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# Strait of Georgia Island Tides

Uniting The Salish Sea ~ From Coast To Coast to Coast

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## BC helps Australia mop up catastrophic fires

Nine fire specialists from British Columbia will travel to Australia to assist with and learn from the recent devastating wildfires that have swept across the State of Victoria.

Two senior managers flew to Australia in early February to help assess the most useful role for BC's contingent and prepare for its smooth arrival and deployment. The main BC team, which left on February 17, consisted of fire behaviour, planning and operational experts from across the province. The BC firefighters will spend about 30 days helping the Australians together with 52 officers from New Zealand, 60 from the USA and the thousands from all states in Australia who have been fighting this month's wildland-urban interface fires, which continue to burn.

BC and the State of Victoria are among the most fire-prone environments in the world. The 30-day exchange will help hone the skills of BC firefighters and strengthen the Province's mutual-aid relationship with Australia.

The fires began on February 7, Black Saturday. Spread by a period of unprecedented high temperature, dry conditions and high winds, fires have claimed over 200 lives, burnt down 1,834 houses, and destroyed 400,000



hectares of land. The fires were particularly devastating because they burned in rugged but populated country to within 50kms of the centre of Melbourne, Australia's second largest



city. The fires close to Melbourne were finally brought under control by a cool change in weather. 4,000 firefighters are continuing mopping-up and fire containment measures.

By mid-February five fires, with a combined fire edge of 2,000km, continued to burn out of control. But only one was causing concern. Country

**WILDFIRES, please turn to page 2**

## BC budget accuracy, GAAP questioned

Patrick Brown

Among the many commentaries on February 17's BC budget is one that questions the soundness of its numbers, rather than the allocation of money. Will McMartin at the on-line publication *The Tyee* writes: 'Strangely, Hansen's budget predicts that most of the government's revenue streams will record a significant improvement over the next 12 months.... Overall, Hansen claims that the provincial treasury will receive an additional \$357 million next year compared to the revised forecast for the current year.... Like the revenue side of the provincial ledger, the expenditure side, too, has impossible-to-believe numbers.'

Minister Hansen has estimated the budgetary deficit at \$495 million. McMartin, after going through the estimates in detail, estimates it at \$1 to \$1.5 billion. McMartin comments that 'the only rational explanation for this fantastical result is that, contrary to all available and empirical evidence, Gordon Campbell, Colin Hansen and the BC Liberals believe that the worst of the current global economic downturn is behind us! We're through the rough patch, and things only can improve from here on out. Or, at least until the May 12 provincial general election is over.'

### Accounting Methods

In addition to questions about the accuracy of the BC provincial government budget estimates, questions about the accounting rules that were used are also been raised.

Finance Minister Colin Hansen had assured the public that the budget contained provisions for the unrevealed provincial share of the expected, inevitable increase in the security budget for the Olympics. This figure has now turned out to be \$165 million.

Was this included in the operating budget for the appropriate period? No. Instead, it is to be financed by the

**BUDGET, please turn to page 2**



Photo: Derek Holzapfel

**In the pink on the green. 90-year-old Phil Neal is ecstatic after sinking a long putt during a golf game on Pender Island.**

## Sea change for salmon farms ~ Patrick Brown

Who's in charge of salmon farms? For twenty years they have been under the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands but right at the moment, it looks as if that will end within a year. It all started four years ago with suggestions that concentrations of sea lice from salmon farms in the Broughton Archipelago were attacking and killing wild salmon fry as they migrated by.

In December 2004, Premier Campbell appointed the Pacific Salmon Forum (PSF), led by former federal Fisheries Minister John Fraser, to investigate and make recommendations. This year, at the beginning of February, the forum submitted its report, which not only made recommendations about salmon farms and sea lice, but also about provincial regulations and the provincial government's science policy.

Meanwhile, last October, the BC Supreme Court heard a case brought by Alexandra Morton, a biologist who lives in the Broughton Archipelago (along BC's mid-coast) and maybe the provinces most active campaigner on salmon farm issues. Morton claimed that farmed salmon swimming in net pens in the sea were actually a 'fishery' and therefore constitutionally came under the authority of the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and that the BC regulations were outside its power and jurisdiction.

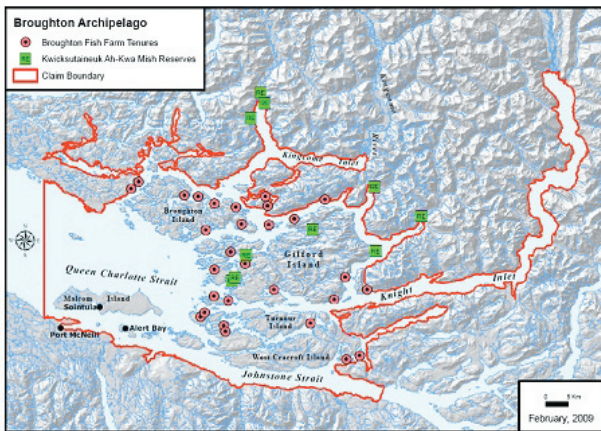
On February 9, Justice Christopher Hinkson agreed. Ron Cantelon, recently appointed Minister of Agriculture, has 30 days to launch an appeal, and at press time has not yet indicated whether he will do so.

Meanwhile, at almost the same time as the release of the Pacific Salmon Forum's report, eight First Nations in the Broughton launched a class-action lawsuit against the provincial government over its regulation of the open-net salmon farms, claiming that their aboriginal rights to the wild fishery had been damaged. The suit, which must yet be certified as a class action, is led by Chief Bob Chamberlin of the Kwicksutaneuk/Ah-Kwa-Mish First Nations, based in Alert Bay.

### Sea Lice Salmon Scourge

Sea lice live and feed on salmon of all sizes. Larger salmon can and do tolerate them, but the tiny 'fry', entering salt water for the first time from the streams and rivers where they hatched, are particularly vulnerable to sea lice infestation.

Floating net-pen salmon farms containing concentrations of farmed Atlantic salmon provide opportunities for unusual concentrations of sea lice to exist, and to transfer to fry as they swim by. In the Broughton, many such farms (see map, above) are located adjacent to migration routes, and sea lice infestation of young fry may have contributed to a decline in returning stocks over the past few years. However, the Pacific Salmon Forum says there is 'no scientific consensus' on this.



The salmon farms have responded by treating their fish with chemicals, and in some cases following farms when wild salmon migrations take place. However, declines in returning wild salmon stocks continue.

In addition, fish farms are accused of not adequately preventing escape of Atlantic salmon, and of polluting the sea bottom beneath their locations with large quantities of salmon feces.

### Provincial Laws and Regulations

The BC provincial government has actively encouraged the development of a substantial salmon farm industry in several locations on the coast inside and outside Vancouver Island. It has licensed locations and passed a number of laws regulating the industry, mainly under the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. It has held that sea-based aquaculture is in fact a form of agriculture, an area constitutionally under the authority of provincial governments. It has protected the farms from liability under the *Right to Farm Act*.

On the other hand, wild fish come under the constitutional authority of the federal government and its Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). Thus the provincial government bears no responsibility for the wild fishery; it may be considered in the course of environmental review of development proposals for water-dependent industry, although this is usually as a result of referrals to, or intervention by, DFO.

### The Pacific Salmon Forum

The recent report of the provincially-appointed Pacific Salmon Forum attempts to reconcile net-pen aquaculture and the wild salmon fishery. It sums up its terms of reference as: 'Today the public policy challenge is to find ways to ensure that this newer industry can prosper without

harming wild salmon or long-established activities that depend upon them.' But the forum does not appear to have allowed this definition to limit their thinking.

In fact, its first and most important recommendation is that British Columbia adopt what it terms a 'transformative management' approach, 'not just to salmon but to the management of all resource industries operating in our watersheds and marine systems,' which could include pretty well all of the province. (A specific reference was made to the run-of-river power proposal in Bute Inlet.)

### The Constitution Matters

Alexandra Morton, accompanied by a number of environmental and fishing organizations, and represented by well-known environmental lawyer Greg McDade, asked the Supreme Court to declare that fish, wild or farmed,

**SALMON, please turn to page 3**



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Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.	Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.
24 TU	0544	10.5	3.2	4 WE	0046	9.8	3.0
	1111	7.5	2.3		0329	9.5	2.9
	1554	9.5	2.9		0811	10.5	3.2
	2242	3.3	1.0		1648	2.0	0.6
25 WE	0559	10.5	3.2	5 TH	0205	10.2	3.1
	1137	6.9	2.1		0536	9.8	3.0
	1649	9.2	2.8		0852	10.2	3.1
	2313	3.6	1.1		1756	2.0	0.6
26 TH	0614	10.5	3.2	6 FR	0255	10.8	3.3
	1206	5.9	1.8		0756	9.8	3.0
	1746	9.2	2.8		1015	9.8	3.0
	2344	4.6	1.4		1902	2.0	0.6
27 FR	0629	10.5	3.2	7 SA	0334	10.8	3.3
	1241	5.2	1.6		0848	9.2	2.8
	1848	8.9	2.7		1158	9.5	2.9
					2001	2.0	0.6
28 SA	0016	5.6	1.7	8 SU	0405	10.8	3.3
	0644	10.5	3.2		0926	8.2	2.5
	1319	4.3	1.3		1331	9.5	2.9
	1957	8.9	2.7		2052	2.0	0.6
1 SU	0050	6.6	2.0	9 MO	0432	10.8	3.3
	0702	10.8	3.3		1003	7.5	2.3
	1403	3.3	1.0		1455	9.5	2.9
	2119	8.9	2.7		2138	2.6	0.8
2 MO	0129	7.9	2.4	10 TU	0456	10.8	3.3
	0721	10.8	3.3		1040	6.2	1.9
	1451	2.6	0.8		1610	9.5	2.9
	2258	9.2	2.8		2220	3.6	1.1
3 TU	0217	8.9	2.7	11 WE	0518	10.8	3.3
	0744	10.5	3.2		1119	5.2	1.6
	1546	2.3	0.7		1719	9.5	2.9
					2301	4.6	1.4



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## Saturna Notes ~Priscilla Ewbank

### Spring Has Sprung, the Grass is Ris...

The dregs and vapours of winter are melting away from the last corners of Saturna, spring is abroad. Snowdrops are blooming, It was a hard winter for lots of gardens. That December/January snow went on and on and shrubs got broken and many of the plants with southern accents are looking dubious. Such is the nature of gardening on the Gulf Islands. You fall in love with a southerner, settle it into your garden, and sometimes they survive the cycle of the year and sometimes not.

Looking green and alive in the cold, wet soil of the garden are leeks, red Russian kale and lots of mustard greens. Grass growth is slow so far and I need it for feeding lambs and ewes and filling out the frame of an old white pony who prefers to graze emergent grass than eat last year’s sweet-smelling hay.

The nettle crop is eagerly awaited. You can spot emergent nettles patches by last year’s bright-white, stringy stems. Crop is the word in our family, because we love to eat nettles as a steamed green, in soup, in pasta sauce instead of basil, and in moussaka and lasagna substituting for chard or spinach.

### ... I Now Know Where the Birdies Is

Now there are bird calls in the dawn—what an energizing sound. Mornings are not nearly as lonesome. Lots of the birds are all gussied up in their brightest ‘come-hither’ plumage. Every once in awhile, birds rocket through the front yard—in swift pursuit of a territorial intruder, or a prospective mate. The days are getting longer at each end, if you don’t watch out your forget about making dinner in a timely fashion because you are beguiled by some exquisite outside task to be accomplished! Just wait till the hour shifts on March 7!

### Montréal Guitare

On Valentine’s Day, the Saturna Arts and Concert Society presented the Montréal Guitare Trio: Marc Morin, Glenn Le’vesque, and Sebastian Dufour. The classically trained trio of guitarists was formed at University of Montreal. They have three acclaimed, award-winning albums.

What a thrilling, energetic adventure! The Marc, Glenn and Sebastian radiate dynamism, virtuosity and a great desire to share their music with their audience. The trio purposely have no music stands to hide behind. The small audience handout contained no program notes so that the audience was not distracted by the process of reading! They play as one, each guitarist is almost always participating. Every hot-lick you ever

#### WILDFIRES from page 1

Fire Association spokesman David Harrison said the plan was to let the fires either burn to constructed containment lines, or to carry out back-burning.

In January 2007, fifty-two BC firefighters were deployed to the area to help respond to wildfires that burned approximately one million hectares. In 2002-2003, bushfires in Victoria swept through 2 million hectares of forest in the south-east and raged uncontrollably for weeks.

Ironically whilst fires were burning in Victoria, towns in the Australian states of New South Wales and Queensland were flooded after receiving 200mm (8 inches) of rain in one day. Areas in Northern New South Wales have been declared a natural disaster area because of the extensive flooding.

Freya Mathews, a research fellow of La Trobe University in Melbourne, has stated that scientists had predicted that such unprecedented weather patterns would become more common as a result of global warming. Mathews has urged the Australian federal government to direct part of its \$42 billion economic stimulus package towards reduction of carbon emissions.

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FEBRUARY/MARCH							
Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.	Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.
24 TU	0552	14.4	4.4	4 WE	0012	13.1	4.0
	1137	9.2	2.8		0425	11.8	3.6
	1646	13.1	4.0		0915	13.8	4.2
	2324	4.3	1.3		1720	3.3	1.0
25 WE	0611	14.4	4.4	5 TH	0141	13.8	4.2
	1208	8.2	2.5		0612	12.1	3.7
	1732	13.1	4.0		1013	13.1	4.0
	2355	4.9	1.5		1830	3.3	1.0
26 TH	0629	14.8	4.5	6 FR	0248	14.1	4.3
	1240	7.2	2.2		0757	11.8	3.6
	1820	13.1	4.0		1139	12.8	3.9
					1940	3.0	0.9
27 FR	0027	5.9	1.8	7 SA	0335	14.4	4.4
	0649	14.8	4.5		0903	11.2	3.4
	1316	6.2	1.9		1315	12.8	3.9
	1911	13.1	4.0		2043	3.0	0.9
28 SA	0101	6.9	2.1	8 SU	0412	14.8	4.5
	0712	14.8	4.5		0951	10.2	3.1
	1354	5.2	1.6		1439	13.1	4.0
	2009	12.8	3.9		2137	3.0	0.9
1 SU	0138	8.2	2.5	9 MO	0442	15.1	4.6
	0736	14.8	4.5		1034	8.9	2.7
	1436	4.3	1.3		1548	13.5	4.1
	2116	12.8	3.9		2224	3.6	1.1
2 MO	0220	9.5	2.9	10 TU	0509	15.1	4.6
	0804	14.4	4.4		1115	7.5	2.3
	1523	3.9	1.2		1648	13.5	4.1
	2238	12.8	3.9		2307	4.6	1.4
3 TU	0312	10.8	3.3	11 WE	0536	15.1	4.6
	0835	14.1	4.3		1155	6.2	1.9
	1617	3.6	1.1		1745	13.5	4.1
					2347	5.6	1.7

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heard on a guitar: from bottleneck slide guitar to flamenco with full percussion accompaniment was there, as well as the vocals.

The concert started with the theme from the movie ‘Psycho’—not my first pick for anything I would want to hear twice—but the Montréal Guitare Trio caught the terrifying emotion and later the silliness of scaring ourselves silly through music. The next piece was a Japanese ghost story, about a monk imprisoned by a magician and made to play, for the monks during the day and the dead by night. Another piece, complete with ringing heel stamps, was a story about Maria from Argentina who was a tango star lured to Brazil by the irresistible samba beat. Two tablas jumped into ‘Garam Masala,’ an Asian piece.

People say that the very wood of guitars influences the way in which they are played—the bones of these guitars must be multicultural! To keep up with the shifts, guitars were tuned during pieces, not just in tuning breaks.

For the finale encore piece, out came a gorgeous, loud-voiced, little concertina and a tiny ten-stringed South American guitar to play a rollicking French Canadian melody.

Each of the artists had written pieces that were played and a short apt description in very comprehensible French-English preceded each one. For Saturna Conert Society’s next exciting offering see ‘What’s On’ page 5.

### Two Grants For Saturna

Here is some magnificent news for Saturna. The Saturna Heritage Committee has received a \$25,000 New Horizons grant for the East Point Fog Horn building. It will be used to refurbish the interior, research and design exhibits, graphics, install furnishings and lighting. Richard Blagborne and the heritage committee are reaching out to volunteers to get involved. Five graduate students at the Centre for Digital Media are focused on an innovative content solution. The group, led by part-time Islander Geri Sinclair, is meeting on February 28.

Saturna also received a \$5,000 grant to train 12 coxswains to row and sail our Spanish longboat *Saturnita*, to create a training manual, to make sails for her and to create a shelter for her in the winter. The shelter will be used by the Saturday Craft Market during the summer. The Saturna Small Boat Society will be active in this project as well as the Saturna Ecological Education Centre. All interested people and future coxswains please make yourselves known! These two projects present opportunities to making a lasting contribution to our community while having a lot of fun with neighbours.

## Stewardship awards

If you know of a person, business or group that has made a big difference to life on your Island, consider nominating them for the Islands Trust 2009 Community Stewardship Awards Program. ‘This program is designed to celebrate the achievements of people who have worked on a project that supports the mandate of the Islands Trust,’ said Sheila Malcolmson, Chair of the Islands Trust.

‘Preservation and protection doesn’t happen without our Island partners, and Islanders all over the federation are inspired to hear about everyone else’s good work. The program is about more than the environment—it’s about community life.’

This is the eighth year of the award program, open to any individual, school or classroom, community group, non-profit organization or business. Nomination forms and more details are available on the Stewardship Awards page of the Islands Trust web site at islandstrust.bc.ca/poi/awards.cfm.

#### BUDGET from page 1

federal government, and the province would pay it back by assuming \$165 million of the federal share of future capital projects (just which ones remain unidentified).

In one brilliant piece of accounting sleight-of-hand, \$165 million is not only omitted from the province’s operating budget, but is also transferred to future capital budgets. Future capital budgets, of course, are financed by borrowing, thus propelling this Olympic expenditure into the indefinite future.

This would seem to give the lie to Hansen’s oft-repeated insistence that the government’s accounting follows ‘Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).’ One must wonder what other fascinating variations on GAAP are contained in the BC 2009 budget.

Will McMartin’s complete article may be found at thetyee.ca/Views/209/02/18/ToxicFudge/.



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Good Life Gardening: Planning My Beds ~ Christina Pechloff

This year, I'm going to have my best garden yet! This is such an inspiring time of year for me. I love new beginnings. I think I must really have it bad—the gardening bug—because in the fall, as I'm still cleaning up the past summer's garden, I already get that familiar feeling of creative anxiety welling up in my belly. I start getting excited about planting and growing things in the summer sunshine again!

Visions of beautiful concentric circles of different coloured baby lettuces dance in my head. Tidy groupings of carrots and broccoli that grow big and wonderful with no wireworm or cabbage moth damage. All the weeds under control. Cabbages that look like giant flowers. Sunflowers standing tall and shining bright and sweet pea flowers that smell divine.

Crop rotation and companion planting are the first things I think about. When we grow our own food year after year, it's really important to rotate the crops. If we don't, we'll deplete the soil of important nutrient balances and encourage plant and soil diseases and pests that are attracted to the area if we've planted the same thing in the same place year after year.

A happy garden that's grown naturally without synthetic chemicals is a garden where plants that are good for each other are planted together and plants that aren't compatible are kept at a distance. So in my mind, crop rotation goes hand in hand with thoughtful companion planting.

Rotation

To garden with a crop rotation plan, we need to start with a basic understanding of the different plant families. This is a big topic and feels a little too much like biology class to me which really gets in the way of my more enjoyable and creative gardening thoughts so I'll just share how I try to keep it simple at my place.

In my garden, I focus on organizing my food crops into these groups:

- 1. cabbage family which includes broccoli and cauliflower, and the lovely brussels sprouts too,
- 2. allium family, garlic, onions, leeks and chives,
- 3. legume family which in my garden is beans and peas,
- 4. tomato family which includes potatoes, peppers and eggplant too,
- 5. carrot family, including dill, fennel, parsley and celery,
- 6. the squash family, cucumbers, melons and pumpkins too,
- 7. spinach, beets and chard,
- 8. lettuce and some other salad greens, and
- 9. corn stands alone.

The idea is that every year I plant each family in a different spot. After 4 years the families can return to the same bed they grew in 4 years ago. And around and around it goes.

Each fall, I like to draw a simple map of my garden which shows what grew where. Now, I can look at diagrams from the past three years and then get out my row markers that are

labelled things like 'carrots' and 'green bush beans' and 'garlic'. I begin to place them in the new year's beds, making sure they don't go into the same bed as in the last three years. It's a bit like a puzzle and works surprisingly well for me.

While I'm deciding on the different plant families I'll grow and how I'll organize the rotation, I also figure out which plants will grow side-by-side and which ones I'll keep away from each other.

Companion Planting

Now this gets really fun. So many creative possibilities. Dream. Plan. Create. Herbs. Vegetables. Flowers.

There are some things I always grow together like cabbages and lemon gem marigolds. Not only do the marigolds discourage the cabbage moth from laying it's eggs on my cabbages, it makes my heart sing every time I look—the little yellow flowers peeking out from around the cabbages are just so beautiful.

One of the best known examples of efficient and beautiful companion planting is the 'Three Sisters' plant combination, originally a Native American approach to growing maize, beans and squash. This combination is now found in modern home gardens everywhere. I love planting 'Three Sisters' in my garden!

When I lived in the city I grew this combo in big half barrel containers. Last year in my Mayne Island garden, I grew my 'Three Sisters' in a round bed about six feet in diameter. I planted 16 sweet corn plants in the center, a whole bunch of bush bean seeds all around the corn plants (3 of these were pole beans so they could climb the corn to show off their lovely red flowers but didn't smother it) and six winter squash plants around the edge of the bed, mingling with the beans and circling the corn forest in the centre. This little garden produced a load of green beans for many of our summertime dinners, most of the corn plants produced two ears of sweet corn each (what a summertime delicacy!) and my squash plants yielded nine orange beauties for winter storage. All from a teeny-tiny piece of earth. One of my gardening successes!

Symbiotic relationship is the beauty of companion planting. Beans and other legumes have the miraculous ability to draw nitrogen from the air and bring it to the soil through their roots. Since corn needs a lot of nitrogen to do well, it loves growing together with the beans that supply it. The corn in return, gives the beans something to hold onto and climb. Squash loves the nitrogen from the beans too. As the vines grow and spread over the ground, the squash serves as a living mulch, keeping the soil moist and keeping weeds from growing.

For some reading, the classic and well known companion planting guide *Carrots Love Tomatoes* by Louise Riotte is a nice place to start.

*This article can be found at [www.islandtides.com](http://www.islandtides.com), in the Reprints section of our online archive, go through 'Salish Sea Good Life,' box in left column.*

Nominations being accepted for 2009 Order of British Columbia

If you know anyone in the community who has truly led by example, I encourage you to nominate them for the Order of British Columbia. This is the 20th anniversary of the Order! The deadline for nominations is 5 pm, March 10, 2009.

Since 1990, 275 British Columbians from all walks of life and many regions of the province have received the Order of British Columbia, the Province's highest award, including Robert Bateman, Alex A. Campbell, Jane Rule, Roy Henry Vickers, Temoseng Charles W. Elliott and R. Hayward Rogers.

Nomination forms are available from the Honours and Awards Secretariat in Victoria (250-387-1616), the Office of Protocol website at [www.protocol.BA2gov.bc.ca](http://www.protocol.BA2gov.bc.ca), or your nearest Government Agent. Please call my office if you need assistance.

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SALMON from page 1

swimming in the sea, were federal rather than provincial. Her action was against the Province of British Columbia, and Marine Harvest Canada Inc, operator of a net pen salmon farm, representative of the 28 farms in the Broughton Archipelago. It is rare that such a constitutional challenge is originated by a private citizen, but Judge Hinkson accepted it as an important matter of public policy.

After considering submissions by the Province of BC and Marine Harvest Canada Inc (the federal government did not participate) the judge concluded, whatever the lawyer for the Province said, that aquaculture was not agriculture, and that the term had been adopted by the province in order to make it appear that their legislation was constitutionally legitimate. Finfish farms, he said, were clearly a fishery, as they occupied areas of the sea formerly occupied by wild fish; they were either part of the BC fishery or a fishery unto themselves. Either way, constitutionally, fisheries came under the federal government.

Further, salmon farms interfered with the public's right to fish in the sea, and polluted the water, all contrary to the federal *Fisheries Act*.


Morton had sought an immediate halt to the provincial regulation of salmon farms, to the extent that the license held by the Marine Harvest farm named in the action would not be renewed. Judge Hinkson declined to grant this, since it would lead to a regulatory vacuum while DFO took over, and instead ruled that the provincial laws and regulations, while *ultra vires*, could continue for another twelve months. At the end of that time, the *Fisheries Act* and DFO regulations would apply and should be enforced. (Morton's informative videos an be viewed: [www.callingfromthecoast.com](http://www.callingfromthecoast.com).)

First Nations Court Action

The class action recently initiated by the First Nations in the Broughton Archipelago must be certified by the courts before it can go ahead. But basically, it seeks action by the provincial government to stop issuing salmon aquaculture permits in the Broughton 'until adequate consultation and accommodation has occurred' with First Nations. They say that salmon farms have caused a decline in the wild salmon stocks. This, they charge, has infringed their fishing rights. They also want the provincial government to 'remediate' the impact of salmon farms on wild salmon.

Commentary

At press time, the provincial government still has time to appeal the Supreme Court's demolition of their salmon farming laws and regulations. The effect of a changeover to DFO regulation is not clear, and just how it can be reconciled with the governance recommendations of the Pacific Salmon Forum is also unclear.

It is significant, however, that the forum made such broad recommendations as to the ecological management and regulation of watersheds and marine areas. Maybe the salmon have the right allies at last. 

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Editorial: Do It Ourselves Economy

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Following the Christmas break given them by the Governor-General, the federal Conservatives were shovel-ready—and shovel it they did. The ‘stimulus’ deficit budget is mostly extensions of existing, not-very-stimulating, government programs. These would have resulted in a deficit anyway, because of the combined impact of tax cuts and a declining economy. The much ballyhooed infrastructure program depends on cost sharing with other levels of government, and requires a PPP review of any project over \$50 million—not exactly shovel-ready.

Even more than the Harper budget, BC’s budget reveals its authors’ reluctance to vary a typically unimaginative approach in the face of an economic decline which, in some sectors, has been going on for some time. Their revulsion at acknowledging a deficit is all too clear (see also related article, page 1).

Refusal to raise minimum wage was the BC government’s most unenlightened move. Putting more money in the pockets of those struggling is a great way to get that money to circulate. The poor need to buy basic-economy things, and will do so at once if there’s more money in the kitty.

Not heard was the message from the public that the BC government’s job is not only to reinforce the corporate economy but also to alleviate the pain felt by laid-off workers and their families, increasingly indebted students, and financially wounded communities and services. It has been drowned out by the continuing echo of that corporate nostrum that government should only provide those services which the private sector will not provide, that the human victims of corporate failure are to blame for their own plight, and that government need assume no additional responsibility—no matter how tough things get for ordinary people.

The only recourse to these budgets is to consider all this brainlessness and heartlessness seriously in the upcoming elections and BC’s referendum. Who do we trust to spend our tax dollars for us?

Rural & Coastal Economy

It is hard to assess the effect of the ‘economic downturn’ on the Salish Sea/Strait of Georgia area. There are some places where major industries have cut-back or shut-down, and people have lost well-paid jobs. Many Islanders are self-employed, may face a decline in business, and aren’t eligible for Employment Insurance.

Some communities have always been subsistence economies, and little may have changed. We have a lot of seniors, who may have sustained significant capital reductions, but who still have income. In many areas, the major industry is construction; there may be fewer new houses, but renovations seem to go on forever.

But in the budget, there really wasn’t much of benefit for individual Canadians, particularly those who are not in a position to benefit from tax cuts or credits.

So it’s up to us, individuals and communities, to fill the gap; certainly neither the federal nor the provincial government is going to help very much. Don’t wait for the funding, whatever your are planning, find a way to just do it anyway. Other Islanders have always been a source of kitchen table loans.

One thing we could do, to raise our spirits and be ready for a different future is to improve our human infrastructure. This is a good time, when things may be slow, to teach, learn, and do what we can—not hibernate.

Most of us are potential instructors, teachers, or both. The minimum number required to start a human infrastructure project is two. (Some would say one, but this loses the really vital benefit of human contact.) Larger groups are, of course, cost-effective and may be even more fun.

Any topic will do—vocational, professional, cultural, or about the arts, the environment, exercise, cooking—whatever. Some projects would build things, others would just build people, or maybe start organizations or businesses.

This challenge is for individuals and organizations. Local

government, service clubs, recreational organizations, businesses, and of course individuals could initiate, sponsor, or just help to create programs large or small.

Activity that involves interaction between people builds community, which is what everyone needs when times are tough and at which the coast’s small communities excel. If you’re OK, probably someone else isn’t OK. If you’re not OK, ask for help. The important thing is to get something happening, right away, that doesn’t depend on government funding. The depression we most have to fear is a cultural one.

We need our own ‘shovel-ready’ projects. To get the ball rolling, *Island Tides* will advertise your program as a ‘Word Ad’ on the Bulletin Board for free. Let us know about your programs and projects. The ‘best’ one will win a genuine Lee Valley shovel!

And really there couldn’t be a better time to get started on projects; that winter milestone, Burns Night, has come and gone (here’s a picture of Saturna youngster, James Frederick Davies,



Photo: Paul Hutcheson

getting into the swing). And now—here comes spring!

Out on open walking trails the light, blue sky, and vistas lift the spirits. In the addition to the early spring blooms, it’s astonishing how many plants are showing signs of life when the winter debris is raked away. Recent sunny days, despite night frosts, have got people out in the garden and down to their boats—even a modicum of cleaning up puts winter firmly behind us and takes us into fair weather plans. There seems to be so much to do to get ready that we have to spring into cheerful action.

Lumberyards and stores that sell seeds are bustling. Those seed catalogues are already well-thumbed and planting plans are being drawn up.

Of course we might get some more snow but it won’t last long and anyway, we might not.

It’s In The Mail—Or Online

A heads-up for Bowen Island readers, we will discontinue our Canada Post blanket distribution of all the mailboxes on Bowen after this edition. We hope that Bowen Islanders have enjoyed their 2008 year-long introduction to *Island Tides*. We have appreciated Bowen Islanders’ enthusiastic response, news tips and kind letters, please keep them coming! You can continue to read *Island Tides* online, or you can buy a \$42.00 publications mail subscription (see to the left, on the masthead). If you would like an email reminder of when each edition is online, please send your email address to islandtides@islandtides.com (our list is absolutely confidential).

At *Island Tides* website, in our archive you will also find hundreds of back issues and single articles arranged by theme. A showcase of informative and inspiring writing by westcoasters.

Our Canada Post delivery to households has risen to a whopping 15,800 copies (we started at 4,000, twenty years ago). Quadra and Cortes Island residents are now getting a turn at receiving *Island Tides* in their mailboxes. For all those Islanders who are enjoying receiving *Island Tides* in their mailboxes, please send in those annual voluntary subscriptions. They are make a difference and are much appreciated.

Readers’ Letters

Rural Agency Stores

Dear Editor:  
The ongoing struggle for survival of Rural Agency Stores (RAS) across BC and Patrick Brown’s article on Private Public Partnerships (P3) in the February 12 edition of *Island Tides* inspired me to write.  
RAS is an early form of P3 developed in BC about 34 years ago. It is an arrangement whereby in communities too small to support a liquor store, a local general store would be permitted to sell alcohol. Thus Pender had a government liquor store while Saturna, Mayne and Galiano with their smaller populations gained agency stores.  
The agency store was given a 10% discount to purchase and required to sell at the same price as the government liquor stores. This provided much of BC with a controlled local supply of beer, wine and spirits at a subsidized rate, and the RAS program provided a subsidy as nobody can cover their costs of running a store with a

10% mark-up. For the most part, RAS put the bootleggers out of business and put better control on sales of liquor to the inebriated and to underaged customers.

When the current BC Liberal government came to power they started to revamp the entire way we sell alcohol in BC with the intent to mostly privatize it. Offsales in pubs had expanded to Cold Beer and Wine Stores (Licensed Retail Sales or LRS) and these were then permitted to sell hard liquor and expand their size. LRS’s can set their own prices, generally about 15% above government, and their discount was raised first to 12%, then 13%, and now to 16% under heavy lobbying by ABLE (the pub and LRS industry organization). They are quite profitable businesses and while they are restricted from selling a full line of groceries they do sell pop, chips and other high mark-up items. At this point there is a moratorium on

LETTERS continued on next page

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### Saturday, March 7

**Suzie LeBlanc with pianist Robert Kortgaard**—presented by the Saturna Arts and Concert Society (SACS); soprano has performed in concerts throughout Europe, North America and Japan, in repertory ranging from lute songs to chamber music to oratorio and early opera • Community Hall • doors 7pm, concert 7:30pm • Tickets \$20 at the door • ON SATURNA ISLAND



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**Alma de España’s Familia Flamenca**—an evening of music, song & dance with Gareth Owen, a phenomenal flamenco guitarist, playing arrangements from his recently released CD, joined by his parents, dancer/singer Veronica Maguire and guitarist Harry Owen • Community Hall • 7:30pm • Tickets: \$18 Talisman Books & Southridge, \$20 at the door • Info: [almadeespana.com](http://almadeespana.com) 250-384-8832 • ON PENDER ISLAND



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**Red Tree Gallery**—works by Bev Peden and Isabel Roberts, artists in attendance at Opening on March 7 • Red Tree Gallery, Hope Bay Store, 4301 Bedwell Harbour Road • Daily 11am-4pm • Info: 250-629-6800 • ON PENDER ISLAND

### Wednesday, March 11

**Pender Island Recycling Society AGM**—The House that Wally Built; a ‘green’ house worth hearing about with Wally Foster • Library • 7:30pm • All welcome • ON PENDER ISLAND

### Wednesday, March 11

**Patricia O’Callaghan in concert**—Gulf Islands Concerts (Pender) presents an elegant and versatile soprano with a large and diversified repertoire, including cabaret, jazz and classical works; piano and bass accompaniment • School Auditorium • 7:30 pm • Admission: single concert adults \$25, children \$5 • ON PENDER ISLAND



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## Reserves to receive funding

Long-awaited funding from Environment Canada to support biosphere reserves across Canada will benefit Vancouver Island’s Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Foundation (MABF). Canadian biosphere reserves are each being provided \$57,000 annually for two years.

In the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve, the funds will be used primarily to hire both a biosphere coordinator and an assistant to work with local communities, businesses, environmental groups and government agencies towards achieving sustainable policies and practices.

A major first task for the newly hired coordinator and assistant coordinator will be to conduct a membership drive in preparation for the MABF’s March 26 AGM and election of officers. The AGM take place at 7pm, in the Parksville Community & Conference Centre. All interested people are encouraged to attend and become members. More information: 250-586-0190, or [info@mabr.ca](mailto:info@mabr.ca).

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#### LETTERS from previous page

applications for LRS licenses and it is not an option for RAS to morph into an LRS—and into profitability.

The result? There exist two streams: an early type of P3 which is only an opportunity for local small businesses to perform a public service and a partly revamped liquor distribution system which transfers government sales, in profitable (ie urban) areas, into private hands which increases the cost of liquor to the public.

Those who make large contributions to political parties (such as ABLE) control the policies. We have a government which came into power promising transparency which is becoming ever more obscure.

Why are your small community RAS stores treated so differently than liquor stores? Because we don’t have the profitability, time and energy to get together in an organization and lobby and purchase government. It doesn’t have anything to do with good governance, just that government itself is being privatized.

Jon Guy, Saturna Island

### Charities Not Solution to Social Problems

Dear Editor:

We, of the South Island Health Coalition, believe that there is increasing coverage of charitable organizations by the media as the government cuts the direct funding for essential social services. In both the print and electronic media, we see increasing mention of the problems faced in the operational costs of charities faced by these very charities in delivering the programs down-loaded to them by all levels of government.

There is no room for charity in the provision of core services to needy citizens. These services are too critical to those needing them to have them depending on personal generosity in the time of economic downturn and decreasing personal incomes.

It would make sense for all levels of government to re-evaluate their priorities in these tough times and prioritize ordinary people over wealthy individuals and corporations. Billions for well-off corporate owners and Olympic promoters, along with those who have enough money to invest in a dying economic model, and relatively nothing for the mass of citizens in this society is a massive conjob of the citizens of BC. All this emphasis on charities does is to allow people like Minister Abbott to have a media event that allows him, with a smile, to announce that he is charitable giving some shoes to the poor. It must have something to do with the government’s attempts to provide a human face for electoral purposes.

We are finding that there is more pressure from government to cut costs in staffing and services in all health services and by all providers, profit and non-profit, at the expense of quality service to users, whether seniors, patients or their families. They should not be allowed by anyone, including all media, to get away with tactics such as emphasizing charitable solutions at the expense of their privatizing agenda.

Phil Lyons and Wendy Strong, Victoria

### Closed Containment For Fish Farming

Dear Editor:

Due to much activity surrounding the controversial fish farming

LETTERS, please turn to page 6

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## December ferry traffic down 10%

Traffic was down 10% in December despite a 33% reduction in fares. In its third quarter financial report, BC Ferry Services Inc reported a net loss of \$14.6 million, almost twice last year's losses of \$7.8 million for the same three-month period, October to December. Revenue had increased but not as fast as expenses.

For the nine months ending December 31, vehicle traffic was down 5.1% and passengers 4.5% from the prior year. Net earnings for the period were 47.5 million, down from 67.7 million in the prior year. Again, expenses had increased faster than revenue; fuel costs, amortization, and interest costs were blamed.

### Northern Expedition Enters Pacific

Meanwhile, BC Ferries *Queen of the North* replacement is through the Panama Canal on her way to Victoria. Built in Flensburg shipyard, *Northern Expedition* left Germany on January 30. She is 150m long, capable of carrying 600 passengers and 130 vehicles. *Northern Expedition* offer 55 modern cabins for customers and an expanded range of amenities.

The new cruise ferry will begin service between Port Hardy and Prince Rupert on the 'Inside Passage' route in time for the 2009 summer season. ☞

### LETTERS from page 5

industry this past week, Minister Cantelon made several statements in his new role as Minister of Agriculture and Lands. I would like to correct his impression that there are no pilot projects of closed containment fish farming existing anywhere in the world today. In fact, in BC alone, there are currently three closed containment salmon farming facilities operating; a pilot project north of Campbell River and two closed containment salmon farms in the Lower Mainland that have been selling small amounts of farmed salmon commercially for many years.

The Minister has also stated that government and industry will look to science to prove if closed containment fish farming will be commercially viable in the future. Science has already proven that salmon can be grown in closed containment. The next step is for government and industry to determine how it can be commercially viable as well as environmentally responsible.

Transitioning the open net pen salmon farming industry to closed containment was recommended by the Special Committee of Sustainable Aquaculture two years ago, of which Minister Cantelon was the co-chair; funding for closed containment research has been recommended by the Finance Committee for the upcoming 2009 BC budget; and now the Pacific Salmon Forum report recommends the BC government 'design and implement a commercial-scale trial of a closed containment system for raising farmed salmon...to recover wastes and reduce the risk of lice and disease transfer to the natural environment.' For the sake of the salmon, let's get on with researching the commercial viability of this technology and transitioning the industry to closed containment as soon as possible.

Michelle Young, Nanaimo

### Riparian Logging Must Stop

The following letter was sent to members of the BC government and also sent to Island Tides for publication.

Dear Editor:

Since this week, old growth logging is now being conducted on alluvial plains, steep river banks and small islands in the middle of rivers.

These areas are the private land of Brookfield/Island Timberlands, but they also control the ability of the rivers, notably Craig Creek and the 'endangered' Englishman River, to maintain the health and quality of their water. Thousands of people drink the water of these watersheds. Vancouver Island has many rivers, with steep banks and below them, alluvial plains covered with old forest,

LETTERS, please turn to page 7



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## MEETINGS

School District #64 (Gulf Islands). A  
regular meeting of the Board of School  
Trustees will be held at Galiano Island  
School, on Wednesday, March 11  
commencing at 1pm. To view the  
agenda for this meeting, please refer to  
[www.sd64.bc.ca/board\\_meetings.html](http://www.sd64.bc.ca/board_meetings.html).  
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### LETTERS from page 6

which until this point, have been safe from logging. This must be at least maintained.

All should know by now to not do this. It is a bold and I suggest desperate act of a company liquidizing its final valuable assets before a widespread sale of its timberlands for real estate.

Legislation increasing protection for rivers and their systems needs to be worked on. Better would be to unite this cause with the creation of an 'Old Growth Systems Act' whereby the services of remaining old growth areas are classified 'essential to the wealth of all.' The first order of business is a 'stop work order.'

I hope all who read this appreciate the seriousness herein.

Robin Shackleton, Errington

### Another Side to Sri Lanka

Dear Editor:

I take issue with Len Walker's letter, because his slant is very pro-Tamil.

I worked for a Swiss trading company in Ceylon for 34 years, 1950–1988, and have experienced first hand the communal strife in Sri Lanka.

Under the colonial rule of Great Britain Sinhalese and Tamils lived together quite peacefully. (They gained independence in 1948.)

Tamils living in the more arid north and east were more amenable to seek employment than the Sinhalese who were independent fisherman (karave), farmers (govigama) and business people.

In order to administer the country the Britishers needed local people with a knowledge of English. The Tamils were more inclined to seek these employment opportunities and learned English. With this knowledge they also became professionals, doctors, architects, administrators etc. The Tamils (2 million) held about 30 % of the university places.

There was a population explosion and the young Sinhalese (14 million) demanded a representative share of university places. The mainly Sinhalese government agreed and decreed that university places should be in proportion with the demographics. The Tamils objected and started a civil disobedience campaign which ultimately led to the present civil war.

Both Sinhalese and Tamils deserve blame: the Sinhalese for their attitude, 'We are a majority and the Tamils have to do as we tell them;' and the Tamils for not seeking a peaceful solution, where minority rights are protected.

There are more than 50 million Tamils in South India, which the Sinhalese consider a threat to their independence!

Trincomalee was the major Allied naval base during the second world war. With Mountbatten having his East Asiatic headquarters in Kandy (central Sri Lanka) it was most convenient to have the largest deep water port in the world at his disposal!

It only stands to reason that if Sri Lanka has such a strategic asset it will try to 'market' it to whoever pays a good price and is not adverse to the interests of the country. Yankee bashing in this instance has no validity.

Jakob Knaus, Sechelt

### Protecting Speculators

Dear Editor:

The current debate on protectionism is missing the essential point. We are struggling with an economy that is out of control due to speculation, not because workers were not working well enough, or because small-to-medium size product-and-service producing business were not working well enough.... but because of *speculation* in currencies, equity shares and other financial instruments.

By grouping together 'speculation-based

business' and 'speculation-based economy' together with 'product-and-service producing business' and 'product-and-service based economy,' we are providing a convenient 'cover' for all kinds of legalised thievery that working people and common natural resources are having to buffer and pay for.

The banks are speculation-based businesses, why put them first? Why not put working people and the common inheritance of natural resources first? Why should we put the survival of banks and other speculation based institutions first? 'Oh, they say, because they have been the mainstay of the global economy?' Then surely it's time to restore ordinary people and the stewarding of our common inheritance of natural resources as the mainstay of the global economy.

What is it that countries all around the world want to protect? They want to protect ordinary working people and the common inheritance of natural resources from the abusive exploitation of speculators. Is this not the grounds for a modern global initiative similar in some ways to that attempted by the Industrial Workers of the World at the turn of the nineteenth century?

'Protectionism' serves only, on a nation-by-

nation basis, to preserve this 'cover' wherein the foxes of speculation-based-business are given free movement in and amongst the vulnerable chickens that are producing the eggs.

Ted Lumley, Pender Island

### Rescuing The Canadian Auto Industry

Dear Editor:

GM is requesting a loan of \$10 billion. That is a one-time loan for about 1% of Canada yearly economic output; or 4% of the federal budget. That's a lot of cash.

The Canadian auto industry accounts for roughly 500,000 Canadian workers, significantly more than 1% of the Canadian economy (or 4% of one year's federal revenues).

Letting the auto industry fail means a jump in Canadian unemployment to 10%—or more. And, federal revenues drop by more than 4% while unemployment and welfare payments jump significantly.

Asking for a \$10 billion dollar loan is a big deal; the end of domestic automotive production in Canada is a bigger, and more costly, deal.

Eugene Parks, Victoria



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### ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

The **North Pender Island** Local Trust Committee (LTC) is accepting expressions of interest for our eight volunteer Advisory Planning Commission positions.

We are seeking eligible voters that have the interest and ability to advise the LTC on a wide range of important land use and community planning, development and sustainability matters.

Successful applicants will be appointed by the **North Pender Island** Local Trust Committee and are expected to meet one evening per month. The term for each of these positions would be from March 26, 2009 to March 1, 2010.

If you are interested in helping us plan our community's future, please submit a letter of interest and your resume, along with an Advisory Planning Commission application form before **4:30 pm Tuesday, March 17, 2009**.

Application forms are available at: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltc/np/default.cfm>

Submit your application package to:

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Zoe Lander on CBC’s literary awards shortlist

Twenty-three BC writers are shortlisted for the CBC Literary Awards, the most significant prizes awarded to unpublished literary work in Canada. Among them, Zoe Landale of Pender Island is shortlisted for the poetry award.

Shelagh Rogers will announce the six English-language winners on Thursday, February 26 during CBC Radio One’s ‘Q’ program. Thanks to a support from Canada Council for the Arts and Air Canada’s *enRoute* magazine, first prize in the three categories Creative Nonfiction, Poetry, and Short Story is \$6,000. Second prize is \$4,000.

For more than 30 years the awards have led

Canadians to discover renowned writers such as Michael Ondaatje, Carol Shields, Gail Anderson-Dargatz, Michel Tremblay, Arlette Cousture, Marie-Sissi Labrèche, Barry Callaghan, Susan Musgrave, Bonnie Burnard, Shauna Singh Baldwin, Normand de Bellefeuille, Monique Proulx, David Helwig, Camilla Gibb and Jacques Godbout.

Winning works will be published in *enRoute* and read on CBC Radio’s ‘Between the Covers’ during the week of March 2. They will also be available as a podcast on iTunes, the [cbc.ca/podcasting](http://cbc.ca/podcasting) and [cbc.ca/wordsatlarge](http://cbc.ca/wordsatlarge) as of March 4.

March Trust Council meeting

The Islands Trust Council will hold its next quarterly business at Gabriola’s Haven Institute and Conference Centre. Parts of Trust Council’s meeting are open to the public.

The town hall session, a regular forum to promote informal dialogue between islanders and trustees, starts at 10:30am on Wednesday, March 11. Formal presentations to the Islands Trust Council at the beginning of the town hall require an appointment.

On Tuesday, the Islands Trust’s Financial Planning Committee will present Council with its overall 2009-10 budget recommendations, along with a more detailed discussion about projected revenue, staffing levels and expenses.

On Wednesday, trustees will discuss potential strategic objectives for the 2008-2011

term with input from the Executive Committee and each of the three standing council committees. Part of a process that began in last December, potential strategies for achieving objectives will be discussed.

On Thursday morning, the Trust Council meeting will be closed to the public under Section 90 of the *Community Charter*. The closed meeting will include a session with the Chief Administrative Officer, and an update on current litigation. Trustees will receive an in-depth orientation from the Islands Trust legal counsel regarding matters such as conflict of interest, receipt of gifts and open meetings. For more information visit the Islands Trust website.

Winter Extravaganza!

Jill Moran

The *Island Tides* office has been eating well. Since receiving a review copy of *ExtraVeganZa!* we have been sampling the recipes and enjoying our vegan lunches. Before I was introduced to this cookbook, I thought the vegan diet was brown rice and vegetables, wheatgrass—and no fun. Without any products derived from animals—no meat, no cheese, no butter, and no honey—what would I eat? How about Spicy Peanut Lime Cilantro Soup, Vegetable Chocolate Chili Mole, Yam Pecan Cranberry Loaf, or Chocolate Almond Kahlua Cake? *ExtraVeganZa* offers an array of dishes from dips to cookies. No-one said that vegan was low fat, low sugar or low calorie.

*ExtraVeganZa!* is a collection of original vegan recipes from Laura Matthias, a field biologist, owner of Phoenix Organic Farm B&B in Saanich, Vancouver Island, and long-time vegan. In her introduction Matthias writes of the challenges of establishing her organic farm including the acquisition of Tamworth hairy pigs as 4-legged rototillers and 2-legged WWOOFers (Willing Workers on Organic Farms). Both exchange their labour for food and accommodation.

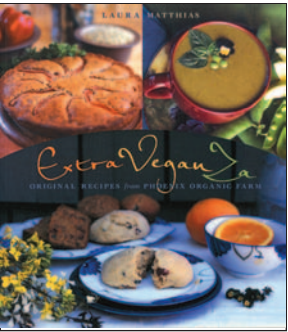
This cookbook is timely with tips for eating more sustainably and locally as well as eating vegan. Uneducated in the ways of the vegan, I would have appreciated more information about the environmental cost of eating animal-

based products but perhaps these statistics should be found in a publication other than a cookbook. I was grateful that Matthias did not venture into the sensationalism of the horrors of the butcher shop. Most of us know where our meat comes from, and as carnivores, many of are beginning to shop for ethical, free-range products.

How about the food? The recipes are good but as Matthias is not a chef, I found that some recipes needed some tweaking—a bit more spice, a bit less peanut butter or a whirl in the food processor.

For those unfamiliar with the vegan diet, *ExtraVeganZa* is an attractive inviting cookbook; for those already converted, it expands the collection with some lovely local recipes. Veganism may not be a way of life for all but it is an interesting culinary land to explore and *ExtraVeganZa!* did expand my recipe repertoire to include cakes made without eggs or butter.

*ExtraVeganZa!: Original Recipes from Phoenix Organic Farm, Laura Mathias, New Society Publishers, Gabriola Island, 2007, \$25.95.*



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visiting the breathtaking Cuban countryside in Vinales, and to Trinidad. Private home accommodation can be arranged.

Latidos founder and tour guide Chen Lizra comments, ‘Cuba is a magical place full of art, music, dance, and warm, open people. I want people to get below the surface, to the depth of places that really touch us from within, so that the trip will be a life-changing experience to remember forever.’



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