hydro, and with less additional greenhouse gases (distributed over three airsheds).

The plan would presumably enable NorskeCanada to control the cost of electricity to its plants, rather than becoming vulnerable to higher power prices which might result from Hydro's increased costs of natural gas-powered generation.

More Questions for Hydro

Meanwhile, on April 8 NorskeCanada asked BC Hydro for more detail on its Duke Point proposal. Bull, Housser & Tupper indicated that the questions raised would normally have been asked later in the hearing process. Saying that earlier answers 'would benefit all participants,' the NorskeCanada information request asks for answers before the April 22 and 23 BCUC workshops.

The questions include information on: the year by year GSX costs and charges for 25 years, the allocation of charges, contracts between Powerex and GSX, and the gas purchase agreement between Powerex and VIEC. NorskeCanada also requests confirmation that GSX estimated capital costs have increased 75% between the filing of the

NORSKE, please turn to p age 3

Who's an Aboriginal? says Carney

Federal Indian Affairs and Northern Development Minister Robert Nault has proposed a 'short-term' study on the division of real property after the breakdown of on-reserve marriages.

Currently, the rights of Aboriginal women are not protected by provincial family laws, the *Indian Act*, or the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. As a result, says Senator Pat Carney, 'on divorce or separation, most Indian women are left with no legal rights to occupy their family home, keep household goods, or bar an abusive partner.'

Speaking in the Senate, Carney attacked the time schedule proposed for the review, which required a consideration of the matter by June 27. 'What is the rush?' she asked. She urged strongly that the issue should be considered by the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples, and should also take into account the 'problem of status' among Indians. Such consideration, she said, would not meet Nault's proposed schedule and that his proposal that it be considered instead by the Senate's Human Rights Committee would not ensure adequate discussion.

'Under the *Indian Act*,' Carney said, 'the definition of Aboriginal people included on-reserve status Indians, off-reserve status Indians, non-status Indians and Metis. Non-status Indians do not have the same rights as status Indians. They are often denied their property rights, band membership, access to on-reserve housing, health services, welfare and educational assistance.'

Carney explained that, under Bill C-31, *An Act to Amend the Indian Act*, passed in 1985, Parliament restored status and band membership rights to Aboriginal women who were married off-reserve to

ABORIGINAL, please turn to page 6

Island Tides

AT FULFORD HARBOUR
APRIL/MAY

Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.	Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.	
22	0430	9.2	2.8	30	0345	9.8	3.0	
	0700	9.2	2.8		WE	1035	3.6	1.1
	1520	1.6	0.5		ME	1745	9.2	2.8
				ME	2235	7.2	2.2	
23	0000	11.2	3.4	1	0400	9.5	2.9	
	1620	2.8	0.7		TH	1100	3.0	0.9
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24	0055	10.5	3.3	JE	2315	7.9	2.4	
	0800	7.9	2.4	2	0415	9.5	2.9	
	0915	7.9	2.4		FR	1125	2.3	0.7
	1725	3.0	0.9	VE	1920	10.2	3.1	
25	0140	10.8	3.3	3	0005	8.2	2.5	
	0830	7.2	2.2		SA	0430	9.5	2.9
	FR	1135	7.5		2.3	SA	1155	2.0
	1830	3.9	1.2	SA	2005	10.2	3.1	
26	0220	10.5	3.2	4	0055	8.9	2.7	
	1900	6.2	1.9		SU	0445	9.5	2.9
	SA	1330	7.5		2.3	DI	1225	1.6
	1930	4.6	1.4	DI	2055	10.5	3.2	
27	0250	10.2	3.1	5	0155	9.2	2.8	
	0925	5.6	1.7		MO	0455	9.5	2.9
	SU	1455	7.9		2.4	LU	1300	1.6
	2020	5.2	1.6	LU	2150	10.5	3.2	
28	0315	10.2	3.1	6	0335	9.2	2.8	
	0945	4.9	1.5		TU	0450	9.2	2.8
	MO	1600	8.5		2.6	TU	1340	2.0
	2105	5.9	1.8	MA	2240	10.8	3.3	
29	0330	9.8	3.0	7	1425	2.0	0.6	
	1010	4.3	1.3		WE	2325	10.8	3.3
	TU	1655	8.9		2.7	ME		
	2150	6.6	2.0	ME				

ADD ONE HOUR FOR DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Over the past two years, the most striking development on the world economic scene has been the change in the exchange rate between the US Dollar and the Euro. The value of the Euro has risen from 85¢ US in late 2000 to \$1.08 today, a gain of 27% in a little over two years.

In November, 2002, the Euro traded almost even with the US Dollar, so much of its gain in value has occurred over the past five months. This is an astonishing change. Why?

Why Does the Exchange Rate Fluctuate?

Many factors have been suggested as reasons for the changing exchange rate between the US Dollar and the Euro. Basically, it depends on the relative demand for the two currencies, which in turn depends on real patterns of international trade, perceptions of the relative economic success of the two systems, all amplified by the effects of speculation.

Over the last couple of years, the bursting of the US stock market bubble, combined with the revelation that US corporate accounting practices could be deceptive, have shaken world confidence in the US economic system. The September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the US has also been blamed by some.

But the performance of European economies has not, in aggregate, been much better. The financial performance of EEC governments, constrained by the EEC's own rules, has apparently been only adequate. Meanwhile, the US government, under George W. Bush, at first projected substantial budgetary surpluses and reduced taxes for the upper economic classes.

The Growing US Trade Deficit

But the US has a very substantial cumulative balance of payments deficit: the value of its imports exceeded the value of its exports by approximately \$400 billion in 2001. This figure has shown significant growth since the mid-nineties. Up to that point, the annual imbalance was \$100 billion or less; since then, it has nearly quadrupled.

The cumulative trade deficit has been estimated at over \$3 trillion—the total for 1989–2001 was \$2,076 billion (a US trillion is 1,000 million).

The annual deficit may not seem so significant in the light of a US Gross Domestic Product of \$10.5 trillion (this counts all economic activity in the US), but there seems little chance that it can be reduced in the near future, particularly since much of it can be accounted for by the purchase of oil from the Middle East, Venezuela and, yes, Canada.

The World Runs on US Dollars

The US pays dollars for that oil, because oil is priced in dollars. The dollars are used in trade by many countries throughout the world, to invest in US assets, and to pay back US bank and IMF dollar-denominated loans. And they are also held as a reserve currency by most countries.

It is this need for dollars, together with faith in the inherent strength of the US economy, which maintains the relative value of these dollars and of dollar-denominated financial

instruments and assets, no matter where they may be.

Some economists would say that continuing US trade deficits are financed through the function of the US Dollar as an international reserve currency.

The Euro and the 'Axis of Evil'

Outside of Europe, few countries have so far adopted the Euro as a reserve currency. Three that have are Iraq, Iran, and North Korea, coincidentally the first three members of George W. Bush's 'Axis of Evil.'

Iraq was the first in November, 2000). Possibly as a political statement, Saddam Hussein's Iraq started to accept Euros for oil. The \$10 billion 'oil for food' fund held by the United Nations was also switched to Euros. Iraq is a member of OPEC, so this was breaking the rules, as well as reducing world demand for the US dollar.

Iraq's European customers no longer had to buy US dollars to purchase oil. With the recent strengthening of the Euro, Iraq's small store of the currency has, so far, proved a profitable investment.

Iraq was producing around 2mbpd (million barrels per day) of oil, which adds up to about \$20 billion per year—not a big sum in the grand scheme of things—and most of it was purchased by US companies anyway.

But the US might well be concerned as to whether Iraq might start a trend. If the rest of OPEC priced its oil in Euros (29mbpd @ \$25/bbl—a total of \$265 billion/year) it could have serious consequences for the US Dollar. OPEC members Iran and Libya are reliably reported to be giving oil-pricing in Euros serious consideration.

Some have suggested that Iraq may have discovered the ultimate potential 'weapon of mass destruction'—oil trade in Euros—its target the power of the US dollar.

Venezuela Plans Escape from the Dollar Club

Venezuela, an OPEC member which has not adopted the Euro, has made barter agreements with Cuba (to the intense annoyance of the US) and twelve other South American countries to trade oil for other commodities.

That's how Hugo Chavez's government has started to extract itself from the US Dollar club. It may not be a coincidence that Mr. Chavez has already been faced with a botched two-day coup (last April) and a two-month strike by business (recently fizzled).

For its part, the US has recruited to its 'coalition of the willing' a number of nations which have made little contribution to the Iraq war, but which will surely be under pressure to be loyal members of the dollar club after the war. Some of them are EEC members!

A Well Kept Secret

The recent attack on Iraq, said the US, was not about oil. Well, not exactly. If Iraq's rejection of the dollar is one of the reasons for the US military action for 'regime change' in Iraq, the US could not admit it, because the admission itself could cause further damage to the value of the dollar. Iraq's shift to Euros may be a more credible reason, however, than virtually all those reasons which have, up to now, been presented by the US; and US military success would certainly stand as a stern warning to Iraq's other Middle Eastern oil-producing neighbours to stick with the dollar.

The Cost of the War Becomes a Factor

But the cost of the war to the US and the UK (which, in participating in the war, has placed itself firmly on the side of the dollar) is itself a negative factor which may influence the

EURO, continued in next column, top

SOME CURRENCY BACKGROUND

The World's Reserve Currency

Since the end of the gold standard in 1971, the US Dollar has served as the world's reserve currency, against which all other currencies are valued. This was a natural result of the US economy being the biggest and strongest in the world, of the International Monetary Fund being valued in dollars, and of oil being priced in dollars on the international market. (This last was ensured through a 1971 agreement between the US and Saudi Arabia.) The Euro was introduced at the beginning of 1999 by the countries of the European Economic Community (EEC) as an alternative to the US Dollar as the reserve currency.

A Rival to the Dollar—the Euro

The EEC is the only trading block of a size even remotely comparable to the US. (Last week, another twelve nations, mostly from the former Russian-dominated eastern Europe, were added to the EEC.)

The introduction of the Euro followed many years of having to manage variations in exchange rates between the various European currencies, combined with the gradual imposition of a common fiscal discipline on participating European governments. Over the same time period, the countries of the European Economic Community implemented a customs union and eliminated barriers to cross-border trade and the movement of people.

Many standards and trade practices have also been harmonized throughout the EEC. By the time the Euro was introduced, it had the effective political and economic backing of all the EEC countries, except Britain which has not given up the £ and its close ties to the dollar.

Inevitably, the exchange rate between the Euro and the US Dollar was used as a rating device to compare the relative success of the European and US economies. The Euro was introduced, deliberately, as roughly comparable in value to the US Dollar. At the start, its value in US Dollars went down, but over the last few months it has risen above the dollar.

With both strong economic backing and its recent rise in value, other countries around the world have started to look at the Euro as a real alternative reserve currency to the US Dollar. It could be said that there are now two competing capitalist systems, the US and the Euro, with differing economic policies and performance.

2003

Island Tides

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- inform you?
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- amuse you?
- give you a warm, fuzzy feeling?
- make you a good contact?
- find you an opportunity?
- inspire you to take action?
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Euro/US Dollar exchange rate.

President Bush's original rosy budgetary forecasts did not allow for the cost of the Iraq war, now authorized by Congress at \$80 billion. But what Congress has not yet been told about is the cost of a continuing US presence (some would call it occupation) in Iraq. This has been estimated at anything from \$75 billion to \$500 billion over a ten year period. Given additional military costs and tax cuts, cumulative US federal deficits in the trillions have been predicted over the next ten years.

The US has already let contracts for putting the Iraqi oilfields back into operation (\$900 million) to a subsidiary of Vice President Cheney's old firm, Halliburton. US firms will clearly be given preference in the rebuilding process, so much of this money will be available to help the US economy (as will the cost of replacing the stock of weapons used in the war.)

And there has also been talk of financing much of Iraq's reconstruction (by US firms?) with the annual \$20 billion or so from its future oil sales. (This may be what is meant by the assurance that the money from oil sales will go to 'benefit the people of Iraq.')

Creating World Economic Uncertainty

In Iraq, the US has opted for a unilateral military solution to a number of predominantly economic problems, mainly resulting from its profligate use of energy. This has raised questions all around the world as to what further actions it might take; questions which may further erode confidence in the US dollar. (*I'm not ignoring the possibility that a US readiness to defend its economic dominance with military action may increase confidence in the dollar in some quarters; it just seems to me that in view of the inherently destructive nature of war, and its cost, that eventually war must be a negative factor for the US, and world, economies.*)

Questions Raised

- The price of oil, dominated by speculators, rose sharply to nearly \$40 at the beginning of the war, and has since fallen back to under \$30. The country most vulnerable to high oil prices seems to be Japan. Its current prolonged economic slump could be

dangerously exacerbated; it holds 15% of US treasury debt and it is so closely tied to the dollar it might be regarded as an economically under-performing part of the US.

- The US, with its sheer size and diversification, is a tremendously resilient economy. Yet its recent growth level (not particularly healthy) has been maintained very much on the basis of rapidly increasing consumer credit (particularly home mortgages) encouraged by historically low interest rates. It has little room to maneuver here, and could be vulnerable to the collapse of a home-price bubble.

- The value of the Euro in US dollars is now increasing fast; fast enough to encourage more countries (and companies) to convert some of their reserves to Euros. This would, of course, increase the demand for Euros and might also set off fluctuations that would produce enormous uncertainty in international trade and investment. The exchange relationship itself would cease to represent a measured comparison of the Dollar-based and Euro-based economic systems and become itself a source of instability. OPEC, with substantial dollar reserves, might be in a position to 'game' the foreign exchange market.

- The rapid growth of the Chinese economy raises questions as to whether China might adopt either currency, use both, or create its own. Who knows?

There are Multilateral Alternatives to War

George Soros and others have suggested that the US\$ and the Euro should be limited, by international agreement, to trading in a narrow band—this might lead in time to a single reserve currency. It has also been suggested that the International Monetary Fund should issue Special Drawing Rights (in other words, loans to stabilize currencies) based on this relationship. Finally, the implementation of a Tobin tax (a tax on foreign exchange transactions to discourage speculation) has once again been suggested.

These proposals represent alternatives to both economic and military wars as expressions of the rivalry between the two capitalist systems. The US has, so far, firmly opposed them. /

Saturna Notes - Priscilla Ewbank

We have great weather in the Gulf Islands! Having just returned from a road trip to Stoney Plain, Alberta via Prince George, I have concluded that southwestern BC is where I want to be.

I saw gorgeous sights on the trip, Jasper and the surrounds are spectacular. It's the frozen-earth syndrome that is finally clear to me. I thought spring came to the northern slopes when the sun started to shine and the air was soft like in all the places I have lived. But, if the ground is frozen for however-many-feet, you may be warm in the soft, warm light but there will be nothing green or budding to accompany your happy soul—hmm.... Our eldest coastal daughter, newly moved to Prince George, queried 'Mom, when will spring come?' I had no answer—seemingly none of my gardener savvy applies north of Chilliwack.

I feel almost guilty rejoicing in all of our abundant spring life—but I will persist! This rain twice a day, sun twice a day cycle makes for lush growth. The rain is great; it keeps the windshield moist enough that the pollen from the cedars can be wiped away. We have lots of banana slugs on our road. The dog now automatically stops so I can throw them off into the wet, ferny ditches. I like those guys.

Yesterday, two turkey vultures swooped over the ridge and buzzed the chicken flock. I'm surprised a few didn't drop dead from fright and provide a meal on the spot.

With all of the recurring beauty of our Island surrounding us, the busy seasons begins. We start our gardens, clean our boats, our houses, start our building projects and socialize.

Basket-Making Workshop

Pat Bennett, basket maker and general good artist, held a basket-making workshop in the community hall. She uses local bushes and materials from the seashore and the countryside. The workshop was full of people, the floor was strewn with materials and the hall was quiet with intent. Always, it is so inspiring to see what people come up with using the materials at hand, sort of a microcosm of life.

Thomson Park Work-Bee/ Picnic

On May 3, Parks and Recreation invites us all to the annual picnic and work bee at our Thomson Park site. Bring gloves and tools. One of the projects will be working on the upper trail, which needs lots of brushing out. Lunch, cooked on the beach will be fancy sausages, and salads and a big cake, coffee tea and juice which Parks & Rec will provide. Please bring your own utensils, plates, and napkins. This occasion is always lots of fun for the kids, dogs and us. All are welcome. The Park is lovely in itself and the camaraderie is a pleasure.

On-Island Nursing

As of March 27th, 2003, there will be regular nursing clinic hours every Thursday from 8am to noon at the medical clinic with Home Care Nurse, Donna Curwen. She will also be doing home visits as required. Laboratory services (i.e. blood work) will not be available at present. Donna can be reached Monday to Friday by calling 539-3685. Please leave a message and she will return your call within an acceptable time period. Regular doctor visits will continue on Tuesdays.

Whew, it is great to have Donna on Island with such useful skills—seems like the community has lucked out again. There must be a special type of woman that goes into nursing—caring, curious, non-judgmental, and skilled and with a joy in life. They are an asset to any community they choose to live in and I'm glad Donna chose us!

Ferron Concert

Saturday night, Ferron gave a concert in the community hall. Ferron is a long-time resident of Saturna, on-and-off while growing up, and now between tours in Canada and the US. This was her first formal Saturna Concert and she found it different for her community to be her audience. Ferron sings from her own life so her songs are intensely personal.

Her stage presentation contrasted to many of her songs—funny, fresh, immediate feedback of what is going on for her with us,

SATURNA, please turn to page 7

NORSKE from page 1

original application and the National Energy Board/Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency GSX hearing, and that overall gas costs per Gigajoule increased 32% between March 2002 and February 2003.

Other questions raised include cost-of-service model details for VIGP, and more information on Hydro's efforts to increase power supply from Independent Power Producers and the Resource Smart, Customer Based Generation, and Green Energy programs, including the price caps used for these programs.

Finally, NorskeCanada requested a detailed history of system outages, forced load shedding, and brownouts on Vancouver Island for the past three years. /

ETHICAL ED from page 1

With the help of teachers, Claude Kennedy and Jessica Willows, the girls polled classes and then made a bulletin board to tally their findings. The word most favoured by Pender students is 'trust'.

Since doing the survey Natasha O'Reilly noted, 'Everyone seems to be a little more aware of values and ethics and that people in China have the same values that they do.'

Linda Searle said, 'All the kids got to know us. They are more friendly towards us.' She agreed that it was a good way to make a positive impression on younger students.

Far from finished with their mission Searle and O'Reilly put their computer skills to work to create a PowerPoint presentation documenting their work. Both students

attended an Ethics Committee meeting on Salt Spring in April and showed the presentation to the group. An enthusiastic response resulted in an invitation to Mayne Island to repeat the process.

What lies in the future for these girls? They hope to train some of the younger students in Pender Island classes to take over their work when they graduate in June. And in September they will be sure to check out the leadership club at Gulf Island Secondary School.

On May 8, the school district's Ethics Committee will host a public meeting on Salt Spring to ask for community support in ethical education. Meetings on the Outer Islands will be announced. /

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Readers' Letters

Anti... Neighbours?

In Canada, as in the US, the question of support for the war in Iraq has led to differences of opinion between friends and neighbours.

We at *Island Tides* support international due process in dealing with the problems of this world, and oppose war on both moral and practical grounds.

This has led us to express our opposition to US action in Iraq. On the other hand, other Canadian newspapers have expressed their support.

There are many US Citizens living in the Gulf Islands, and we welcome many more as visitors throughout the year. Whether or not they agree with their country's foreign policy, their loyalty may oblige them to defend it.

We need to understand them; they need to understand us. We may still sometimes be 'disappointed' in each other.

But, individually, we are the same good friends and neighbours we have always been. There's no need to make our political differences personal.

C G-W

Mind Our Manners

Dear Editor:

In Mr. Connolly's letter to *Island Tides* (April 10/03) he sarcastically attacked Mr. Chuck Harris's character, inferring that his motives for being against 'one week housing rentals' were hidden ones—those of his business, since he runs a bed and breakfast.

Since Mr. Connolly gave us his own background, as an American, owning property on Pender since 1999, and perceiving himself as sustaining the Canadian and island economy with the employment of so many people for the self interest of his vacation home and rentals, I will give you a little, as I know it, of Mr. Harris's background.

Mr. Harris has lived here for well over twenty years and it is common knowledge that he runs a bed and breakfast and is sensitive to the surrounding wildlife and environment. It is also common knowledge that he cares deeply for the island where he lives, since over the years he has dedicated untold hours to so many varied island projects—projects to enhance and sustain the community as a gentle, rural place to live. For very many years he was on the Advisory Planning Commission and for years he was chairman of the Pender

Tell me it ain't so ~ Patrick Brown

The Results-Based Olympics

The provincial Ministry of Nights, Weekends and Holidays, as its contribution to Vancouver/Whistler 2010, has taken on the task of rewriting the rules for the new 'results-based' Winter Olympics. The new regulations will cut red tape, save money, and ensure flexibility while ensuring that the government's objectives are met.

The basis of 'results-based' rules is that there is no enforcement until the game is over. While it may, at that point, be too late to reverse the effects, it does avoid the embarrassment of interrupting the players in mid-game. (This is also the principle of the new *Forests Act*.)

When the game is over, of course, the score tells the tale. If the game had been interrupted for a penalty, or to stop a player cheating, we would never know what the results would have been if the game had not been interrupted. That's why it is fairer to let the game run its course, and then we can truly tell what the results would have been.

Don't Get Caught

Sometimes, of course, the results may not meet the government's objectives, even if the players had understood what those objectives were when they started. If this occurs, competitors will be assessed 'administrative penalties' if they get caught. Penalties may include apologies, large fines and jail terms—unless the players have a good excuse. The penalties are not intended to correct the faulty result, but to provide an incentive not to do the same thing the next time.

Of course, it's not fair to exact a penalty, even for the most unsatisfactory result, if the player has an excuse. Under the new Olympic rules, allowable excuses include: 'I'm sorry,' 'I didn't mean to do it,' 'I didn't mean to get caught,' 'I made a genuine mistake,' 'I thought it would be OK,' and 'It was the government's fault.' The classic 'Act of God' defence will also be allowed (this includes 'The debbil made me do it,' being a politically correct version of the God defence).

The real purpose of the 'results-based' approach is to eliminate cheating by focusing on the final result. In other words, as long as the final result is what was expected and agreed upon in advance, it doesn't matter how it was achieved.

Unnecessary rules won't be enforced, thus saving money on referees, eliminating red tape, speeding up the game, making it

less complicated, and giving greater certainty to the results.

Figure Skating Leads!

It is interesting that the trend towards 'results-based' scoring has been led by recent Olympic figure-skating. In this complex sport, the scores and the winners have often been decided even before the competition starts, and even if the competitors fall down in the course of the performance, they still win. In the light of complaints from some competitors a new system will be put in place this year to obscure the calculation of results.

This type of event management has inspired the Ministry, and reinforced the move to a results-based ethic in BC. It is thought that this may have some implications for the new paradigm in BC's forests (competitors will be scored on technical merit and environmental impression).

Hockey Revolutionized!

Olympic hockey will also benefit from the new 'results-based' approach. Hockey fans have long complained about the interference of referees in the game, in particular when they interrupt fights or give out penalties.

Clearly, the game is not well-played when one or the other team is forced to play short-handed. Using the new rules, referees can be laid off with associated cost-savings, and there will be no delay in the game for high-sticking, tripping, or fighting. Players will be expected to behave themselves in a gentlemanly (or ladylike) fashion at all times when on the ice.

However, this does not mean that the rules will not be enforced. Following the Olympics, each game will be reviewed by an impartial jury that will include Forests Minister Mike deJong, Don Cherry, and a French figure-skating judge. Large fines will be imposed for any transgressions (unless there is an excuse; see above). The results of the competition, however, cannot be changed.

Giant Slalom Simplified!

One sport that is expected to be much streamlined will be the downhill skiing Giant Slalom. Competitors have long complained about the inconvenient poles in the middle of the track. Under the new rules, the poles will still be there, but competitors will be allowed to go on either side of them as they

OLYMPICS, please turn to page 7

Parks Commission. In all these endeavours he met the challenges of change, but always with a view to caring for the island environment and way of rural life.

There is no room on this island for personal denigration of each other because of different points of view. I hope for other people to respect me as a person even if they don't agree with my views. I hope Mr. Connolly will dig deeper, not into his pocket, but into his relationship with the environment and the people with whom he comes to stay for two 3-month stints out of each year.

Joyce Jones, Pender Island

When Should the Killing Start?

Dear Editor:

Jan Slakov writes in the April 10 issue of *Island Tides*, 'We do not stop evil by killing those who commit evil acts ... In the case of the US aggression against Iraq, the Administration cannot even claim to be killing those who commit evil acts, for many of those being killed are as innocent as you or I.'

What in the world is that supposed to mean?

Many being killed, and doing a lot of killing, are Republican Guard soldiers, and those like the Iraqi Baath party militias, Saddam's security police, and his guerrilla bands who are terrorizing the civilian population. Are they as innocent as you or I?

The Nazi evil of World War II was stopped by massive Allied military forces 'killing those who commit evil acts.' That 'killing' destroyed the Nazi Empire by May of 1945, forcing its surrender and freeing occupied countries like Denmark from its grip.

The Danish people put up very impressive and courageous resistance to the German conquerors, but it was impossible for them to have made their resistance strong enough to either persuade the Germans to evacuate their country or force them out.

Milosevic was ousted from power when large numbers of the Yugoslav police and military defected to the opposition, used limited violence against the few who still supported him, and showed a convincing willingness to use more violence against him and them if they did not surrender. Nonviolent protests alone would not have persuaded him to leave power.

Perhaps Slakov is correct in stating that, 'We become,

ourselves, more 'evil' when we commit violence, even if it is supposed to prevent violence in the future.' However, if we refuse to engage in violence under any circumstances—so as to avoid becoming more 'evil'—we do not rid the world of war and other forms of violence. We just reserve them for exclusive use by the Hitlers, the Milosevics, the Saddam Husseins and others who make life-long careers out of committing evil acts, and we just guarantee that their careers will be success stories!

D.I. Solomon, Victoria

End of International Law?

Dear Editor:

In 1945, the Soviet Union possessed the most powerful military force in the world, and America was in sole possession of the atomic bomb. From the day of its creation in 1946, the United Nations consisted of two great military blocs, each dedicated to the destruction of the other, and to the replacement of the other's political system by their own. The economic collapse of the Soviet Union after 1989 changed the role of the international organization. No longer did sovereign states take sides in disputes. Now, the national sovereignty of the offender was suspended by majority decision.

Within a year of the economic victory of the West over the Soviets, an Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 was repulsed. Then, for the next ten years the peacekeeping organization, the United Nations, applied economic sanctions to Iraq, demanded discontinuance of military research, occupied national airspace, and gave its UN airmen license to attack, without higher approval, any target they deemed to be threatening. This low-level random warfare in the hapless country continued for about the same period of time that the allies imposed punishment on Germany after the Treaty of Versailles.

The American sponsored 'turkey shoot' of 2003 cast the UN organization into the same disputation that marked the last years of the League of Nations. The world is awakening from the dream of eternal peace and harmony in 2003 as it did after 1929. Now a single power uses the peace organization to its own purposes. Superpower law is global law—globalized jurisprudence. There is no longer any 'international law.' Globalization cannot tolerate diversity.

W.H. Willson, Pender Island

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'What's On?' Vancouver Island & The Gulf Islands

Now till Sunday, April 27

5-Day Terrific Jazz Party—17 red hot bands from US and Canada, including the *Big Band Trio*, *Les Chiens Noirs* (Tom Hook & friends) from Everywhere, USA, *Titan Hot Seven* featuring Bob Draga and Jeff Barnhart; 5 dance floor venues throughout Victoria, free shuttle bus • Wed: 4:30-midnight; Thursday through Saturday: Noon-1:30am; Sunday: 10:30am-4pm • Tickets: Daily Badges from \$20; 5-day All-Event Badge \$100, at Tourism Info Centre and The Bay Centre • Info: 250-953-2011 or www.terrific.com • IN VICTORIA



Thursday-Sunday, April 24-27

Port Sidney Floating Boat Show—Canada's largest—new and brokerage power and sail boats on display for the boating enthusiast • Port Sidney Marina • 10am-7pm • Tickets: \$8, family \$20 @ the gate • Info: Kate Harvey: 250-812-0028 • IN SIDNEY

Thurs April 24 till Sun, May 4

Spring Sharpening Event on Galiano. Bring your scissors, knives, garden tools etc. to Jürgen and Judith's 'Tinkerers Sharpening Service; second annual benefit for 'Tinkerers Travel & Learn—Timeless Skills Program' • Daystar Market—look for the vintage brown truck (Saturna visit May 9-12, Pender visit May 22 to June 1) • Info: 250-539-2280, The Tinkerers' home—base on Mayne Island • ON GALIANO ISLAND



Friday April 25

Reading by Margaret Atwood—fundraiser for Galiano Community School Library • Galiano Community School • 8pm • Tickets: \$10 @ Galiano Island Books • Info: Lee Trentadue 250-539-3340, Mary Trentadue 604-980-9032 • ON GALIANO ISLAND

Fri & Sat, April 25, & 26

8th Annual, Eyelens Film and Video Festival 2003—Gulf Islands Film & Television School presents over 150 screenings of Year 2002 short films, animations and videos; Friday: 7:30pm Local Heros, 10pm IMPP; Saturday: screenings all day, 1pm workshop, 7pm Gala awards ceremony • South Galiano Hall • Tickets: at-the-door • Info: www.GIFTSfilms.com, G.I.F.T.S. 250-539-5729 • ON GALIANO ISLAND



Saturday, April 26

3rd Galiano Triathlon—3km Kayak, 13km Cycle, 5km Run—fundraiser for Galiano Fitness Centre, Individual & Team events • Montague Park start 12:30pm • \$30/person, entry deadline April 15 • Info: www.galianoisland.com/triathlon, Janice Mason jem@gulfislands.com or 250-539-3421 ON GALIANO ISLAND

Saturday, April 26th

"At this critical junction in history, the media are determining the fate of the earth"— talk by Dr Helen Caldicott, peace activist, founder of Nobel Prize winning Physicians for Social Responsibility, and author of *The New Nuclear Danger* and *If You Love This Planet*; performances by Valdy and Tuned Air • Gulf Islands Secondary School Gym • 8pm • Tickets by donation (Sugg. \$10-15) @ Volume II, Stuff and Nonsense and et cetera books • Limited billets available. Info: Irene Wright 250-537-5347, Marion Pape 250-537-4567, or www.ccc.ssi.ca • ON SALT SPRING ISLAND

Sunday, April 27

Qualicum Beach Weavers & Spinnners Spring Sale & Tea • Rotary House, corner of Fern Road & Beach Avenue • 10am-4pm • Free admission and demonstrations • Info: Dorothy Walker, 250-248-9756 • IN QUALICUM BEACH

Only \$21.40 • With photo just \$26.75 to Promote your event to 33,000 Readers

Tues, April 29 till Tues, May 13

Art Showing—come and see the whimsical work of Diane Kremmer • Talisman Books & Gallery • Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 11am-4pm • Info: Diane Kremmer 250-629-2010 • ON PENDER ISLAND

Saturday, May 3rd

Opening Reception for Tish Saunders "Magic Island"—expressionist, symbolic landscape paintings about an island's weather, light and spiritual relationship to man—acrylic paintings on canvas, quilted canvas and layered plywood • Galiano Art Gallery @ Galiano Inn, Madrona Drive, 2 mins walk from Sturdies Bay ferry terminal • Reception 4-7pm, Solo Exhibition continues to May 12 • Info: www.GALIANO-ART-GALLERY.com, 250-539-3539 • ON GALIANO ISLAND



Sunday, May 4

The Victoria Chamber Orchestra Concert—conductor Yari Aloni; violin Jeremy Farland, winner of Louis Sherman Concerto



Competition—Bach *Orchestral Suite No. 1*, Mozart *Concerto No. 5*, Janacek *Idyll* • South Galiano Hall • 2pm • Tickets: adults \$15, seniors/students \$10, @ the door or Galiano Island Books • ON GALIANO ISLAND

Friday, May 9

Paul White's Classic Jazz Seminar Series, sponsored by Saturna Parks and Rec—The Last of The Pre-Modern Jazz Player (and a Mystery Guest!) plus a fine creole dinner by donation • Community Hall, Lyall Harbor 100 yards from ferry terminal • 6:30pm • Seminar admission free • Info and overnighting references, 250-539-9884 or email: jazzbo@gulfislands.com • ON SATURNA ISLAND

Saturday, May 10

Victoria's 8th Annual Literary Info Fair—a gathering of writers, aspiring writers, and book people of all kinds; get an on-the-spot critique of your writing, take a mini workshop; hear a reading; enter the Victoria School of Writing's Postcard Story Contest; meet editors, publishers, booksellers, writers' groups and services • First Metropolitan United Church (932 Balmoral, at Quadra) • 11 am - 3 pm • Admission \$2 • Info or booth rentals: viewrite@islandnet.com, www.islandnet.com/vicwrite, 250-595-3000 • IN VICTORIA

Saturdays, May 17 & 31

Grow Vegetables Organically— choose from two dates for introductory day-long workshops: planting, crop rotation, weed control, soil fertility • Stowell Lake Farm, 190 Reynolds Road • Admission: \$25, registration deadline May 9 • Info: Jennifer 250-653-0011 • ON SALT SPRING ISLAND

Friday, May 23

10th Annual Bob Dylan Birthday Party: enjoy an evening listening to or performing your favourite Bob Dylan tunes (this year a day early because of Morag's wedding and Greg Gammon's performance at the marina) • Galiano Community Hall • Show starts at 8:30pm, Bob's cake comes out at midnight • Tickets: \$5 at the door • Info: Musicians call Gary Cramer 250-539-9944 • ON GALIANO ISLAND



Coming home, from hospital to island

Karen Davies

If you have ever been in hospital, you likely know how important discharge planning is to your full recovery. Follow-up is often required to schedule physiotherapy sessions, to make provision for special equipment to help with your mobility, or to arrange for a visit by the Home Care Nurse.

Hospital staff must also know if it is possible to have a prescription filled on the island, or whether this should be done in Victoria before you catch the ferry home. Availability of these services is different on each island, and it is vital that staff in the Victoria hospitals contact island nurses to make the appropriate arrangements.

To make certain that the discharge process goes smoothly, nurses on each island have developed a 1-page summary, which details services available locally and how to access them.

In cases where you have a pre-scheduled stay in a Victoria hospital, it will be helpful if you could pick up one of these sheets from your local health clinic, take it with you and give it to the nurse on your ward so that it can be placed on your chart. We have printed them on brightly-coloured paper so that hospital staff will take notice of this important information.

In the event of emergency hospitalizations, ambulance crews have been asked to give one of these forms to the Victoria hospital staff.

To pick up a form, and for any questions, please see your local Home Care Nurse. ✓

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HARBOURS COMMISSION

HOPE BAY DOCK REPAIRS
CONTRACT 03-1006

INVITATION TO TENDER

Sealed Tenders, plainly marked on the envelope "Southern Gulf Islands Harbours Commission, Hope Bay Dock Repairs - Contract 03-1006 will be received by the Director of Finance of the Capital Regional District at their offices at 524 Yates Street, Victoria, British Columbia up to 2:30 PM, Thursday, May 15th, 2003, at which time they will be opened in public.

The works to be constructed under this Contract generally include the following:

Supply of all materials, equipment and labour to repair and/or replace certain timbers, one gangway repair, pilings, cross braces and footings replacement, one new float supply and install, and floatation pontoon replacement.

Specifications, Drawings, Contract Documents, and Tender Form may be seen at the offices of the Vancouver Region Construction Association of BC, 3636 East 4th Avenue, Vancouver, BC; The Construction Association of Victoria, 1075 Alston Street, Victoria; and the Capital Regional District, 524 Yates Street, Victoria, on or after April 24, 2003.

Copies may be obtained from the Capital Regional District, Environmental Services Department, on payment of \$26.75 (\$25.00 + \$1.75 GST) for each copy requested, the sum of which is refundable upon return of the documents in good condition within 30 days of tender opening.

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

There will be no scheduled site meeting.

For tendering and technical enquiries on this project please contact Al Cannon, Ports Manager, Southern Gulf Islands Harbours Commission, 250-539-3036, E-mail: shoresun@gulfislands.com.

Al Cannon, Ports Manager,
Southern Gulf Islands Harbours Commission

Coffee Counter Dialogue - Peter Easthope

Olive: Good to see you again, Reggie. The garden's dug, and I've got tomatoes germinating in the sunroom.

Reggie: And I've just finished tidying up the roses and the raspberry patch. But back to my education. If a person did want to attend a Trust public meeting how could he get the schedule? I always seem to miss announcements.

Olive: Some meetings are posted on the Trust Web site along with draft bylaws. It's at www.islandstrust.bc.ca. Notices on local bulletin boards and adverts and articles in our magazines and newspapers also announce the meetings. You've got to be a bit proactive, but where there's a will, there's a way!

Reggie: Okay Olive, I get the message. I bet you'll be phoning to get me out for the next meeting soon, eh? Any idea what's coming up?

Olive: APC and LTC meetings once a month keep things moving forward. I don't know what's happening with North Pender's By-Law 141. That's the Driftwood development. Then the Trustees are considering going back to RR1/RR2 residential zoning.

Reggie: Well, let me know when something's coming up and I'll try and be there. Right now I have to pick up a neighbour at the ferry terminal. ✓



Nominations for stewardship awards

The Islands Trust is launching its second annual Community Stewardship Awards program. Community members and organizations throughout the Trust Area are invited to nominate individuals, businesses or organizations for their contributions to island communities.

'This is a good way to recognize people and groups who have actively supported the Islands Trust mandate. And it's important to remember that our 'preserve and protect' mandate refers not only to the natural environment, but also to healthy communities and sustainable economies' said David Essig, Chair of the Islands Trust Council.

The Community Stewardship Awards program was started last year and eighteen nominations were received. Winners for 2002 were:

- Trincomali Improvement District, North Pender Island for the Trincomali Community Water Supply System Project. The Improvement District provides and maintains a secure and sustainable water supply to the Trincomali subdivision on North Pender Island.

- Maureen Milburn, Salt Spring Island

Conservancy for the Maxwell Lake Conservation Covenant Project. The Maxwell Lake conservation covenant protects the Maxwell Lake watershed on Salt Spring Island.

- Jeff Lederman, Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre, Director Salt Spring Island for the Wildlife Rehabilitation Project. Jeff founded the Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre in 1997 to care for sick, injured and orphaned wildlife.

A total of four awards may be given in 2003—two awards for individuals and two for organizations. The awards program is open to any individual, school (or classroom), community group, non-profit or business organization that has demonstrated efforts to enhance community sustainability in the Trust Area.

Nomination forms and more details are available on the Islands Trust web site: www.islandstrust.bc.ca (select 'Stewardship Program', then 'Stewardship Awards'), or from Islands Trust offices. The deadline for receipt of nominations is July 18, 2003. Winners will be selected in September and awards will be presented at Local Trust Committee meetings in the fall. ✓

Earthday and UN focus on fresh water

April is Earth month; Earthday (April 22) has been expanded to a month-long event. This year's global theme is fresh water—activities are planned all over the world to help communities work with government agencies to improve their water quality and sanitation.

The United Nations declared 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater. The United Nations believes that water is a human right and access to clean and safe water is fundamental to humanity.

Fresh water supplies are a common good and in fact, humanity faces a fresh water crisis. More than one billion people lack access to safe drinking water and more than two billion lack sanitation. Global warming is predicted to aggravate the situation further. Without clean fresh water, and equitable stewardship under international cooperation, water supplies are predicted to threaten peace and security in many regions.

Good News About Safe Water

The good news is that during the 1990s, nearly one billion people gained access to safe water and the same number to sanitation. It is possible to come a long way in a short amount of time. Solutions are emerging that indicate a hopeful future.

Even though significant work is being done to address the world's water challenges, there's more to do—it's urgent that more individuals, communities, governments, international institutions, and the private sector make substantial efforts.

Public Responsibility

Governments carry full responsibility to provide safe water to citizenry. Many municipalities have failed to adequately provide water services and sanitation (even in Canada), increasing the risks of water-borne illnesses, water scarcity, and crop failure. Conservation strategies and improved management can protect and ensure the long-term viability of watersheds and water resources.

Sanitation Key To Clean Water

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), about 3.4 million people, most of whom are children, die from water-related diseases every year. Lack of attention to sanitation is a glaring problem given the number of water-related deaths and diseases resulting from inadequate sanitation.

To address sanitation, governments and international agencies have moved away from large infrastructure projects and centralized water treatment, and many different household and community approaches are being developed. Long-term environmental and health impact assessments will be needed as these household treatment methods are introduced on a greater scale.

Managing Water for Agriculture

Another way governments and communities can deal with poor water access is to address the inequity in different sectors' water

EARTHDAY, please turn to page 7

Register Now for BC's New Fair PharmaCare Program.



BC's new Fair PharmaCare program starts May 1, 2003.

BC's new Fair PharmaCare program will take effect May 1st. Under the new program financial assistance will be based on your annual income: the lower your income, the more financial assistance the government will provide for your prescription drugs.

To begin receiving your maximum level of financial assistance under the new Fair PharmaCare program you should register now before the May 1st deadline.

You can register at anytime, however it's recommended that you register before May 1 to ensure you receive uninterrupted financial assistance with your prescription medications.

For more information or to register now call 1-800-387-4977 or visit www.gov.bc.ca.

To register you will require:

- BC Care Card numbers for:
 - You
 - Your spouse (if applicable)
 - Dependent children (if applicable)
- 2001 net family income for:
 - You
 - Your spouse (if applicable)
- Social insurance numbers for:
 - You
 - Your spouse (if applicable)
- Birthdates for:
 - You
 - Your spouse (if applicable)
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ABORIGINAL from page 1

non-Indians; at the same time, bands were given the right to control their own membership.

'One result is that some people were eligible for Indian status but not for band membership. Some may be accepted for band membership but not for Indian status. Still others are eligible for both band membership and Indian status.

'The government of the time explained that subsections 6(1) and 6(2) define who is entitled to be registered as a status Indian—and who is not—in the Indian register maintained by the Indian Registrar at Indian and Northern Affairs. The very language makes my skin crawl. There are pages and pages of regulations classifying Aboriginal people.'

At the same time, the government

introduced a classification system to determine who was legally an Aboriginal.

'All of those already registered in the Indian register, whether entitled or not, were classified as 6(1). Children of 6(1) persons were able to inherit the status. Children who had only one 6(1) parent, however, were registered as 6(2). After the second generation, children of 6(2) parents fall off the registration list entirely, no longer considered to be Aboriginal.'

The result is that reserves are becoming populated with children of '6(2)' parents, without status. In due course, the band may cease to legally exist at all.

This mistake, made in 1985, illustrated the need for careful consideration of Nault's new proposal, said Carney. 'This time, let us take the time to do it right.' ✓

Open houses with presentation

Draft CRD Composting Regulation Bylaw

You're invited ...

The Capital Regional District Solid Waste Advisory Committee invites you to participate in the final review of draft licensing requirements for composting operations in the capital region.

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

6-9 p.m. (presentation at 7:30 p.m.)

Saanich Peninsula Fairgrounds, Poplar Room
1528 Stelly's Cross Road, Victoria, BC

or

Thursday, May 1, 2003

6-9 p.m. (presentation at 7:30 p.m.)

Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre, Field House
1767 Island Highway, Victoria, BC

To pre-register and/or receive an information package with the Comment Reply Form, please call CRD Environmental Services at 360-3078 or E-Mail wgustafson@crd.bc.ca or visit www.crd.bc.ca/es/compost



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Bulletin Board

(PAID BY DEADLINE ONLY) Phone 250-629-3660, Fax 250-629-3838,
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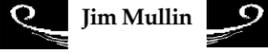
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REAL ESTATE

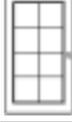
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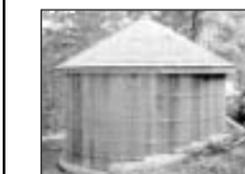
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New ferry corporation to publish accounts

Public presentations on the structure of the new BC Ferry operating company have emphasized that the new organization will make its annual accounts public, and that they will be independently audited. This represents a new undertaking; since the organization is a private corporation, under the companies act there was no requirement for it to make its financial results public. ✓

Margaret Atwood to read on Galiano

Acclaimed Canadian writer Margaret Atwood will give a Reading on Galiano on Friday, April 25 (see 'What's On?' page 5 for details).

This is the second time Margaret Atwood has read on the Island. Her first Reading in 2000 celebrated the publication of *The Blind Assassin*, which had just won the Booker Prize and was also a finalist for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. This time Atwood will read from her newest work, *Oryx and Crake* at Galiano school. Once again, the reading will be a benefit for the community school's library.

The reading held at the school, will also provide an opportunity to have books signed. 'What a wonderful way to support a

community and school library, it is such a thrill for us to have Margaret Atwood here,' says Lee Trentadue of Galiano Island Books, sponsors of the event.

Oryx and Crake will be released in Canada by McClelland and Stewart on April 22, several weeks before its release worldwide. *Oryx and Crake* projects readers into a conceivable future of our own world, a world left devastated in the wake of ecological and scientific disaster. Pre-release reviews have labeled the novel 'so utterly compelling, so prescient, so relevant, so terrifyingly-all-too-likely-to-be-true, that readers may find their view of the world forever changed after reading it' ✓

EARTHDAY, from page 6

consumption. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), more than 70% of the world's water is consumed for agricultural purposes. In many countries, farmers are now tapping into groundwater resources when other supplies run short. This leads to a gradual lowering of the water table. In the past, water use for large-scale industrial agriculture has been prioritized over small-scale subsistence, communal, and traditional uses. In order to ensure food security, poverty alleviation, and

environmental protection, water use for industrial agriculture must be better managed and regulated.

Everywhere, communities and local and national governments need capacity-building, education and access to information to be more effective water managers. Placing more emphasis on local capacity-building institutions and traditional knowledge will improve long-term commitment to improving water usage. ✓

(Adapted from an Earthday 2003 article.)

SATURNA from page 3

her audience. There were long quiet pauses, and I notice her face, her eyes, her timing is different than I have experienced with other performers. I haven't realized that I have expectations about how a performer will be on stage.

Ferron's instrument, her guitar, is a real home for her, a lovely extension of her voice and words. Some people have that drive to be seen for who they are beyond the surface, beyond assumptions and they will accept nothing less. Some people come from way behind—surviving their childhood requiring the skills of hiding themselves. Ferron's songs chronicle her journey to be no more, no less than herself.

Recycling Garage Sale/Pig BBQ

Guess what we have coming down the pike? The Recycling Garage Sale and Saturna Volunteer Firefighters' Pig Barbecue are both on May 17.

The recycling extravaganza is unbelievably popular—amazing how excited we can get about our own junk! This sale nets big bucks and all of it goes right back into our community health services. Drop-off days for donations are May 7, 10 & 14 during normal recycling times.

Our recycling folks are such a good group—bless their souls. The sale happens regular as clockwork, they are helpful and sometimes funny, they make the site look good, and we help ourselves in a community sense, and personally in our own homesites.

I don't have to tell you to be on time, the crowd at the gate waiting for the opening gun is a good indication of keen interest! God Speed!

Groundwater Group

The Groundwater group is moving into another phase. Besides their disciplined monitoring of wells, they are adding a public education component and soon will be giving us information about water-saving on our rocky, delightful island homes.

All That Jazz on Good Friday

Jazzbo's Cajun Chicken Breast and Pasta Inspiration with whole tomatoes and sour cream, and side dish options of fresh salad, Italian sausage medallions and Haggis Farm sourdough baguettes was offered and

consumed by 35 guests including some off-Islanders. A few willing volunteers made the work light.

The audience had a good time and there were very few remnants left behind for evidence of the feast—the donation bowl was adequately treated by the gourmands who have learned that good food can be found within a hundred yards of a ferry!

The jazz theme was the role of Big Band Swing development and arrangements by the Afro-American dance, pit, and show band innovators in the 1910s and '20s. This led to the historic craze of the mid-30s, in which Goodman, Dorsey, Shaw and James prospered mightily after they augmented their own talents with the lesser known jazz arrangers and players who worked for both black and white audiences, but couldn't share bandstands with their Caucasian counterparts. Each side of the segregation sought to play like the other, to broaden their markets and audiences, and the effects were telling and were re-told on Good Friday at the hall.

The fine evening will be hard to top at the final spring session on May 9 (see 'What's On?' page 5). Paul White is planning 'The Last of the Pre-Modern Jazz Players' as the theme, with the addition of the music and story of a Mystery Guest. The ferry system accommodates the dinner commencement at 6:30pm by having visitors from Swartz Bay disembark at 5:40pm at Lyall Harbour (and Saturnaites can skip making supper after landing)—they can join visitors and socialize and dine at the Hall before the seminar. Saturna's Parks and Recreation Society is once again the sponsor, and their encouragement has been greatly appreciated.

Canada Day BBQ

Planning is underway for the July 1st Saturna Lamb BBQ. If you have guests who want to visit, have them come over at this time and put them to work! The first two workbees are the Wood Cutting Bee and the Mint Sauce Making Bee. If anybody out there has a good supply of the smooth mint not the fuzzy leafed stuff, call Jacques Campbell, please. Look for posted work bee schedules. ✓

OLYMPICS from page 4

choose. The 'results-based' approach will focus strictly on the time required to ski from the start to the finish. The compulsory turns represented unnecessary red (or yellow or blue) tape.

Pharmaceuticals Tested!

The 'results-based' approach will also simplify the approach to drug testing at the Olympics. Athletes who test positive for drugs after their event will be fined unless they have a good excuse, but there will be no embarrassing changes in the results, and their medals will not be taken away from them. This will ensure a

'level playing field' for all competitors (except for downhill skiing) and will encourage sponsorship by the pharmaceutical industry, which will increase income for the Games and competitors alike.

In addition to efficiency (thousands of officials can be laid off), the new approach reflects the new Olympic credo: 'There's nothing wrong with cheating, so long as you don't get caught, the results were what the TV commentators predicted, and the government makes money.' ✓

Book bonanza for the little kids

The Islands seem to have an ever-growing number of tiny-tots these days. So it seemed a good time to review a shelf of books for children aged 4 to 8—ten titles received from Orca Book Publishers in Victoria and also two beautiful picturebooks from Whitecap Books in North Vancouver. With the two softcover exceptions noted (\$8.95 Can), all are hardcover books (\$19.95 Can). The widely varying storylines are described below. There seems to be something to suit nearly every young 'read-to-me.'

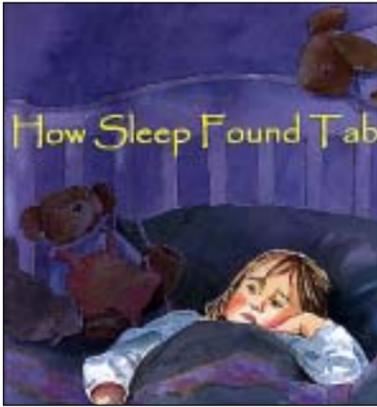
From Orca Book Publishers

• *How Sleep Found Tabitha* (Maggie de Vries, illustrated by Sheena Lott, 2002)—a bedtime story for reluctant sleepyheads. It's bedtime, but sleep will not come to Tabitha, one by one, the things that she cherishes, offer their help. Will the whale lull her to sleep? Can the eagle carry her to dreamland or the horse? The frog? The rabbit? Nothing seems to work. And then sleep comes, as it often does from an unexpected place...

• *Rough Day at Loon Lake* (Kathleen Cook Waldron, illustrated by Dean Griffiths, 2002, softcover)—Wally, Robyn, Justin and Nobu caused plenty of trouble in *Loon Lake Fishing Derby*. Now they are back, enticed by the inviting lake and sandy beach to play on the local golf course. When four imposing golfers arrive, Wally and his friends have some explaining to do. But, it turns out, they

find a way to turn events to their advantage.

• *Zizi and Tish* (Liz Moore, illustrated by Liz Milkau, 2003, softcover)—Zizi loves spending time at the cottage with



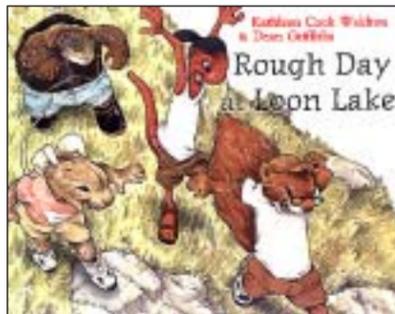
her big sister, until a girl from across the lake lures Tish away, leaving Zizi to entertain herself. They ridicule Zizi when she is afraid of the deep water. Zizi tries to get back at the two of them, but her gestures go unnoticed until a summer storm brings Zizi and Tish together again.

• *Under a Prairie Sky*

(Anne Laurel Carter, illustrated by Alan and Lea Daniel, 2002)—As a storm looms in the prairie sky, a boy must ride out to find his wayward younger brother, Will. He dons his red serge coat and Stetson hat, saddles up and begins the search. 'You can't hide from a Mountie,' he calls. Carter threads in the story subtle references to formations from the Musical Ride of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, which she saw and loved as a child.

• *Circus Play*

(Anne Laurel Carter, illustrated by Joanne Fitzgerald, 2002)—It's not easy always being upstaged by Mom's trapeze act, which she performs right in the living room. When friends come to visit they want to watch Mom not TV. Then they



find the Circus Costume Box and the circus takes over completely.

• *Arizona Charlie and the Klondike Kid* (Julie Lawson, illustrated by Kasia Charko, 2003)—The year is 1899. The place is Dawson City, Yukon. Ben longs to be a Wild West star, just like Arizona Charlie. He practices lassoing. He perfects his aim with a slingshot. He gets a place in the closing act of the Wild West show, but the performance doesn't go as planned. Will Ben earn the title he dreams of? Will he become Klondike Kid?

• *Gregory and Alexander* (William Baringer, illustrated by Kim LaFave, 2003)—Gregory, a mouse, and Al, a caterpillar, are the closest of friends, sharing everything until one day Al tucks himself into a blanket and doesn't come out. Gregory is sad at the loss of his friend. Even his dreams of flying a kite are no distraction until, one day, Al returns, transformed, bringing with him confirmation of their friendship and the fulfillment of Gregory's dream.

• *The Name of the Child* (Marilynn Reynolds, illustrated by Don Kilby, 2002)—During the flu epidemic of 1918, a frightened Lloyd has been sent to relatives in the country. He finds himself bundled into a wagon on a stormy night, a tiny nameless baby thrust into his arms.

He must get the baby to safety, but will he be able to overcome his fears sufficiently to drive the wagon along the deserted muddy road, as rain pelts down and darkness falls? When the wagon slips sideways into a ditch, Lloyd faces an even greater test.

• *That's Hockey* (David Bouchard, illustrated by Dean Griffiths, 2002)—When Etienne takes his cousin out to play street hockey for the first time, he has a lot of explaining to do; street hockey is not like ice hockey. The game is more about fun in the snow than about winning or losing. Etienne's cousin comes away with a talisman and a story worth passing on.

• *Victory at Paradise Hill* (William Roy Brownridge, 2002)—Danny, the moccasin goalie, and his friend, Anita, have been turned out of their hockey league. Danny's brother, Bob, who plays hockey for the Toronto Maple Leafs, returns home under mysterious circumstances. On the way back from a local tournament, Bob reveals his secret, and Danny must put aside his own troubles to find a way to help his brother.

From Whitecap Books

• *A Pacific Alphabet* (Margriël Ruurs, illustrated by Dianna Bonder, 2001)—Head out on a voyage along the Pacific Coast, from Alaska to Mexico, that features delightful sea creatures and fanciful characters. From albatrosses and orcas to Zodiac boats, children can identify objects within the 26 illustrations that start with each featured letter. They can also search for the featured letter itself, hidden within the colorful artwork of each illustration.

• *The Chinese Violin* (Madeleine Thein, illustrated by Joe Chang)—A new language, a new country, a new life: Lin Lin has so many things to adjust to when she and her father move from China to Canada. The only thing that comforts her is the beautiful music her father makes playing a Chinese violin. Then the treasured violin gets broken. Eventually they get a new violin and life gets easier and Lin Lin performs in the school recital, sharing her Chinese culture with her new Canadian friends. This book is based on the animated short film, of the same name, by the National Film Board. ✓

Pender children's author nominated

Pender Island author Andrea Spalding has now been nominated for eight Canadian book awards this year—for her children's books published by Victoria's Orca Book Publishers.

The White Horse Talisman, Book 1 of the *Summer of Magic Quartet*, has been nominated for: Alberta's Rocky Mountain Young Readers Award 2003, Saskatchewan's Diamond Willow Award 2003, Manitoba's Young Readers Choice Award 2003, Ontario's Silver Birch Award 2003, and the Maritime's Hackmatack Award 2003. *The Keeper and the Crows* is nominated for BC's Red Cedar Award 2003. *It's Raining Its Pouring* (illustrated by Leslie Elizabeth Watts) is nominated for BC's Chocolate Lily Award 2003. *Solomon's Tree* (illustrated by Janet Wilson) is nominated for BC's Christie Harris Prize for Illustrated Children's Literature 2003. Janet's paintings for *Solomon's Tree* are also nominated for the CLA's Amelia Frances Howard Gibbons prize for illustration.

Spalding has just launched her second book in *The Summer of Magic Quartet* series, *Dance of the Stones*. ✓

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