

Gulf Islands' Island Tides

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Aug 28 - Sep 10, 2003

Attractions & Accommodation

Vancouver Island & The Gulf Islands, Back Page

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Photo: Hilary Davis

Natural forms of building are becoming popular on the Gulf Islands. Here a group of Cobworks workshop participants build a cob house on Mayne Island (www.katesmaynecob.com). See related article on Salt Spring rammed earth builders, page 6.

Lowdown on the ferry ramp ~ John Wiznuk

There has been a lot of mumbling and grumbling on the *Queen of Cumberland* over the past few weeks in the wake of an August 1 service notice regarding ramp safety regulations. A Transport Canada regulation concerning the ramps of the moveable car platform decks on this ferry has been put into effect. Vehicle passengers who are parked on the overhead decks must now leave their vehicles when the ramp section is being raised or lowered.

Contrary to ferry gossip this is not due to incidents involving the platform decks but is a regulation of long standing that was never properly applied to this vessel.

Perhaps a previous incident on the *Cumberland* brought vehicle platform decks and ramps into sharper focus at Transport Canada. On November 22, 2001, one of the lifting cables that elevate the deck parted, causing one corner to drop and leaving cars stranded on this deck, much to the dismay of passengers. The platform deck was later lowered safely, the vehicles removed and shortly thereafter the *Cumberland* went into refit. Repairs were made, inspected and approved by Transport Canada's Marine Safety division, with special attention to be paid to frequent inspection and engineering assessment of lifting devices in all BC Ferries vessels, and the vessel was back in operation as before.

Many larger BC Ferries, such as the Spirit class, the V class (the older ferries on the Swartz Bay-Tsawwassen route) and the *Queen of Nanaimo* were designed and fitted with platform

decks of a different style to increase load carrying capacity. As written into fleet operating regulations, passengers are kept clear and traffic stopped when these ramps are raised or lowered. According to BC Ferries spokesperson Stephen Nussbaum, a misunderstanding and misinterpretation of the regulations concerning lifting devices on vessels occurred in the context of the *Queen of Cumberland* and it was not until a reiteration of the regulation by Transport Canada on June 30, 2003 that it was cleared up.

Interestingly the *Cumberland's* sister ship, the *Queen of Capilano*, is not affected by these regulations as it was not fitted with platform decks. The *Capilano* runs out of the Horseshoe Bay ferry terminal serving Bowen Island. The platform decks were installed on the *Cumberland* to meet the seasonal need for increased capacity in the Gulf Islands. Up to forty vehicles can be carried on these decks, which is 32% of the total capacity of the vessel. And, as all regular ferry riders have seen, the platform decks can be elevated into the overhead of the vehicle deck space, out of the way when not needed or to make room for overweight vehicles.

The reason for the regulation and its recent enforcement on the *Queen of Cumberland* is Transport Canada's definition of lifting devices on board vessels. They are considered to be of two types: for cargo and for passengers. Ramps for cars to move onto platform decks are definitely in the cargo category, while elevators are for people. Passenger elevators are in a different rating because of enhanced safety devices and redundancies, such as

automatic braking devices in case of cable failure. Passengers will not be allowed to travel, up or down, on cargo lifting devices according to Transport Canada regulations. However, since the *Cumberland's* arrival in service, passengers on the platform deck ramps have been allowed to do just that.

RAMP, please turn to page 2

New Transit bus service to Victoria airport

If you hop on the bus at Swartz Bay ferry terminal next week and find yourself hurtling off to the Victoria International Airport, do not be alarmed, you're not on the wrong bus.

Beginning Tuesday, September 2, the Victoria Regional Transit System has included the airport on its Route 70 buses (the one that travels between downtown Victoria and Swartz Bay). That is the good news, the bad news is that it will only be included as a destination for a few of the buses each day. So for Gulf Islanders, service between Swartz Bay and the airport is sporadic at best—don't pocket your taxi fare just yet!

The tentative fall schedule is:
 • **Swartz Bay to the Airport:** Weekdays—10:30am and 2:30pm; Saturdays/Sundays—12:30pm, 2:30pm, 4:30pm. There is also a Saturday night trip at 10:00pm.
 • **Airport to Swartz Bay:** Weekdays—9:21am, 11:52am, and 6:10pm; Saturdays/Sundays—11:53/11:55am, 1:54/1:55pm, 3:55pm. There is also a 6am trip on Saturdays.

Travel between the two destinations takes approximately 30 minutes. Bus schedules are available on-line at www.transitbc.com/regions/vic or through the BusLine at 250-382-6161. ✓

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Islands Trust Awards Nominees

A total of nineteen people and projects have been nominated for the second annual Islands Trust Community Stewardship Awards Program. The nominated projects range from acquisition of a new provincial park on Hornby Island and creation of a Geolibrary CD ROM on Bowen Island to the Mayne Island Fall Fair.

David Essig, Islands Trust Chair, is pleased with the diversity of the nominations and the quality of the projects. The award process is an opportunity to honour individuals and groups who have donated countless hours and dedication to the stewardship of the Islands in the Trust.

Group Nominations

- Bowen Island Forest & Water Management Society - The Bowen Island Geolibrary
- Conservancy Hornby Island - Link Parsons Conservation
- The Hornby Island Residents and Ratepayers Association - The Hornby Island Community Recycling Depot
- The Mayne Island Agricultural Society and Fall Fair - 78th Annual Fall Fair and Heritage Hall
- The Pender Islands Museum Society - Pender Islands Museum
- The Pender Islands Parks Commission - Liliias Spalding Heritage Park
- Robert Southey, Diane McBain, Terry McMullen and Ann McMullen - Whalewch Farm, Pender Island
- Salt Spring Island Monetary Foundation - Salt Spring Island Dollars
- Islands in the Salish Sea Mapping Project

Individual Nominations

- Jenny Balke - Salmon Barrier Removal, Valens Brook, Denman Island
- Margaret Taylor - Many years of volunteer efforts, Gabriola Island

NOMINEES, please turn to page 7

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Island Tides

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Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.	Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.
26	0150	9.8	3.0	3	0400	2.6	0.8
	0940	1.6	0.5		1220	9.5	2.9
	TU 1745	10.5	3.2		WE 1540	8.9	2.2
	MA 2235	8.5	2.6		ME 2050	10.2	3.1
27	0250	9.8	3.0	4	0500	2.3	0.7
	1020	1.6	0.5		1350	10.2	3.1
	WE 1805	10.5	3.2		TH 1735	9.5	2.9
	ME 2305	7.9	2.4		JE 2130	9.8	3.0
28	0350	9.8	3.0	5	0605	2.0	0.6
	1100	2.0	0.6		1455	10.5	3.2
	TH 1825	10.5	3.2		FR 1950	9.5	2.9
	JE 2345	7.2	2.2		VE 2230	9.5	2.9
29	0450	9.5	2.9	6	0705	2.0	0.6
	1135	3.0	0.9		1540	10.8	3.3
	FR 1845	10.5	3.2		SA 2055	9.2	2.8
	VE				SA 23455	9.5	2.9
30	0030	6.2	1.9	7	0805	2.0	0.6
	0600	9.2	2.8		1620	10.8	3.3
	SA 1215	3.9	1.2		SU 2135	8.5	2.6
	SA 1910	10.8	3.3		DI		
31	0120	5.2	1.6	8	0115	9.5	2.9
	0715	8.9	2.7		0855	2.0	0.6
	SU 1250	5.2	1.6		MO 1655	10.5	3.2
	DI 1930	10.8	3.3		LU 2210	8.2	2.5
1	0210	3.9	1.2	9	0225	9.5	2.9
	0845	8.9	2.7		0940	2.3	0.7
	MO 1335	6.6	2.0		TU 1720	10.5	3.2
	LU 1955	10.8	3.3		MA 2245	7.5	2.3
2	0305	3.3	1.0	10	0330	9.5	2.9
	1030	8.9	2.7		1020	3.0	0.9
	TU 1425	7.9	2.4		WE 1745	10.5	3.2
	MA 2020	10.5	3.2		ME 2315	6.9	2.1

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Pender's fire protection: coming together

~ John Wiznuk

On Saturday, August 16, the South Pender Fire Protection Society voted to amalgamate their administrative functions with North Pender, at what may have been their very last Annual General Meeting.

After a period of questions and discussion the following motion was proposed and passed: The South Pender Fire Protection Society proceed to total amalgamation with the North Pender Fire Protection Society to ultimately form a new organization ... a single Pender Islands Fire Protection Society, responsible for fire protection on all parts of both islands.'

As reported in the May 22, 2003, edition of *Island Tides*, the North and South Pender Fire Departments merged their operational sides to become one fire/rescue service covering both islands on May 20. The negotiations that led to the operational integration have continued over the intervening months with the aim of folding together the administrative boards of the societies into one unit. The directors of both societies are convinced that the next step should be a process that results in total amalgamation—all the assets of both societies combined into one new society, the Pender Islands Fire Protection Society.

However, before any concrete steps can be taken the North Pender Fire Protection Society membership must vote to ratify the administrative measure at their next AGM.

In the meantime, South Pender must purchase a new, underwriters-approved fire truck suitable to the Island's needs and role in the integrated service, keeping in mind the high-value development at Poets Cove. In a recent referendum 83% of South Penderites approved a tax increase to pay for this new firefighting apparatus. This will be one of the major assets they will bring to the table in the upcoming merger.

A successful amalgamation will bring benefits to all parties. The benefits in operational terms are apparent. It is believed that the sharing of administrative costs and assets will also bring benefits. For the time being two independent tax rates will continue for both islands though over time with economies of scale it is thought that they will even out. \

Forest fires and global warming ~ Peter Carter

This summer, there are record temperatures across Europe and near record temperatures in Canada, the US, China and Russia. In India, temperatures have reached 49°C. Forest fires in BC and Alberta have been making the headlines daily. Huge forest fires burn around the world. But as noted by one exceptional editorial in the *Vancouver Sun*, there has been a media blackout on the connection between high temperatures, increased forest fires and global warming. Even that editorial missed one crucial point, however. Global warming increases forest fires, and forest fires increase global warming.

In 1997, a huge forest fire in Indonesia destroyed nearly one million hectares of forest. A University of Leicester study last year found the fires released two thousand million tons of carbon dioxide, which researchers calculated as equal to as much as 40% of the carbon dioxide released by the burning of coal, oil and natural gas every year worldwide. That one fire, the team said, was a major cause of the largest increase in carbon dioxide levels in one year (1997) since record keeping began.

In 1998, huge fires blazed for months in the far eastern regions of Russia. Scientists of the Russian Scientific Academy advised that several millions of tons of carbon dioxide from the fires would add to global warming.

One year ago, renowned University of Alberta ecologist, David Schilder, predicting that the forest industry would take major losses from global warming, warned that the fires would also drive global warming further. Dr. Schilder noted that forest fires in the Canadian western boreal forests have doubled since the 1970s. 'We could potentially get ourselves into a jam where our rates of carbon dioxide loss from forestry could exceed what we're putting out as fossil fuels,' he said. 'While we can control our fossil fuels we can't control our forest fires.'

The economic losses from global warming in BC are already large. The largest salmon runs are moving north to Alaska as the Pacific coastal waters are warming slightly. The pine beetle infestation continues to spread in the Prince George district as warmer winters no longer control the wood-boring insects.

FIRES, turn to page 6

MSP laboratory fees to be cut ~Patrick Brown

The provincial government has announced cuts to the fees paid by the Medical Services Plan (MSP) for outpatient laboratory services. These cuts follow a comprehensive report on laboratory services by Lillian Bayne, one of the researchers for Roy Romanow's enquiry about health care in Canada.

Her report focuses on the testing of blood and bodily fluids, and tissue and cellular analysis. This work is done by private labs and hospitals throughout BC, and is paid for by MSP and through grants to hospitals from the Regional Health Authorities. The total bill is now approaching \$500 million per year.

The report concludes that BC taxpayers and MSP subscribers pay a total of \$100-150 million more for these services than they would in other provinces. The report also makes recommendations for improved overall planning, increased training, an integrated information system, and improvements in standards and accountability for both public and private laboratory services.

Outpatient Testing Costs Are High

BC's per capita costs for outpatient tests, says the report, are 28% higher than Ontario's and 50% higher than the Canadian average. Over half of the costs are paid through MSP, which are increasing at 7.4% per year, far outstripping population growth. Privately run laboratories receive 65% of this revenue.

Private labs derive about 66% of their revenue from the 'Top 20' laboratory procedures, at an average of about \$15 per test. Public labs, including hospital labs, derive 56% of their MSP revenue from the 'Top 20'. In addition to MSP fees, public labs also receive funding, in varying degrees, from the Regional Health Authorities. But they are also responsible for 'round-the-clock' hospital inpatient and emergency services, for carrying out the more complex and labour-intensive analysis, and for services in the more remote areas of the province. (Out and inpatient laboratory systems are separate in BC.)

MSP, turn to page 5

RAMP, from page 1

Transport Canada spokesperson, Rod Nelson, explained the reason for this ruling and said that this is by no means a new regulation. It has been Transport Canada's understanding that part of the standing operating procedures for BC Ferries was not to lift people on cargo elevating devices, i.e. ramps. He indicated that BC Ferries had been informed of this before the latest notice of June 30. So, it looks as if leaving the car while ramps are being operated is going to be part of travelling on the *Queen of Cumberland* and other similarly equipped vessels.

Discussions between BC Ferries and Transport Canada concerning this regulation, how it affects current vessels and future designs, is ongoing. Nelson did say that with proper modification the ramps of *Cumberland's* platform decks could be made to conform with Transport Canada's specifications for passenger elevators. Whether the newly reconstituted ferry corporation can afford this remains to be seen.

Other Safety Concerns

Addressing safety concerns expressed about entering or

leaving vehicles parked on a sloped ramp, Stephen Nussbaum indicated that the concerns are taken seriously and a deckhand will be stationed there to assist anyone wanting help. Nussbaum notes that the angle of the ramp when lowered is only about eight degrees, not overly steep and that the platform decks do have a 'very aggressive' anti-skid coating which should make footing reasonably secure. Passengers with 'handicapped' stickers or placards for their vehicles should display them prominently on dashboards or windshields and they will be parked on the main deck. In the winter, when heavy rains or ice may make walking more treacherous, the ship's officers will decide whether the ramp will be used or not.

Perhaps we as ferry passengers have enjoyed this little perk of riding the ramp so long that its withdrawal seems irritating. But BC Ferries is a safety first company and all we have to do is remember news reports of ferry disasters in other parts of the world, where standards are not as high and regulations not enforced, to be more accepting of small hassles. /

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We're heading for the Labor Day weekend, it's hard to believe it is the last weekend of summer!

Zucchini, Zucchini Everywhere

One big sign that summer is winding down is all of the zucchini bobbing around the Island. Growing zucchini is fraught with social implications. People who come to dinner bring a 'nice big zucchini'; the implication being not for dinner tonight, we're sick of zucchini, but for your dinner another night!

Zucchini is a foolproof, exuberant grower in any locale. First-time gardeners sometimes put in four or six plants, one for each member of the family and some for friends. These wildcard people put quite a stress on established zucchini social disposal options.

Zucchini is practically deer proof—only a desperate deer will subject their mouths to the prickly stalks. And the unplucked zucchinis take weeks to rot—thus engendering long-term zucchini glut guilt: 'I guess I could make more zucchini fudge.' A member of my family regards them as a complicated way to get water into your system and advocates eating the blossoms to save yourself all of the social problems.

The Paul White Jazz Dance is the next social function asking for supper contributions. Such an open-ended request is dangerous this time of year—I know what I am bringing and lots of it! And I love jazz, which is a bonus.

Return to School

The reality of school is beginning to rise from the joy of June liberation. Our university and college students are registering for classes and the kids in our Island schools are going to town to get their first day school outfits and notebooks and all the other paraphernalia. Visiting kids are making the most of their last summer fun. Grandmas and grandpas are recollecting their wits and lives after boisterous visitations from their kids and grandkids. Life is quiet after Labor Day!

The Euphoniously Feminist and Non-

Performing Quintet launched their new CD, *About Time*, in the Saturna Café and gave a concert to about 30 people. Pat Davit and Marisa Orth-Pallavicini have been Saturna weekenders for years. They have entertained Saturna audiences on a number of occasions. Having the band with them was lots of fun. The women write almost all of their own music and lyrics. They are definitely political, personal and funny. As I have heard them over the years their harmonies and musicianship have grown more subtle and powerful. This year Marisa wrote a song honoring the Vancouver Folk Festival and the group sang it in front of 15,000 people at the main stage on Saturday night of the festival.

Meetings, Meetings All Around

We have lots of community discussions going on right now. The Saturna Dock Replacement Committee ended up with two meetings on one day and meetings every week for a month before that. They are considering the configuration of the new Lyall Harbour dock and how it will be managed. The APC is considering a proposed bylaw to change the original dealing with home occupation regulations and home-based industry regulations. The Saturna Community Club and the Recreation Centre Society are trying to figure out how to manage the proposed Recreation Centre. Unless you are very community minded and/or have an obsession for attending meetings, the discussion and decision-making process doesn't make much sense or have much meaning until you need it!

Speaking of which, Lionel Kearns and his wife Gerry Sinclair, East Point residents, would like to thank the ambulance crew, James Cowan and Barb Ropars, who came out, packed up Lionel and his smashed finger and bundled him off to Victoria General Hospital. Gerry said she had never really thought about exactly what the emergency service was like on Saturna. Now she that knows, she and Lionel are deeply grateful and very impressed by the compassionate,

professional help they received.

Saturna Trustee Elected

Islands Trust Council met on North Pender Island recently. One of our Trustees, Tom Johnstone, was elected as the community liaison to the Park committee that manages the new Gulf Islands National Park Reserve. The Trust is pleased that the management planning for the Park is underway since the final agreements that officially inaugurated the Park on May 9 were signed by Canada and BC. Including the local island communities in planning ensures that the parks will work for the general public as well

as the established island communities. Ron Hamilton, through Parks Canada, will provide \$30,000 to update Official Community Plans and bylaws to reflect the Parks presence. Parks is also committed to coordinating plans with volunteer infrastructure (fire departments, ambulances, etc.) and providing support for the impact of increased visitors to the Islands. Parks Canada plans to establish an emergency evacuation helicopter site on Saturna to respond to emergencies. The Gulf Islands National Park is spread out over 29 sites on 15 islands and over 30 islets and reefs in the Islands Trust Area. /

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The fishing season is imminently upon us, and many will suffer through the embarrassment of not knowing the bewildering lexicon of salmon names. For the American visitors, it is again different. When is a Spring a Smiley? Who is Jack Salmon? If dog salmon are fish, are dog fish salmon? To avoid having to ask, here is the first (maybe) definitive glossary of salmon names.

Definitely Not The Ferries!

Once a King, always a Spring

John Carlton



There are five types of salmon in our waters: *Onchorhynchus Gorbusha*, *O.Keta*, *O.Nerka*, *O.Tshauytscha* and *O.Kisutch*. These are the impossible to pronounce Latin names for fish that never lived in ancient Italy. People who catch fish are obviously better at naming salmon than marine biologists, not to mention what the First Nations think of such names, anyway, here goes:

CHINOOK: (*O.Tshauytscha*) This is one of the original names for what is also a Spring. This is everybody's darling, and comes in red and white.

COHO: (*O.Kisutch*) This is considered the best to catch, and is good to eat.

JACK: This is any salmon that is approaching fresh water, and deteriorating as it sort of eats itself while its organs shut down as it changes into a spawning salmon, and bear food, and then forest fertilizer.

JACKSPRING: Pay attention now, this is not quite the same as a jack spring. A Jackspring is a Spring that did not go to sea but stayed close to inshore, and did not grow to the normal size of a Spring. If you want a violent argument with a fisher, discuss these definitions.

DOG: (*O.Keta*) A low-quality salmon that winds up in generic cans in the supermarket, not much fun to catch, sometimes known as a Calico or Qualla. Other names are unprintable.

HUMPIE: A commercially caught Pink. Also Slimey or Slotback.

KING: An American Spring.

PINK: (*O. Gorbusha*) A common fish, especially off the bluffs of North Pender in September, low commercial value but quite good to eat, and the backbone of the local sports

fishing industry.

SILVER: American Coho.

STEELHEAD: Not really a salmon at all, but a badly disoriented trout that thinks it is a salmon, and goes to sea.

SILVERBRIGHT: A Spring that is still in its deep water colours and has not headed into shallow water, where the brightness fades. It is almost invariably troll caught off the West coast, and is the basis of top grade wet smoke lox, the very best thing that the industry produces, with the best return.

SMILEY: A Spring over 9-1/2 lbs. for export, and over 12 lbs. for sale locally. These weights represent the average of several commercial fishers, categoric statements. It is named after the look on the fishers' face, not on the fish's face.

SOCKEYE: (*O.Nerka*) Very red flesh, not great to catch, but excellent to eat.

SPRING: The commercial name for Chinook, King, or Smiley.

SLAB: All Slabs are Springs, but not all Springs are Slabs. To be a Slab, you also have to be a Smiley, better you be a Tyee.

TYEE: A spring over 30 lbs; a religious object worshiped by sports fishers.

FISHER: (*Mustela Pennanti*) A large fur bearing weasel, close relative to the mink, polecat, and other stinky carnivores. Although the Oxford Dictionary actually does recognize 'Fishers' as an archaic word for someone who catches fish, I do wonder about the wisdom of people demanding to be called 'Fishers' purely on grounds of political correctness. /

Readers' Letters

Walker Hook and Bill 48

Dear Editor:

I wanted to let you know how much we appreciated your article on the Walker Hook sablefish hatchery development. Many people have remarked on it and said it gave them the overview they needed to better comprehend what is happening there.

Would you be interested in doing an informational piece on Bill 48 and its implication to our islands?

Donna Martin, Salt Spring Island

Ed's Note: Patrick Brown is researching the impact Bill 48 may have on our islands. Watch the next couple of issues for his report.

Wrong Hero

Dear Editor:

John Carlton, in his recent send-up of The Leader Of The Free World, chooses the wrong hero, I think. To compare John Wayne with George W. Bush is to compare apples to apples. There's not a dime's worth of difference.

John Wayne, 'because his career was just taking off,' requested and got an exemption from World War Two. During the following decades he won every cinematic war for the US, and eventually received from the Congress a special medal for his patriotism and bravery before the camera.

G.W. Bush made himself scarce during the late unpleasantry in Viet Nam. Having no personal experience of war, Mr. Bush fears not to send other mothers' sons to dangerous places—perhaps to be maimed or to die—where they are neither needed or wanted.

I noticed recently that the President has developed a wonderful strut, befitting a conqueror. We see again that power tends to corrupt. Et cetera.

Gerald Woods, Pender Island

Protecting Dogs Worldwide

Dear Editor:

I have been enjoying Ross McKinnon's letters from China, recalling time spent there in the early eighties.

His food column (July 17) was disturbing though, as he described all the live animals for sale at the market, including dogs.

WSPA (World Society for the Protection of Animals) is working to stop the cruelty of the dog meat trade. WSPA investigators visited dog farms, slaughterhouses and dog meat

markets in South Korea and China. They saw appalling cruelty and inhumane killing, but I will spare you the details. Some of the dogs and puppies sold for food are strays taken from the streets, others are raised on dog farms.

Please consider helping the work of WSPA by calling 1-800-363-9772 or visit www.wspa.ca.

Janice McLean, Salt Spring Island
Canadian Beef

Dear Editor:

As a Canadian cattle producer, my goal is to make more Canadians aware of the current beef cattle situation. Although you may have heard about what is going on, unless you personally know someone who is involved in the cattle industry, you may not know the seriousness of the circumstances.

I am the wife of a beef cattle farmer in southwestern Manitoba. My husband, Jimmy, has been in a cow/calf operation for over forty years. As everyone knows, farming is a gamble. For the most part we have always accepted this gamble.

The entire country has heard about the current issue of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) or Mad Cow Disease, but I have found from talking to the general public that few people know the true situation. On May 20, 2003, one case of BSE was discovered in Alberta. Because of this report, the American and other borders were closed to Canadian exports of beef. After the initial finding over 1,700 head were slaughtered and tested for BSE. ALL test results came back negative to the disease. Because of one cow testing positive more than three months ago, the beef industry is almost at a standstill today.

It is our opinion that even if the borders are re-opened today, any progress will be lost if another case of BSE is found at any time in the future. It is our view that we should find our market within our own country. At the present time beef products are still imported from outside of Canada. If the Canadian public purchases these products, they will continue to be imported. Some fast-food companies, restaurants and markets have supported the beef producers and are now selling only Canadian beef, or will be in the near future.

If you would like to help the future of Canadian cattlemen, please purchase only Canadian beef and ask restaurants if they are using only Canadian beef in their menus. This consideration would help us immensely...

You can contact me at dlogeot@hotmail.com, I would be interested in hearing your thoughts.

Doreen Logeot, Manitoba

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'Celebration,' Willem Breddels exhibition—acclaimed
Dutch Master working with oil on canvas and gouache • portraits by commission, art lessons available • Opening reception: Sat, Aug 30, 4-7pm; Exhibition: Thurs-Sun, 11am-4pm • Galiano Art Gallery in the Galiano Inn, 2 mins walk from ferry terminal • Info: 250-539-3539, www.galiano-art-gallery.com • ON GALIANO ISLAND



Sunday, September 7

Clicks for Clinic Walk-A-Thon—Pender Lions 6.5km
fundraiser walk for storage capacity for supply of emergency fresh water at the clinic • Start and finish at Lion Tourist Info Centre • 2pm • Pledge forms available at the usual places • Info: Al Stenson, 250-629-6990 • ON PENDER ISLAND

Sunday, September 14

2003 Pender Island Terry Fox Run • Run, walk, jog, cycle or rollerblade for the Marathon of Hope • 1, 5, 10km courses • Beautiful route starts and finishes at Community Hall • Start 9am • Participate or volunteer • Everyone welcome—pledge forms at various locations • Info: Carolyn Elliot, 629-3133 or David Boyd, 629-9984 • ON PENDER ISLAND

Saturday & Sunday, Sept 13 & 14

'Agriculture: Something to Crow About,' Salt Spring Island 107th Fall Fair—an old-fashioned country fair in a lovely park-like setting—horticulture, crafts, livestock, 4H, antique machinery displays and demonstrations, great entertainment, horse show and much more • Zucchini 500 back by popular demand • Farmers' Institute, 351 Rainbow Road, Ganges • SAT: 8am-6pm, SUN: 8am-5pm • Tickets: adults \$4; children 7-17 \$2; 6 & under free • Info: Rick Vipond 250-537-2484 or 537-4755 • ON SALT SPRING ISLAND

Fri, Sat & Sun, Oct 10, 11 & 12

Body Soul and Spirit Expo—holistic fair with exhibits, lectures, workshops and health-conscious food • over 100 exhibitors covering healing and intuitive arts, wellness products, etc. • speaker list available on-line • Pearkes Recreation Centre, 3100 Tilcum Road (free parking, accessible by bus) • FRI: 3-10pm, SAT: 10am-10pm, SUN: 11am-7pm • Tickets: \$10/day, \$25/weekend, workshops various prices • Info: 1-877-560-6830 or www.bodysoulspiritexpo.com/expo/victoria • IN VICTORIA



Every Saturday until Thanksgiving

Mayne Island Farmers Market—local produce (veggies, fruit, berries, flowers, plants, lavender, herbs, coffee, muffins, bread, eggs, & chocolate); arts & crafts (jewelry, woodwork, yarn, soap, artwork, greeting cards & accupressure); & a BBQ lunch with music!—thank you for shopping local! • Ag Hall Grounds on Fernhill Road • 10am-1:00pm • Info: Joanie, joanie@gulfislands.com, 250-539-9925, or Tom & Trudy 539-2790 to reserve a table • ON MAYNE ISLAND

Saturday, August 30

6th Annual Jazz Dance—featuring the triumphant return of The Donnie Clark Allstars—light food fare by donation, cash bar • Saturna Community Hall • 8:30pm-11:30pm • Tickets: \$10 • Info: Paul White, 250-539-9884, jazzbo@gulfislands.com • ON SATURNA ISLAND



Sat & Sun, August 30 & 31

Labour Day Weekend Family Fun Swims—enjoy Saanich Commonwealth Place's wavepool, waterslide, pirate ship, toddler pool, family changerooms, steam, sauna, whirlpool, and length swimming—Fun Swims: 10-noon, 1-5pm • Pool closed for annual maintenance, Sept 1-14 • 4636 Elk Lake Drive (right off Pat Bay Hwy at Royal Oak exit) • 24-hour Swim Info-line 250-727-7108 • IN VICTORIA

Sat, Sun & Mon, Aug 30 & 31, Sept 1

The 136th Saanich Fair—Bloomin' Good Show—floral displays by community horticulturists intertwined with livestock and exhibits, midway, entertainment, food and fun—Saanich fairgrounds, 1528 Stellys X-Road • Tickets: \$8/adults (\$7 Mon); \$5/seniors and youth (\$4 Mon); under 6 free • Info: 250-652-3314 • IN SAANICHTON



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MSP, from page 2

Because of this split in funding and differences in the services provided, Bayne had some difficulty in comparing the public and private sectors.

Private Sector Laboratories Dominate Outpatient Testing

There are two major private sector laboratories, MDS Metro and BC Biomedical. Along with a few very much smaller private labs, they carry out 73% of the testing for the 20 most frequently ordered laboratory tests. They have shown revenue growth of 50% over five years.

Because laboratory testing originally started out over twenty years ago as a service provided by doctors, fees for the work are billed to MHS on a fee-for-service basis. The fees usually included provision for sample acquisition, testing, and the doctor's supervision and opinion. The fees have traditionally been set by a committee of pathologists within the BC Medical Association (and approved, apparently without comment, by MSP).

This has led the private labs, now carrying out 15 million tests per year, to concentrate on high-volume tests which can be effectively automated, and on multiple tests on one sample. The report indicates that, despite productivity increases estimated at up to 2% per year, there has been no reduction in unit costs for volume, and no attempt to initiate any kind of price competition.

The private labs have also, quite naturally, concentrated on providing services in urban areas, where high volumes and efficiencies of scale are achieved. This leaves the public sector to provide services in less-populated areas, and to carry out the lower-volume, but often more labour-intensive, tests.

The profit margins in the private sector, says the report, are 'considerable'.

Government Announces Cuts

The government has announced 20% cuts in Medical Service Plan (MSP) fee levels for laboratory testing. The cuts will occur

MSP, turn to page 6

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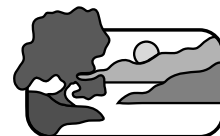
Create a Gulf Islands waterscape poster

Islanders who want to preserve our fresh water can attend a free workshop to help create a Gulf Islands Waterscape Poster. Co-sponsored by the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) and the Islands Trust, the workshop will take place in Nanaimo on September 9 and 10.

Created through community feedback at the workshop, the poster will help island communities understand how islanders use water, where it comes from, and how surface and groundwater systems work in the Gulf Islands. The poster will also include practical information about freshwater conservation and protection in the Gulf Islands.

Once the poster is completed, it will be available through the internet and organizations that promote water stewardship will be able to use its graphics in educational products. To view the waterscape poster done on Bowen Island see www.bowenland.info/waterscapes.

If you are interested in participating in the workshop, contact Jas Chonk at (250) 405-5164 or jchonk@islandstrust.bc.ca by September 4.



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Rammed earth homes nominated for awards

Terra Firma Builders, winner of the Canadian Home Builders Associations' Best Builder in BC 2000, is in the running for more housing awards for their rammed earth construction. CHBA-Victoria announced that the Salt Spring builders have been selected as a Silver Finalist in three categories for the 2003 CARE Awards (Construction Achievements and Renovations of Excellence).

Terra Firma Builders are 2003 CARE Silver Finalists for Best Single Detached Custom Home Under 1800 sq. ft, Best Single Detached Custom Home 1800 sq. ft to 2999 sq. ft. and Environmental Achievement. The two award-winning custom homes are both on Salt Spring Island and have two-foot thick walls of stabilized and insulated rammed earth.

One of the rammed earth houses to win as Silver Finalist is an environmentally-friendly home in the village of Ganges.

Over 1500 people toured the home last winter to view its earth walls, recycled rubber tire roof, low EMF wiring, gutterless design, solid wood cabinetry, slate countertops and radiant in-floor heat.

Terra Firma's president, Meror Krayenhoff, is convinced that rammed earth construction addresses many of the problems with our current stick-frame homes. Rammed earth doesn't rot or mold. Rammed earth is durable, low maintenance and has great indoor air quality. 'In parts of Western Australia, twenty percent of new housing starts are in rammed earth,' says Krayenhoff. 'There's no reason it won't take off the same way in Canada.'

Silver Finalists will discover who will receive Gold CARE Awards in a celebration at the Fairmont Empress Hotel on September 20, 2003. /

Trust Council to meet on Gabriola

The next quarterly meeting of Islands Trust Council will be held on Gabriola Island from September 10 to 12, 2003. Trust Council sessions will focus on landscape classification mapping, a talk by the Sneuneymuxw Treaty Negotiation team, the 5-year plan for the Trust Fund Board, options for improving local government in the Trust Area, and a review of Trust Council's recent accomplishments and planned activities based on its strategic agenda.

The business meeting will include the following topics:

- Island Sustainability Projects—Trust Council will consider funding allocations to more local projects that build partnerships for economic, environmental and social aspects of island communities. Projects on Salt Spring and Hornby Islands were funded in June.
- Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program—Trust

COUNCIL, turn to page 7

MSP, from page 5

in two stages: 8% on September 1, 2003, and a further 12% on April 1, 2004. The total estimated annual savings will be some \$60 million, of which \$25 million is targeted to 'reinvestment' in lab services, and \$35 million will go to funding other aspects of the health care system.

The BC government has also instructed the Regional Health Authorities to initiate competitive bidding for laboratory services.

One of the private laboratories, MDS Metro, has told its shareholders that it has plans to 'mitigate' their expected revenue loss. The fee cuts will, of course, also affect those

hospitals, particularly in the interior, which depend to a significant degree on revenue from MSP fees.

The cuts, though unprecedented in BC, are not unique. Ontario has recently reduced its fees for blood work, Manitoba has initiated volume discounts for fee-for-service tests, and Alberta has reduced the fee-for-service pool and repatriated some tests from the private to the public sector.

Personnel Best Paid in Canada

In the public sector laboratories there are 3700 employees, accounting for 75% of costs; in the private sector 1600. Wages at virtually all levels in both sectors are higher than elsewhere

in Canada; this has so far enabled BC to avoid shortages of personnel that have cropped up in the rest of the country. But there are significant inequalities in the remuneration of pathologists between the public and private sectors; private sector professionals can earn as much as two or three times public sector salaries.

System Management Criticized

Not surprisingly, the report criticizes the lack of co-ordination and control that results from the split between outpatient and inpatient record systems, pointing out that tests are often duplicated because records cannot be found (27 different record systems are in use in the province). Sometimes, says the report, public and private organizations compete for the same work in the same community.

The technical quality of the work is monitored and measured, says Bayne, but there is no provision for ensuring that the right tests are done at the right time, or that the right decisions are taken as a result.

The report also criticizes the absence of system-wide planning for new technologies or human resources. It also puts considerable emphasis on improving test standardization, the creation of one single province-wide Laboratory Information System, and significant improvements in provincial co-ordination and leadership. This, it says, will require considerable reinvestment in the system.

Financing and Reinvestment

On this subject, the report says, 'The amount of investment resources required for success cannot be acquired by ad hoc cuts to one or other funding pool—HA's grants or MSP fees. Reinvestments that serve to create a system of lab services must be drawn from the system as a whole.'

This appears to contrast with the government's announced intention to carry out cuts, 'reinvest' only part of the money thus saved, and divert the rest of it to other parts of the health care system. /

FIRES, from page 1

Even before the forest fires, much of the timber industry in BC was shut down due to excessive fire hazards brought on by the drier, warmer weather. As if this weren't bad enough, much of the burnt forest (under global warming conditions as well as forests that are burned for agriculture) will not grow back, losing the forest carbon sink effect.

Professor John Schellnhuber, of Britain's Tyndall climate research centre, says that the unprecedented heat wave in Europe is consistent with the possibility 'that man-made climate change is proceeding much faster and stronger than current predictions.' The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that temperatures will rise 5°C over the next century. It is likely this figure will be revised upwards to between 7°C and 10°C. But the IPCC is not authorized to factor in an accelerated global warming scenario from worldwide forest fires. /



CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

MAYNE ISLAND WATER SERVICE REFERENDA

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO VOLUNTEER AS A SCRUTINEER AND ADVANCE VOTER REGISTRATION

SURFSIDE PARK ESTATES WATER SERVICE REFERENDUM

Take notice that the assent of the electors is required with regard to proposed Bylaw No. 3087, *Surfside Park Estates Water Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2003* and *Bylaw No. 3088, Surfside Park Estates Water Service Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1, 2003*. Qualified electors of the proposed Surfside Parks Estates water service area, on Mayne Island, in the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area will be asked to vote on the following question on **Saturday, November 8, 2003:**

"Are you in favour of the Capital Regional District Board adopting *Bylaw No. 3087, Surfside Park Estates Water Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2003* to create a service to operate a water supply system and *Bylaw No. 3088, Surfside Park Estates Water Service Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1, 2003* to permit borrowing of up to \$272,000 for constructing new waterworks? YES or NO"

SKANA WATER SERVICE REFERENDUM

Take notice that the assent of the electors is required with regard to proposed *Bylaw No. 3089, Skana Water Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2003* and *Bylaw No. 3090, Skana Water Service Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1, 2003*. Qualified electors of the proposed Skana water service area, on Mayne Island, in the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area will be asked to vote on the following question on **Saturday, November 8, 2003:**

"Are you in favour of the Capital Regional District Board adopting *Bylaw No. 3089, Skana Water Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2003* to create a service to operate a water supply system and *Bylaw No. 3090, Skana Water Service Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1, 2003* to permit borrowing of up to \$157,700 for constructing new waterworks? YES or NO"

SCRUTINEERS

Applications to act as a scrutineer for those organizations for and against the bylaws shall be received at the offices of the Capital Regional District (CRD), P. O. Box 1000, 524 Yates Street, Victoria, B.C. V8W 2S6 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. from **Monday, September 22, 2003 until Wednesday, October 1, 2003**. Application forms are available at the CRD by telephoning Toll Free 1-800-663-4425 local 3129 or 250-360-3129.

LIST OF REGISTERED ELECTORS

Beginning Wednesday, August 27, 2003 until Wednesday, September 24, 2003 a copy of the list of registered electors for the Mayne Island, Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area will be available, **upon signature**, for public inspection at the CRD offices listed below. You may also call the following offices to enquire whether your name is on the Voters' List:

• **CRD Administration Dept.**, 524 Yates Street, Victoria, B.C. (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Mon. to Fri., excluding holidays), Toll Free 1-800-663-4425 local 3129 or 250-360-3129

• **CRD Building Inspection** (Southern Gulf Islands), #210-771 Vernon Ave. (Gateway Village), Victoria, BC (Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.), 250-475-1581

ADVANCE VOTER REGISTRATION

Advance Voter Registration closes on Wednesday, September 24, 2003 for the Mayne Island, Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area Voters' List. You may also register on voting day if you meet the qualifications set out below:

You are entitled to vote as a **Resident Elector** if you:

- are 18 years or older on voting day (November 8, 2003)
- are a Canadian Citizen
- have resided in British Columbia for six months
- have resided in your community (*ie. one of the water service areas described above*) for 30 days

If registering on voting day, you must provide two documents proving identity and residency, one of which must have a signature.

You are entitled to vote as a **Non-Resident Property Elector** if you:

- are 18 years or older on voting day (November 8, 2003)
- are a Canadian Citizen
- have resided in British Columbia for six months
- have owned and held registered title to property within the boundaries of the local community (*ie. one of the water service areas described above*) for 30 days
- do **not** qualify as a Resident Elector

You are entitled to vote as a **Non-Resident Property Elector provided that you:**

- (a) have registered on or before September 24, 2003, **OR**
- (b) have applied for and received a certificate, prior to voting day, which entitles you to register as a Non-Resident Property Elector (certificate **MUST** be presented at the time of voting); **OR**
- (c) apply for a certificate, at the time of voting, which entitles you to register as a Non-Resident Property Elector, if the following information is provided at the time of application:

- a **recent** land title registration of the real property **OR** a property tax notice, which will show the **names of all the registered owners; AND**
- 2 pieces of identification (one of which must have a signature), **AND**
- in the case of more than one owner of the property, a completed consent form signed by the majority of the owners designating you as the person entitled to vote for the property.

For more information about registering as a Resident Elector or a Non-Resident Property Elector, call Toll Free 1-800-663-4425 local 3129 or 250-360-3129.

Dated this 27th day of August, 2003.

Thomas F. Moore,
Chief Election Officer

This notice is being published in this newspaper as a convenience only and not in accordance with the legal requirements pursuant to the Local Government Act.

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MEETINGS

School District #64 (Gulf Islands). A regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees will be held at School Board Offices, Rainbow Road, Ganges, Salt Spring Island, on Wednesday, Sept 10th commencing at 1 p.m. Public Welcome!

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NOMINEES, from page 1

- Giles Bassett - Even Side Farm and Market, Hornby Island
- Tony Quin - Link-Parsons Acquisition, Hornby Island
- Chris Ferris - Supporting Land Stewardship, Lasqueti Island
- Pat Forbes - Life Long Endeavours, Lasqueti Island
- Donald Twohey - Participation in Election Campaign, Passage Island

• Kathy Reimer - Stream Stewardship Program, Salt Spring Island
 The Islands Trust Council will give two awards in each category to recognize and encourage individuals and organizations that support the mandate of Islands Trust. The Trust will select winners during its quarterly meeting in September. Winners will be notified and their awards will be presented at Local Trust Committee meetings. ✓

COUNCIL, from page 6

Council will consider its next steps in extending this program to the Capital Regional District so those who place conservation covenants on their property will be able to realize a partial property tax exemption.
 • Community Stewardship Awards—see related article on page 1).
 • Freshwater Protection Workshop Report—see related article on page 5).
 The Town Hall Session, a popular forum for informal dialogue between members of

Island communities and Trust Council, will be on the morning of September 12.
 Council sessions are open to the public commencing on Wednesday, September 10 at 1pm and concluding the afternoon of Friday, September 12. For more information or to book an appointment to formally address the Trust Council contact the Islands Trust Office: call 1-800-663-7867 (toll-free through Enquiry BC), fax (250) 405-5155, or email information@islandstrust.bc.ca. ✓

SCHOOL DISTRICT #64 (GULF ISLANDS)

It's back to school time!
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

- **GULF ISLANDS SECONDARY SCHOOL**
537-9944
 School is open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for registration of new students. Pick up of Student Schedule Packages and collection of Student Fees will take place on Thursday, August 28 and Friday, August 29 from 9:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The student fee is \$25 for everyone.
OPENING DAY ONLY, Tuesday, September 2, will be early dismissal (9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.).
 Principal: Ms. Nancy Macdonald
- **SALT SPRING ISLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL**
537-1159
 School will open **August 25 to August 29**, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for registration of new students. **OPENING DAY ONLY**, Tuesday, September 2, will be early dismissal (8:25 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.).
 Principal: Mr. Kevin Vine

Please contact the Principals for the following schools:

- **GALIANO SCHOOL** - Ms. Jean Way/Mr. Glenn Goring
 539-2261 August 27, 28 and 29 - 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- **MAYNE SCHOOL** - Mr. Martin Blakesley
 539-2371 August 27, 28 and 29 - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- **PENDER SCHOOL** - Mr. David Nickoli
 629-3711 August 27, 28 and 29 - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Opening Day Only, Tuesday, September 2 will be early dismissal (9:10 to 11:15 a.m.) **Kindergarten** will begin September 10. During the week of September 2, teachers will host personal visits with Kindergarten students and parents.
- **SATURNA SCHOOL** - Ms. Marie Mullen
 539-2472 August 26, 27 and 28 - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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Sea urchins and sand dollars are intriguing marine animals. Even with no brains, they've prospered for over 500 million years. By comparison, we humans have only been here one or two million years.

There are about 700 species of sea urchins and 150 species of sand dollars worldwide. In fact, sand dollars are found in oceans throughout the world, except off Europe and Antarctica, and are among the most highly populated species of marine life.

Both sea urchins and sand dollars are echinoderms ("spiny-skinned" invertebrates) that live on the ocean floor. All echinoderms

have calcareous plates covered with a soft layer of skin. Like their relatives, the sea stars and sea cucumbers, the sea urchins and sand dollars show five-fold radial symmetry—like spokes in a wheel.

Unlike sea stars, urchins have a hard round body and sand dollars a disk-like body (called the "test"). Sand dollars are essentially flattened sea urchins with reduced spines. Both have five sets of pores arranged in a petal-like pattern. The pores are used to move sea water into an internal water-vascular system (a rudimentary circulatory system).

Sea Urchins and Sand Dollars—No Brains but lots of Sense

Sand dollars live up to their name, burrowing into sandy bottoms in low tide areas or subtidally to 130 feet, in sheltered bays and along open coasts. They are typically found oriented to the currents, lying flat or standing vertically, with a third or more of the body buried. Young sand dollars swallow heavy sand grains to weigh themselves down, and adults fight the currents by growing heavier skeletons. Because sand dollars are unable to right themselves if upturned and will die, it's important not to disturb them. In subtidal areas, even shallow ones, the density of sand dollars can be staggering, more than 500 per square yard.

Sea urchins, sometimes in huge herds, live on the rocky sea floor or in larger tidepools, from the intertidal zone to depths of over 3500 feet. Purple sea urchins actually work themselves into hollows in the rock, to protect them from the pounding surf. The word "urchin" comes from the Greek for hedgehog. Sea urchins look like little hedgehogs with their movable calcareous spines, which can be long or short, blunt or sharp, and sometimes venomous. The spines point out in all directions, and are connected to the skeleton by ball-and-socket joints. Urchins also have five double rows of tube feet protruding from the skeleton, which together with the spines, provide a surprising range of movement. Sea urchins have an anus in the centre of the upper surface, and a mouth in the centre of the lower surface surrounded by five sharp-toothed jaws, which are moved by 60 muscles. The mouth's complex structure is called Aristotle's lantern because the Greek philosopher described it as being similar to an ancient lamp.

Sea urchins use their spines for protection, moving, and trapping food. They eat plant and animal matter, including kelp and other algae, dead fish, sponges, mussels, and barnacles. They use their Aristotle's lantern to chop the food into tiny fragments that can be swallowed and digested. Sea urchins consume so much algae that heavily grazed areas are sometimes referred to as "sea urchin barrens." When the sea otter was hunted to the brink of extinction, sea urchins destroyed whole kelp forests by cutting away at the lower portions of the plants. In the Pacific Northwest, sea urchins are now cultivated for their roe, which is popular in sushi.

The most common sea urchins in our area are green sea urchins, with short, fine, crowded spines and a definite greenish tinge, sometimes found around docks and pilings (see illustration); the red sea urchin, the giant

of the three, up to almost five inches with spines more than two inches long; and the purple sea urchin, with short, stout spines, found mainly on wave-swept shores.

Sea urchins are also well-known to biology students for their laboratory role in teaching the wonder of fertilization and development. In both sea urchins and sand dollars, the sexes are separate. The females release several million tiny, jelly-coated, transparent eggs, while the males discharge sperm. Fertilized

eggs develop into free-swimming larvae, which, unlike the adults, have bilateral symmetry (like us). The larvae travel many miles as they are swept along by ocean currents. The lucky ones eventually sink to the ocean floor and metamorphose into the adult form, a process that can take two to five years. Sea urchins can live up to 30 years, and sand dollars up to 50!

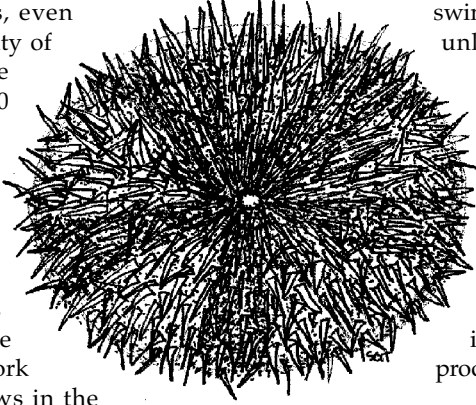
Sand dollars average three inches in diameter. The almost-velvety, black or purplish spines are flattened and smaller than the sea urchin's, allowing them to wiggle through sand, trapping food (organic waste) as they move. Fine, thin hairs cover the spines and, in combination with a sticky mucous, aid in moving food to the mouth. Tube feet stick out from the holes that form the five-petaled pattern on the top surface and are used as gills for breathing. Because of its off-centre petal pattern, our local species is called the eccentric sand dollar. Sand dollars have a modified Aristotle's lantern on the underside for processing small particles of food. Both sand dollars and sea urchins are eaten by sea otters, sea stars, fishes, crabs, snails, and some birds.

Sea urchin spines can sting, are difficult to extract, and can lead to abscessed wounds, so be careful. A popular French expression about someone's stinginess ("He has sea urchins in his pockets") serves as a reminder that they must be handled with care, if at all.

Children have been known to say that sand dollars are pressed sand, or mermaid coins washed up from the deep. Because what we mostly find on beaches are skeletons, it's easy to forget that sea urchins and sand dollars are not mere trinkets, but beautiful living creatures.

For more information on sea urchins and sand dollars, see *Seashore Life of the Northern Pacific Coast*, by Eugene N. Kozloff (University of Washington Press, 1993).

This article is one of a series about the species you might find on Gulf Island beaches. Julie Johnston (writer), Pat Haugh (researcher) and Susan Taylor (illustrator) are members of the Georgia Strait Alliance Straitkeepers, a volunteer group supported by the Pender Islands Conservancy Association (PICA). We conduct surveys of shorelife between high and low tide, to encourage ongoing intertidal stewardship in our community.



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