

Gulf Islands' Island Tides

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Volume 15 Number 15

Tsawwassen to Vancouver Island & On-line

July 31- Aug 13, 2003

Attractions & Accommodation

Vancouver Island & The Gulf Islands, Back Page

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Walker Hook, a rare tombolo formation on the east side of Salt Spring Island, is the site of a Sablefish hatchery. Wells will be drilled in the sand bar for salt water supply and effluent discharge.

Sablefish hatchery raises concerns

At Walker Hook on Salt Spring Island, Sablefin Hatcheries Ltd. is in the process of building a hatchery for sablefish, sometimes known as Alaska Black Cod. The hatchery would produce fingerlings for sale to salmon farms on the BC coast. Sablefin is promoting sablefish as a more profitable alternative for salmon farmers.

Salt Spring Residents Opposed

The project has attracted a great deal of local opposition. Salt Spring Islanders have many objections to the hatchery's location at Walker Hook. The location is a unique landform called a tombolo, in this case a strip of beach joining a small offshore island to the east side of Salt Spring. To the south, are a traditional First Nations' site and, for the last hundred years, a favourite swimming spot. To the north are eelgrass, mud flats, and saltmarsh. All environmentally rare.

The land is zoned agricultural and is part of the Agricultural Land Reserve, although it is designated on the Community Plan as a future, and much desired, park site. Aquaculture is a 'permitted use' on agricultural land, and is encouraged under provincial 'right to farm' legislation.

So far, no environmental impact studies appear to have been carried out.

Sablefish Fishers Opposed

There is no sablefish aquaculture at present. About 30,000 tonnes of wild sablefish are harvested annually from the eastern Pacific Ocean from California to Alaska. Most of the catch is sold to Japanese customers, at about \$2 to \$4 per pound at the dock. Initially, the hatchery has set a production target of two million smolts annually. The hatchery eventually expects to breed ten million juveniles annually, which if grown to a commercial 8lb size, would total 40,000 tonnes, exceeding the current wild catch, and probably driving prices down.

This has led to opposition from the Canadian Sablefish Association, which represents British Columbia fishers who harvest about six to seven thousand tonnes of wild sablefish annually, employing about 300 people and an equivalent number of shore workers. (Alaska is the main source of wild sablefish, harvesting over 20,000 tonnes; other US fishers account for another 7,000 tonnes.)

Hatchery Uses Salt Water Wells

Sablefin Hatcheries is led by scientist Dr. Gidon Minkhoff. Minkhoff claims to be the only person 'known to have successfully raised commercial quantities of blackcod juveniles in captivity'.

The company plans a hatchery building fed by a salt water supply drawn from wells at the eastern end of the tombolo. The water would be discharged into wells dug at the western, or Salt Spring Island end, of the tombolo. The wells would be several hundred feet apart.

As far as is known, no in-water net pens are planned, although promotional material states that 'once hatchery operations are profitable, the firm may pursue diversification into the blackcod grow-out sector.'

The entire hatchery operation is on land, but the amount of effluent pumped down the discharge wells is estimated at 619 cubic metres daily (which exceeds the effluent production of the entire Ganges sewer system). The effluent is presumably expected to filter out into the sea. While digging the effluent wells, the company has already unearthed six bodies, probably ancestors of the Penelakut or the Cowichan.

The scheme first came to public attention through a subdivision application. Sablefin is leasing some 20 acres of the agriculturally zoned lot 65 (owned by Henry Caldwell); regulations state that if such a lease is over 3 years, the Ministry of Transportation must give subdivision approval.

Islands Trust Concerned

The Islands Trust, initially asked to comment, expressed some concerns but did not oppose the application. Recently, following public protest, the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee revised their stand to oppose the development; but subdivision approval had already been given.

However, the entire episode has raised questions about the provincial government's encouragement of aquaculture. David Essig, Chair of the Islands Trust, has written to Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Minister John van Dongen to express concerns about Bill 48, the Food and Fisheries Statutes Amendment Act 2003.

Bill 48 would make amendments to the HATCHERY, please turn to page 2

Seismic project postponed

A proposed seismic project, aimed at mapping the Cascadia convergent margin in the southern Strait of Georgia, has apparently been postponed until 2004. The project, a joint Canada/Japan/US effort, was originally scheduled for late August, 2003, and concern was expressed that seismic blasts and air gun shocks could damage whales and other marine mammals that would be in the area.

The Cascadia convergent margin is where both minor and major earthquakes periodically occur.

The project, known as CASSIS (CASCadia collaborative SeiSmic experiment) would have measured the shocks, along with any real earthquakes, using a network of 60 undersea and 100 land-based seismometers in the Strait, on the mainland, and on Vancouver Island. The project would be conducted using the Japanese research vessel 'Kairei', and involve scientists at the University of Victoria and the University of Washington.

Initially, it was thought that the blasts would not be big enough to have any environmental effects, and no approvals would be needed. However, it now appears that the project will require approval from the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency is also examining the proposal. Provision for public comment will also be required.

A similar project, carried out by the US National Science Foundation in the Gulf of California, was recently halted by a US District Court judge after two beaked whales were found dead on the Isla San José. /

Mainland bus changes for weekenders

Effective on September 6, there is welcome travel news for weekenders eager to get to the Islands. Translink has revised the Saturday schedule of the #601/640 bus from Tsawwassen as requested by the Gulf Islands Ferry Advisory. Previously the link between bus and ferry was impossible. 'Bus passengers leaving Vancouver for the Gulf Islands were arriving at Tsawwassen at 8:35am and the Saturday morning ferry left at 8:35am,' says a delighted Jill Justice of the Pender ferry committee adding, 'I never thought they would do this for a minute!' In September the bus will arrive at the ferry terminal at 8:15am.

A Translink representative said, 'I hope this schedule change assists visitors and locals alike in getting to the Gulf Islands, site of the newest national park. /

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Crofton detour in August

Island Highway traffic from north of Chemainus heading to Crofton and Vesuvius/Crofton ferry traffic heading up-Island will have to allow travel time for an 18-kilometre detour between August 13-28 while the Bonsall bridge is upgraded at Tussie Creek. Traffic heading north to Crofton or the Crofton ferry will travel the same distance to Crofton along the detour route, but on roads with a lower speed limit.

The detour follows Herd Road to Osborne Bay Road. Traffic to NorskeCanada's Crofton operation will be affected. 'We've posted signs reminding drivers that they're passing through people's neighbourhoods,' NorskeCanada Crofton Division's vice-president DonMcKendrick says. 'And we've asking our employees and suppliers to drive respectfully—don't exceed the speed limit and minimize brake and engine noise. 'We thank our neighbours in advance for their patience,' McKendrick adds.

In preparation for the detour, the Ministry of Transportation is upgrading the intersection at the Trans-Canada Highway and Herd Road with wider and longer turn lanes and adjusted turn signal timing. The Ministry is also posting temporary orange and black signs to notify drivers of the upcoming bridge closure and to reroute traffic to Crofton. Drivers should also anticipate delays at the bridge during the construction preparation period, beginning July 22.

Bonsall Bridge

Upgrades to the Bonsall bridge at Tussie Creek include widening the road lane and shoulders to existing standards as well as 185 metres of road realignment to the bridge. The new bridge has also been designed to accommodate future road alignment improvements.

The \$666,000 project has been awarded to Ruskin Construction of Prince George. The contract has been tendered as a bonus/penalty contract. The contractor can earn a bonus of \$10,000 a day (to a maximum of \$50,000) for completing the project early, and is charged \$10,000 a day (to a maximum of \$50,000) for late completion. The Ministry of Transportation has used this type of contract on other bridge projects on Vancouver Island on six occasions. Every contract has paid the full bonus except one, which paid a partial bonus. /

Dawn of the Nuclear Weapons Age - Peter D. Carter

In 1945, American Colonel Paul W. Tibbets named his B-29 bomber, tail number 44-86292, after his mother, Enola Gay, a name that came to epitomize the glowing promise of the nuclear age. Almost 60 years later, the world is stuck with a seemingly intractable problem: nuclear weapons and nuclear waste.

On August 6, 1945, at 8:15am, the Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb named 'Little Boy' on Hiroshima. Three days later, on August 9, Russia declared war on Japan (as had been expected). On the same day, the US Air Force dropped the atomic bomb 'Fat Man' on Nagasaki. On August 10, the Emperor of Japan surrendered and Japanese government formally protested the new bomb as an inhumane weapon that violated international law.

The usual casualty figures quoted are 66,000 killed in Hiroshima and 39,000 in Nagasaki. But these figures do not tell the full story of the slower, additional agonizing deaths from burns and radiation sickness. During September and October of 1945, a team of Japanese scientists surveyed residual radiation. (The documentary film they produced during their study was confiscated by the occupation forces and taken to the United States. It was finally returned to Hiroshima in 1973.) In October 1945, US soldiers and scientists surveyed and measured what was called the 'A-bomb effect.' They made a clinical and photographic record of those dying from burns and radiation sickness. By the end of 1945, 140,000 had died as a result of the Hiroshima bomb and 70,000 people had died in Nagasaki. The Nagasaki deaths would have been higher but the bomb missed its target by over a mile.

Hiroshima was chosen as a target in May 1945. 'It is a good radar target and it is such a size that a large part of the city could be extensively damaged. There are adjacent hills which are likely to produce a focussing effect which would considerably increase the blast damage' (Target Committee meeting, Los Alamos, May 1945). The role of advising the new American president, Harry Truman, on the use of the bomb was given to 'The Interim Committee,' a small committee composed of some Manhattan Project scientists and military bureaucrats—and the head of an insurance company. Their reports show that much of their discussions focused on how the bomb might influence US relations with Russia.

It is well known that leaders of the atomic science community opposed the use of the bomb. This opposition extended to many in the Manhattan Project. 'It may be very difficult,' they declared, 'to persuade the world that a nation which was capable of secretly preparing and suddenly releasing a new weapon, as indiscriminate as the rocket bomb and a thousand times more destructive, is to be trusted in its proclaimed desire of having such weapons abolished by international agreement.' The procedure these scientists recommended was, first, to demonstrate the new weapon 'before the eyes of representatives of all the United Nations on the desert or a barren island,' and then to issue 'a preliminary ultimatum' to Japan. If this ultimatum was rejected, and 'if sanction of the United Nations (and of public opinion at home) were obtained,' then and only then, said the scientists, should

the United States consider using the bomb.

After the bombings, President Truman assigned the US Strategic Bombing Survey group to study the air attacks on Japan. They produced their report in July of 1946. 'Based on a detailed investigation of all the facts and supported by the testimony of the surviving Japanese leaders involved, it is the Survey's opinion that certainly prior to December 31, 1945 and in all probability prior to November 1, 1945, Japan would have surrendered even if the atomic bombs had not been dropped, even if Russia had not entered the war, and even if no invasion had been planned or contemplated.'

Many other people prominently involved in the war strategy had come to the same conclusion. Eisenhower, in a Newsweek interview in 1953, recalled his meeting at the time with Secretary of State Stimson, opposing the bomb: '...the Japanese were ready to surrender and it wasn't necessary to hit them with that awful thing.' Admiral William D. Leahy (Chief of Staff to Presidents Franklin Roosevelt and Truman) said, 'It is my opinion that the use of this barbarous weapon at Hiroshima and Nagasaki was of no material assistance in our war against Japan. The Japanese were already defeated and ready to surrender because of the effective sea blockade and the successful bombing with conventional weapons. In being the first to use it, we... adopted an ethical standard common to the barbarians of the Dark Ages.' Admiral Leahy later wrote: 'It was my reaction that the scientists and others wanted to make this test because of the vast sums that had been spent on the project. Truman knew that, and so did other people involved.'

General Henry H. 'Hap' Arnold, the commanding general of the US Army Air Forces, said, 'It always appeared to us that, atomic bomb or no atomic bomb, the Japanese were already on the verge of collapse.' Even FBI founder Herbert Hoover agreed. On August 8, 1945, after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Hoover wrote to the Army and Navy Journal: 'The use of the atomic bomb, with its indiscriminate killing of women and children, revolts my soul.'

Sometime between late July and August, President Truman changed his mind about how to use the bomb. On July 25, 1945, he wrote in his journal: 'This weapon is to be used against Japan between now and August 10. I have told the Secretary of War, Mr. Stimson, to use it so that military objectives and soldiers and sailors are the target and not women and children. Even if the Japs are savages, ruthless, merciless and fanatic, we as the leader of the world for the common welfare cannot drop that terrible bomb on the old capital or the new. He and I are in accord. The target will be a purely military one and we will issue a warning statement asking the Japs to surrender and save lives.'

The American people, who knew nothing about the bomb until it was dropped, were deceived after it was dropped. On August 9, Truman announced on radio: 'The world will note that the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, a military base. That was because we wished in this first attack to avoid, insofar as possible, the killing of civilians.' No warning had been given to the residents of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In

HIROSHIMA, please turn to next page, below

Island Tides

AT FULFORD HARBOUR
JULY/AUGUST

Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.	Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.
29	0240	10.2	3.1	6	0540	2.6	0.8
	TU	1045	1.0		0.3		
	WE	1910	10.8		3.3		
	MA	2345	9.2		2.8		
30	0330	10.2	3.1	7	0635	2.0	0.6
	WE	1120	1.0		0.3		
	TH	1930	10.8		3.3		
	JE						
31	0025	8.9	2.7	8	0725	1.3	0.4
	TH	0425	9.8		3.0		
	FR	1200	1.6		0.5		
	JE	1955	10.8		3.3		
1	0110	8.2	2.5	9	0820	1.0	0.3
	FR	0525	9.2		2.8		
	SA	1235	2.3		0.7		
	VE	2020	10.8		3.3		
2	0205	7.2	2.2	10	0055	10.2	3.1
	SA	0630	8.5		2.6		
	SA	1315	3.3		1.0		
	SA	2040	10.8		3.3		
3	0300	6.2	1.9	11	0200	10.2	3.1
	SU	0800	8.2		2.5		
	DI	1355	4.6		1.4		
	DI	2105	10.8		3.3		
4	0355	4.9	1.5	12	0300	10.2	3.1
	MO	0950	7.9		2.4		
	LU	1435	5.9		1.8		
	LU	2130	10.8		3.3		
5	0450	3.9	1.2	13	0355	9.8	3.0
	TU	1155	8.2		2.5		
	MA	1530	7.5		2.3		
	MA	2155	10.8		3.3		

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HATCHERY from page 1
Farm Practices Protection ('Right to Farm') Act and the Local Government Act. The Farm Practices Protection Act was originally introduced to protect farmers from complaints and local government restrictions as people moved into rural farming areas. The proposed government amendments would extend these protections to existing and new aquaculture sites along BC's coast.

This Bill was introduced in the spring session of the BC Legislature, but was not passed and has been held over to the fall session. It would allow the province to designate 'farming areas' along island shorelines. In these farming areas, the province could then over-rule local zoning provisions that restrict aquaculture. This would appear to make it difficult for local governments to oppose or prevent the establishment of aquaculture installations within their jurisdiction.

'We are concerned about any provincial initiative that would diminish local control over land use planning, including planning along the foreshore,' said Essig. 'Our policy statement recognizes aquaculture as a valuable activity in the Islands Trust Area, provided it is compatible with the maintenance of the Trust Area's ecosystems and community character. Community members rely on their locally elected trustees to make land use decisions and they express significant concern whenever provincial legislation over rules them....this provincial initiative could lead to an erosion of our jurisdiction in this matter and that is certainly a concern to us.'

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Financing Sablefin

Sablefin is attempting to raise money through a BC Venture Capital Corporation. Its prospectus, issued earlier, is presently being revised. VCC's are given favourable tax treatment under BC law; investors receive a tax credit of 30% of their investment. Promotional material which was recently pulled from the internet said 'The Hottest Stock May Be Live Stock but don't look for it on Wall Street'.

To fund its first year of operation, Sablefin hopes to raise \$1.7 million from investors, with further funds needed for following years. By year five, Sablefin expects to have reached an annual production capacity of two million juvenile (5-10 grams) sablefish, generating an expected \$8 million in revenue from sales to fish farms (that's \$4 per fish).

The juveniles will be 'fully conditioned for raising in sea cages'. Fish farm grow-out costs are said to be roughly equivalent to salmon, and the species would produce equivalent amounts of pollution in sea pens and can, like salmon, harbour sea lice.

But black cod, or sablefish, are said to be considerably more profitable. Salmon farms, says the promotional literature, will be able to realize a wholesale price of \$7 per lb for sablefish, compared to \$2.50 per lb for salmon. (These figures differ significantly from prices reported by the wild fishery.)

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Swimming, Yup! It's been that hot on some of these recent days. I'm a warm-water swimmer, the foot tendons run the other direction when I go wading in the local waters, except in this kind of weather when my core temperature is panting and all of my body is slippery with sweat. Then, immersion and a few swift strokes in salty-smelling, silky water and out! You are so cooled after a swim and sort of calm—quite lovely in this weather.

The history of every little bay and cove has an Auntie or an old Missis so-and-so who 'swam every day, no matter what the weather. 'Women in our community love to swim and are out often. And always there have been the kids; the kids, the skinny ones, with their noses running down their faces, sort of blue, twisting out of their parents' grasp, 'No, I'm not cold!'

Summer it is. We have lots of families staying at the B&Bs, round about everywhere on the favorite beaches, exploring the rocks and shorelines, buying 51 pieces of penny candy at the store, hot faces in the open car windows in the ferry line-ups. And always at least once a summer, 'We came here 10 years ago. We stayed at a little cottage at the head of the bay, Carmel was ten—no—seven and the kids want to see the place again. We had such a good time.' It is heartening to know the spirals of life continue, Saturna seems to be a place of many fond memories and of fun experiences.

Hysterical Society Show

On July 12, Arvid Chalmers and Sid Filkow presented *Death: The Musical*. These two founding members of the Salt Spring Hysterical Society, were, as usual, hilarious. It is so much fun to laugh and laugh! Sixty people laughed a whole lot that evening. They always seem to have their noses into whatever local scuttlebutt is around and when you least expect it, it pops into some skit, completely recognizable but transformed into the general comedy of life.

They blast through evaluations and examinations of the ferry service, provincial politics, Canadian politics, island life in general and US politics. The familiar cast of

characters has grown sharper and more focused over the years, (as we all have!) Maggie and the Swami sort of take over Sid and Arvid instead of being impersonations. It was downright funny and thought provoking, as their political observations are only saved from being scathing by their finely-honed comedic timing and strength of the characters they have created.

Saturday Market A Success

Saturdays in the centre of the Island are quite social with the store and café, the Recycling Centre and now the market. Vendors are selling out of the backs of trucks and vans at the Recreation Centre site across the street from recycling. The scene is very lively with the individual set-ups to display wares, vendors all dressed up and their offerings.

We have radishes, furniture, handbags and flying dragonflies, paintings, prints cards, sculptures, and fresh food to eat! Several of the kids have their own booths selling crafts, cookies, lemonade, and bookmarks. There is fine music with various Island musicians showing up on different Saturdays to play good harmonies. The young fiddlers Quaintance play fine fiddle music with their dad.

Concert At The Hall

Michael Vautour presented his brother, Jim Vautour, accomplished singer/songwriter, in concert with guest Beverly Elliot, award-winning singer/songwriter. The concert took place in the Community Hall and was very well received. It takes a lot to organize an Island concert. Michael has gone to the effort to bring live music regularly to the Island and it is a treat.

PEGGY MITCHELL

February 1910–July 2003

Peggy Mitchell who lived with her late husband, Alec, on Saturna Island for most of their retirement years, passed away in Abbotsford on Sunday, July 6. They often said that their years on Saturna were amongst the happiest of their lives, mainly because of the people. ✂

HIROSHIMA, from page 2

fact, people were fleeing for safety to Hiroshima from military areas that had been fire bombed by the US Air Force.

Such has been the willingness of Americans and their allies to believe the US military's Hiroshima spin that most people to this day believe the bombing was necessary to save American lives.

This assumes that a maritime blockade of Japan with continued destruction of its military forces from sea and air would not have persuaded Japan to surrender. Most important it also assumes that in fighting a war, it is preferable and acceptable to kill civilians of the enemy nation rather than risk putting your own soldiers into battle. 'As for the missions flown against Japan on

HIROSHIMA, please turn to page 7

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CROFTON

TWO RAVENS GALLERY, Joan Street, 2 blocks from ferry. Chris Johnson (aka Ice Bear, muralist, painter and sculptor—www.icebearstudio.com), Ric Poll and Ed Peekeekoot, plus Cowichan region guest artists. Contemporary native (Woodlands) art, modern and realistic paintings and sculpture, hand-crafted gifts and furniture. HOURS: generally Tues-Sat, Noon-4, or by appointment. 250-246-5356.

Loretta's Wood Nature Reserve Management Plan

Public Information and Community Consultation Session
Saturday, August 16, 2:00PM, Public Library, Pender Island

Linnaeus Environmental Consulting is currently preparing a management plan for the Loretta's Wood Nature Reserve on Hooson Road, a 38.7-hectare property donated to the Islands Trust Fund by William Grenier. Site maps and information will be available for viewing at the meeting. The public is invited to provide oral comments related to the management of the Reserve.

Written comments will be received until September 1, 2003, and can be submitted to Linnaeus Environmental Consulting by fax: 250-629-9956 or e-mail: linnaeus@cablelan.net. Questions can be directed to Jan Kirkby by phone: 250-629-3381

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Readers' Letters

Eagle Study

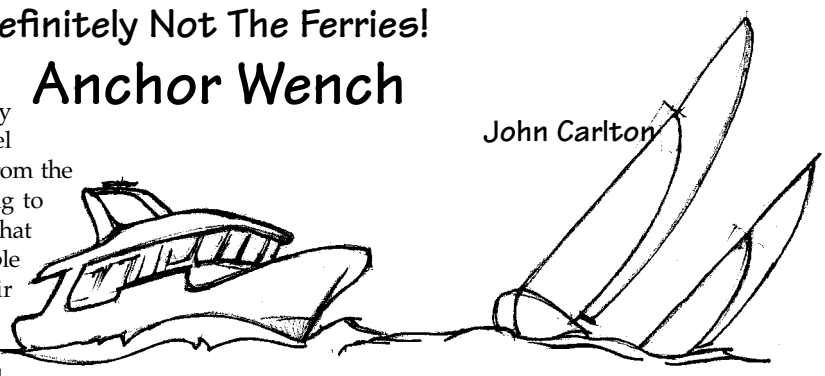
Dear Editor:
 I am a second year Ph.D. student at the University of California, Riverside. For my dissertation project I am interested in studying the limiting factors on the reproductive success of bald eagles in the Gulf Island areas of Mayne, Saturna and Pender Islands. I am interested in relating these limiting factors to migration of the eagles, as well.
 I am working with the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection which has data on bald eagle nests on Vancouver Island via the "WiTS" program, a wildlife tree stewardship program.
 From the end of May until July 3, I stayed on Mayne Island and initiated this project by locating 24 nests in the area and making contact with landowners and residents. I gave a presentation for residents on at the Georgina Point Lighthouse.
 As result of the enthusiastic response the Ministry offered to host an eagle nest monitoring training session for those residents interested in helping monitor nests for my project and for the "WiTS" wildlife tree stewardship project. The training session is planned for Saturday, August 30 from 11am-2pm at the Mayne Island lighthouse for interested parties on Mayne, Saturna and Pender. Residents can email with any questions, C1Shannon@aol.com, or call 909-594-5611, 4551.
 Cindy Shannon, California

Fence & Offense

Dear Editor:
 My wife and I own the property east of Higgs Road on South Pender Island referred to in John Smith's letter in your July 17 issue. We purchased the property in the spring of 2001 for future retirement. At that time there was no path across the end of the property from Higgs Road to Drummond Beach, the area was bush, fenced off from the road, and even the fence was overgrown. There was (and still is) beach access down the

**Definitely Not The Ferries!
 Anchor Wench**

These musings came one afternoon in high summer a few years back watching the normal weekend carnage at Bedwell, and it was not even the day of the 'big one' when an American iron vessel over a hundred feet long took on everything from the Canada Customs wharf down. I am not trying to cast a slur on Bedwell Harbour, splendid place that it is, but *oh boy* it is a great place to watch people who could use a bit of practice docking their boats.



John Carlton

It seems to make the most fundamental common sense that boat handling tasks should be undertaken by the crew members most physically capable and appropriately skilled. So, how come He usually stands in masculine magnificence way up the top of the boat pushing and pulling the little lever thingys and turning the wheel thingy while She, with a rope, the purpose of which has been explained dimly at best, arrests several tons of vessel hurtling at the dock.

If something goes wrong, it's her fault for failing to be able to tie a clove hitch while leaping ten feet through the air to the wharf. He, in the meantime will be physically rested and able to contribute by bellowing contrary instructions at the top of his lungs.

Boats have been all male environments for so long that subtle design chauvinisms run so deep that it may take years to identify, let alone change them. Despite this, the involvement of women with the sea has increased by several orders of magnitude in recent decades. Women are on the bridges of fishing boats and supertankers and behind the periscopes of submarines, not to mention setting racing records and single-handing around the world. To the no doubt amazement of some people, the world continues to revolve relatively unaffected.

Only in some private clubs and pleasure boats do MCP's

(marine) continue to get away with having things exclusively their own way. The only real design changes catering to a greater feminine presence, in modern powerboats at least, are galleys that can dish out a meal more involved than rum and baked beans, and double bunks.

There are many gender specific aspects of boat design that are being ignored, about which boating women should object. These include providing visibility for people who generally are a bit shorter than Popeye the Barbarian; ladders to fly-bridges that people with differently constructed pelvises can routinely negotiate without fear of breaking an ankle; and access to the vessel from the dock that does not involve gymnastics that no man would accept.

The simplest great step forwards will come, as always, from a change in attitude. The person most suited to driving the boat under many circumstances, especially docking, may well be She who has so far been carried only as cook and fore-deck ornament. His Lordship may balk at having all his 'authority' taken away. If he does, and you're the person he balks at, ask how he proposes to be rescued if he falls overboard, and you, his partner, cannot run the boat expertly without him, and there is no provision made for lifting him back on board wringing wet. /

rocks at the end of Higgs Road. We managed it easily carrying a 2-year-old child.

Not long after we purchased the property someone cut our roadside fence and cleared a path through our bush to the beach. Someone else built steps on our property from the end of the path to the beach. There were tenants living in the house, but nobody asked them or us if this was OK.

We replaced the fence this spring and that replacement fence has already been vandalized. In his letter, John Smith called the fence an 'affront to common decency', but 'common decency' would never have removed someone else's fence (twice), cleared a path through someone else's bush, or built steps on someone else's property, all without asking.

By replacing the fence we are not attempting to prevent public access to the beach. Beach access existed when we bought the property, and it exists now. Replacing the fence was just putting the property back the way it was when we bought it; repairing vandalism.

There is a more serious reason for the fence. A few years ago, on a Gulf Island, a tourist seeking beach access crossed private property without permission, fell, was injured, and successfully sued for damages in a BC court, nearly bankrupting the property owners. Does this frighten anyone else? We have been advised by a local lawyer that we are not protected from liability unless it is clear that the property is private (fenced), and that trespassing is not permitted (signs). Much as we regret this state of affairs, it is the reality we must deal with. We are not willing (or able) to bear liability for people crossing our property without our knowledge or consent.

In hopes of solving this problem we have been discussing with the Pender Parks Commission since last summer the possibility of granting them a public easement across our property for beach access, or even selling them part of the property. Either of these options should satisfy the public desire for improved beach access without exposing us to liability, and I am optimistic that the discussions will be successful.

But the Parks Commission has lots on their plate and a limited budget, and so do we. The more of our time and budget we have to spend dealing with vandalism, the slower things go, and the less generous we feel.

Courtesy begets courtesy. And the reverse. A little patience

on the part of Pender Island residents and visitors would help a lot. My thanks to the few people (Pender Parks Commission and some non-resident neighbours) who have taken the time to contact us seeking resolution to this issue. And the opposite to those who have done what they wanted without the 'common decency' of saying please.

Dave Sprague, Calgary

Loonies & Euros

Dear Editor:
 Patrick Brown, in his article *Who Pays the Price of Iraq?*, exposes some interesting forces underpinning national currency fluctuations, such as the devaluing of the US dollar relative to the Euro '20%' since Saddam Hussein shifted from pricing and selling Iraq oil for US dollars to Euros in November, 2000.

So, could Patrick Brown, or someone, please tell us why, in view of these huge international currency fluctuations attributable to the trade in oil, our government in Ottawa interprets every fraction of a percentage change in our currency relative to the US dollar, as an indicator of the strength of our economy, and, where the rate change is favourable, to the strengthening of Canadian business and the rise in productivity of the Canadian worker?

Could it be that when our currency devalued by more than 30% relative to the US dollar, that it was due neither to the weakness of the Canadian economy nor to falling productivity at the worker level but to the titans of the oil trade, and that we did not really have to plead guilty to poor performance and open our doors up to the bargain basement sale of Canadian assets? Could it be that the strength of our currency is regularly being governed by the same sort of global influences as Patrick Brown says are making the US dollar flap so wildly in the breeze?

Since the mainstream media doesn't report on currency values being impacted by such antics as Saddam Hussein's bailing out of US dollars in oil trading, our Federal government is free to continue to interpret fluctuations in the value of the Canadian dollar in terms of the strengthening and weakening of Canadian business and the rise and fall of worker productivity, an interpretation that is commonly used to justify lay-offs and wage cuts and the imposing of pressure on workers to do more for less.

Ted Lumley, Pender Island

Patrick's reply:
 I wanted to point out that the main reason that the Canadian dollar was said to have 'gone up' relative to the US dollar was that the US dollar had lost significant value relative to the Euro (and some other world currencies). Iraq's oil is now under US control, and Iraq is not presently active in OPEC, so presumably any effect from Saddam

LETTERS, please turn to page 6

FESTIVAL ARTSPRING August

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Renowned baritone Russell Braun headlines an extraordinary summer line-up featuring Romeo and Juliet with Chemainus Theatre, hot Cuban jazz with Ernán López-Nussa Quintet, vocal virtuosity with Ensemble Clément Janequin, swaying Brazilian rhythms with Vancouver Chamber Choir and exhilarating chamber music with Boreas String Quartet.

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No new jobs in salmon farming, study shows

Canadian Centre For Policy Review

A new economic study shows that industrial salmon aquaculture will deliver no or few new jobs in BC, even if the industry doubles in size. What's more, the industry produces relatively few jobs and minimal economic benefits to the provincial economy right now, according to the CCPA study.

The peer-reviewed study, *Fishy Business: The Economics of Salmon Farming in BC*, shows that wild marine fisheries create seven times more jobs and wages compared to industrial salmon aquaculture in BC. And wild fisheries are worth more than four times as much in terms of provincial GDP, and more than three times as much in terms of BC's exports.

'Fish farm expansion is being dangled before coastal communities as a panacea for jobs and economic stability. But this is a false promise,' says study author and CCPA resource policy analyst Dale Marshall. 'The fact is, running a fish farm takes very few people. And the record in BC, and major fish farm jurisdictions like Norway and Scotland, is that over time, fish farm operations require fewer and fewer workers.'

The study also warns that the economic risks posed by

industrial salmon aquaculture to BC's lucrative and diverse coastal wild fisheries could be tremendous.

'We're basically playing Russian Roulette with our coastal-dependent economies—without knowing how many bullets are in the chamber,' says Marshall. 'The scientific community has already shown that there are risks to other marine industries, such as wild salmon fisheries, tourism and sport fishing,' he adds.

A growing number of coastal community leaders have already reached the conclusion that economically, industrial salmon aquaculture is not worth the risk to other more lucrative local economic activities.

'The fact is, wild fisheries are not only our most important economic drivers, they're critical to us culturally. That's why our tribe has adopted a strict no fish farm policy. It's just not worth the risk,' says Chief Charlie Williams. Williams is the Hereditary Chief of Gwawaenuk and President of the Kwakiutl Territorial Fisheries Commission in Alert Bay.

Fishy Business: The Economics of Salmon Farming in BC is available on-line at www.policyalternatives.ca ✓

Fulford Day—15 years of family fun ~ Gail Neumann

The Fulford community is planning yet another family bash on Saturday, August 9. Held at Drummond Park, within easy walking distance of the Fulford ferry, the all-day picnic has something for everyone. Come share a slice of anniversary cake to celebrate fifteen years of Fulford memories.

The whole day is packed with fun. Children's races begin at 10am. Meanwhile, sculptors can take to the beach to build imperious, fantastical, or Fulford-style sandcastles. At noon, children's entertainer Jim Raddysh is set to delight every youngster in the park.

Children's games including bingo, a watermelon-eating contest, and a cakewalk will keep things hopping all afternoon. Adults can stop and chat with friends and neighbours in the refreshment garden. A full slate of local talent will take to the stage to provide music throughout the afternoon and evening. Look for wandering entertainers throughout the day.

A fine team of chefs will barbecue beef, lamb and salmon. Those with smaller appetites can gobble up vegetarian chili, beef on a bun,

FULFORD DAYS, please turn to page 7

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

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Fri/Sats, Aug 1&2, 15, 22&23, 29&30

'Night Out on Galiano'—Trinco Arts summer season of plays Galiano-style, directed by Marek Czuma • FRI 1st & SAT 2nd: staged readings of *Ruffian On The Stairs & Funeral Games*; FRI 22nd & SAT Aug 30th: *Trio For Three Actors*; FRI 15th, SAT 23rd & FRI 29th: *What The Butler Saw* • All shows 8:30pm • Tickets: @ the door • Go Galiano bus from Montague Marina and Park • Info: David Clothier 250-539-3428 • ON GALIANO ISLAND

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

Thursdays, Now to August 21

Summer Storytime program at Pender Island Public Library—featuring songwriters, authors, readers, puppeteers and storytellers; for ages 2 to 10—bring an adult lap to sit on! • 2–3pm • Info: Pender Island Public Library 250-629-3722 • ON PENDER ISLAND

Fri, August 1 till Sat, Aug 9

Hornby Festival Nineteenth Season—line-up includes: *The Arbutus Chamber Ensemble*, *Pirate Jenny Trio*; *Mum's the Word*; *Borealis String Quartet*; *Arthur Roue* piano recital; *Joe Trio*; *SWARM*, percussion instruments made from recycled materials; *Bara-rumba* from Cuba; *Rumba Calzada*; *Hans Staymer Swing Band*; *Alpha Yaya Diallo* • Events at the Hornby Community Hall, under the stars, at a seaside farm, at the school • Tickets: general \$16, seniors \$14, children \$6 (matinées \$12, \$9 & \$4), box office 250-335-2734 (cards accepted) • Info: www.hornbyfestival.bc.ca • ON HORNBY ISLAND

Saturday & Sunday, August 2 & 3

Salt Spring Island Organic Self-Guided Farm Tour—explore the richly diverse farms and venues of Canada's 'Organic Capital'—flowers, herbs, sheep, vegetables, nurseries, seed collection, cattle, greenhouses and more • 10am–4pm each day • Tickets & maps: \$12 per day @ Growing Circle Co-op and Morningside Bakery • Info: 250-537-4247 • ON SALT SPRING ISLAND

Sat, Sun & Mon August 2, 3 & 4

BC Day Weekend Family Fun Swims—enjoy Saanich Commonwealth Place's wavepool, waterslide, pirate ship, toddler pool, family changerooms, steam, sauna, swirlpool, and length swimming • Fun Swims: Saturday, Sunday & Monday 10-noon and 1-5 pm. Fun leaders organize games and fun from 1-4 pm daily • 4636 Elk Lake Drive (right off Pat Bay at Royal Oak exit) • 24-hour swim info-line 250-727-7108 • IN VICTORIA

Saturday & Sunday, August 2 & 3

Salt Spring's 4th Annual Garlic Festival—camping, live music, crafts and garlic everything—fun for all! • Leisure Lane Farm, Ganges • 10am–5pm • Adults \$4, children free • Info or to book campsite: 250-537-1219 • ON SALT SPRING ISLAND



Sat, Sun & Mon, August 2, 3 & 4
'Three Artists' 5th Anniversary Exhibition of Paintings by Brian Mitchell, Keith Holmes, Larry Foden • Exquisite waterfront home setting, 667 Linklater Road • Noon–4pm daily • Info: Louise Decario 250-539-5760 • ON GALIANO ISLAND

Saturday & Sunday, Aug 2 & 3

Pender Islands Art Society Annual Art Show—over 20 artists presenting new works • Anglican Parish Hall, 4703 Canal Road • Saturday 10am–5pm, Sunday 1–4pm • Info: Barbara Zaccour 250-629-6377 • ON PENDER ISLAND

Sunday, August 3

'Yard Sale' at Pender Island Lions Club Info Centre—benefit to purchase a on-line computer to meet Tourism BC criteria • 10am–2pm • Contact Jack Macaulay 250-629-6256 if you have articles to contribute • ON PENDER ISLAND

Sunday & Monday, August 3 & 4

Saturna Artists 3rd Annual Studio Tour and Sale—a wonderful opportunity to meet and talk with island artists informally in their studios—work will be available for sale directly from the artists and you're sure to find something you'll love, event is sponsored by the Trincomali Arts Council and the Saturna Arts and Concert Society • Maps available at both stores and Island galleries, (look for the blue balloons) • 11am–4pm • Info: Anne Popperwell 250-539-2779, www.saturnatourism.com • ON SATURNA ISLAND

Wednesday, August 6

Salt Spring's Annual Hiroshima Day Event • Peace Park in Ganges • 5pm • Info: Jan Slakov 250-537-5251 • ON SALT SPRING ISLAND

Friday, August 8

Hiroshima Memorial and Peace Celebration—in support of United Nations Global Culture of Peace—an evening of poetry (and songs) for peace, please bring your own poetry and art for peace • Community Hall • 7:30pm • ON PENDER ISLAND

Friday, August 8

Nancy Richler reading from *Your Mouth Is Lovely* (now in paperback) and signing copies, refreshments, browse our books, enjoy! • Galiano Island Books, 76 Madrona, Sturdies Bay • 8pm • Info: 250-539-3340 • ON GALIANO ISLAND

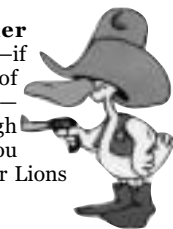
Saturday & Sunday, August 9 & 10

Coombs Fair—animal, arts & crafts, domestic science and horticulture displays and more; check out the blacksmithing, spinning & weaving, beekeeping and master gardening demos; don't miss the Mt. Arrowsmith Vaulting Club displays of gymnastics on a moving Percheron horse!—games, food, and fun events for the whole family at the Coombs Fair • Coombs Fairgrounds, Ford Road, behind the Coombs General Store • SAT: August 9, 8am–6pm, SUN: August 10, 8am–5pm • Tickets at the gate • Info: Debbie Schug, 250-248-8207 IN COOMBS, VANCOUVER ISLAND



Saturday, August 9

Penducky Derby Rides Again!—Pender Lions 'Between the Islands' fundraiser—if your Ducky wins you will win \$1,000 (lots of other prizes, too), games, entertainment, food—and fun! • Mortimer Spit, ducky race through the channel under the bridge • 11am • Have you got your tickets, yet?—\$5 each from all Pender Lions and Silk 'n' Petals • ON PENDER ISLAND



Sunday, August 10

Be part of 'art-a-fair'—an outdoor, interactive venue for performing and visual fine arts: art show and sale, 75 visual artists, live staged entertainment, children's art activities, wine garden and food, presented by South Cowichan Chamber of Commerce (also Cowichan Valley Car Picnic same day, same place) • Across from the Mill Bay Centre • 11am–8pm • IN MILL BAY



Sunday, August 10

Second Annual Festival Lavender at Valhalla Gardens—love lavender?—join us to shop for a huge variety of lavender products grown and made on Mayne; taste what is cooking on the bbq, savour other sweet lavender treats, and enjoy and learn from demonstrations throughout the day! • 411 Village Bay Road • 11–4pm • Admission: \$5 • Info: www.lavenderscenterprises.com, Elaine 250-539-5698 • ON MAYNE ISLAND

Saturday, August 16

Lions WineFest Brunch—if you get off the ferry early, come to the wine festival site and enjoy a meal—earlybird eggs, sausages, pancakes and juice, or lunchtime hotdogs with fried onions • Lions Hall, Burrill Road • 9am–1pm • Tickets: Pancakes\$5, Hotdogs \$3 • ON GALIANO ISLAND

Saturday, August 16

The Eleventh Galiano Wine Festival—over ninety wines will be offered for tasting, food, music, flowers, and the opportunity to win door prizes, a silent auction, raffle prizes, Wine Festival recipe books for sale • Galiano Lions Park • 1pm–4pm • Tickets \$30, Visa & MasterCard accepted • Tickets & info: Don Gain 250-530-2239 or Bill Foster 250-539-2611 • ON GALIANO ISLAND



Saturday, August 16

'Mother of Pearl': all female jazz combo—veteran performer Colleen Savage leads this talented group of five musicians performing jazz, rhythm & blues—previous Island show sold out, high energy event sponsored by the Galiano Concert Society; enjoy the afternoon at the Wine Festival then spend the evening listening to fun music • Galiano Community Hall • 7:30pm • Tickets @ Galiano Island Books 250-539-3340 & @ the door • Info: 539-2458 • ON GALIANO ISLAND

GALIANO ISLAND

Saturday, August 23

Pender Islands Fall Fair—all the fun of the Penders' Annual Fair: parade, exhibits, entertainment, food, booths, displays, games, beer garden, dinner and dance with a great band—this year's theme: 'Come Grow With Us' with guest speaker James Barber, the Urban Peasant • Pender Island Community Hall • Gates open 10:30am, parade 11am, Fair in full swing 11:30am • Entry catalogues available at the Saturday Farmers Market and usual outlets, 50¢ per entry • Early Registration Deadline August 16 • Admission: Adults \$5, 5-16 years \$1, Under 5 years FREE. Info: Dianne Allison 250-629-3372 • ON PENDER ISLAND

Sunday, August 24

10th Annual Garden Faire & Music Fest—entertainment by eclectic-bluegrass/celtic band 'The Clumsy Lovers' fabulous Fado singer Sarah Marreiros and Reggae band 'Drop Radio'; food available, dried flower and gift studio; unique local crafts; local farm produce; beautiful gardens; rose nursery • Follow signs to 'Everlasting Summer' Flower, Herb and Rose Gardens, 194 McLennan Drive; outdoor venue, bring a blanket and spend the day • 11am–5pm • Tickets: \$8 @ the gate • Info: 250-653-9418 • ON SALT SPRING ISLAND

Sunday, August 24

'Arts on the Avenue'—historic Ladysmith's 5th Annual outdoor arts festival—one-day juried show and sale of original art; musicians and vocalists to keep your feet tapping as you browse the tents and enjoy our wonderful 'Ladysmith—Heritage by the Sea' • First Avenue at Roberts Street (short drive from Crofton if you take the ferry from Salt Spring) • 10am–5pm • Info: Vera 250-245-2259, www.ladysmithcofc.com/artscouncil and follow link to 'Arts on the Avenue' • IN LADYSMITH

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Pender Islands museum society finds a home ~ Sara J. Steil



Photo: Christa Grace-Warrick

1908 Robert Roe House, future home of Pender Islands' Museum, has had a tummy tuck—a new foundation and perimeter drainage.

The Pender Islands Museum Society has come a long way since it was started by a group of residents that wanted to preserve and protect the history and heritage of North and South Pender Islands. The society was nominated this month for an Islands Trust Community Stewardship Award, under the category of Sustaining the Island's History.

The group became a registered society in 1986, hoping to eventually acquire a museum for the many artifacts, photographs, documents and ephemera that existed on the islands with no proper storage or place to be displayed.

Gradually mini-displays have come into being. Displays were installed in the foyer of the library soon after it opened more a decade ago. When the community hall was completed three years ago, staircase displays and a showcase at the entrance could house more artifacts.

Over the years, various historical buildings on the Penders have been considered as a home for the Museum Society. In 1996, the Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy (PMHL) acquired Roesland, a waterfront property which had operated as a farm resort since

1910. The property has a number of delightful old buildings, some derelict and since removed. The society quickly approached the new owners. However, it was early days. PMHL was a joint Federal and Provincial venture and lacked a management plan to permit such decisions.

Recently the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve came under the sole jurisdiction of Parks Canada. Last November, discussions began again about eventually using the old Robert Roe house, built in 1908. Last January, Parks Canada agreed to the proposal.

As the foundation was crumbling, the society began work on the house immediately. The building was raised in April and a new foundation and cement skim coat put under it. Prior to the raising, the old chimney had to be removed due to the curved shape it had taken on during 100 years. Recently drainage pipe has been placed around the perimeter and backfilled with crushed glass from the Pender Islands Recycling Depot.

Parts of the building are still dedicated to the use of the former owners during their lifetime but the Society has found a home at last. /

LETTERS from page 4

Hussein's oil pricing in Euros has disappeared. However, I still think that world currency speculation is largely driven by perception, rather than fact. The perception that the US government is pursuing destructive policies in foreign affairs, economics, energy, and government finance may be driving the present preference for the Euro, despite the fact that the EEC is not experiencing great economic times either.

A common perception of the Canadian media is that the only exchange rate anyone cares about is between the Canadian and US dollars. I certainly agree with Ted Lunley that the obsession with this, and the apparent need to explain every daily twitch and wobble in terms of Canada's faults, is narrow and misleading. (See also 'Keeping the Loonie Afloat', Island Tides, Nov 22, 2001.)

National Energy Board Criticized

The following letter was sent to Prime Minister Chrétien and copied to Island Tides for publication.

The Economist's Intelligence Unit today (07/17/03) announced that Canada was the best place to invest from a study of 60 nations. How long will this last if we continue to lose sovereignty over and security of our energy resources as proposed by the National Energy Board? Every Canadian should agree that sovereignty over our energy resources and the integrity over our energy supplies are vital to sustain a healthy economy and the viability of the quality of life for future generations of Canadians.

The exception to this maxim appears to be held by NEB spokesperson Michel Mantha who denied the consideration of the option of a Canadian gas-supply line to the proposed Vancouver Island electrical generating plant at Duke Point in BC. A preference is given to a gas supply which traverses BC, the US border and thereafter becomes a US source of supply through a US network and the proposed GSX pipeline to Vancouver Island. Contractually inherent in this format of supply, particularly in times of gas shortage, the US needs will always have sublime precedence over Canadian needs and costs. Thus safeguarding the Island's needs will be jeopardized. Activities on Vancouver Island, including the functioning of the proposed gas-consuming energy plant, will be unsustainable.

It is difficult to visualize a more manipulated depredation of a Canadian resource to provide the US with the leverage for controlling its supreme self-serving benefits at the expense of Canadian energy needs. A deplorable situation!

Rather than a sovereign nation we will be transformed into a compliant client state.

Unfortunately, given the US's recent trends on trade agreements and international unilateralism, NEB's decision is an unmitigated error of major proportions.

Environmentally, the NEB's supply constraint is madness. It will remove Vancouver's 'clean' hydro-power supply for export to the U.S. and replace it with greenhouse gas (GHG)

producing energy using an insecure American controlled gas supply. In effect, this proposal reduces our carbon dioxide offset capability and replaces it with significant GHG emissions.

Such a proposal, moreover, supports the recent findings of the Center for Global Development in Washington D.C. which ranked Canada as one of the worst nations (19 out of 21) on environmental issues when measured by the depletion of global environmental resources, per capita GHG emissions, contribution to clean technology and commitment to environmental treaties. It diminishes us to a disgraceful and deplorable status.

Fortunately, from a Canadian standpoint, *The Economist's* report on investment did not account for the nation's standing on environmental issues which, if included, would have dramatically depressed our standing.

Significantly, Canada's obligations under the Columbia River Downstream Benefits treaty are now terminated and B.C. will, in theory, have available over four times the amount of power expected from the proposed Vancouver Island GHG emitting power generator. So what's the rush?

To say the least, the NEB's recently published reasons for rejecting the Canadian pipeline (CP) alternative route were spurious.

The proposals for alternative Canadian pipeline routes by Centra Gas and BC Gas were outlined in 2002. Information on these was requested by Provincial Minister and members of the BC electorate but were refused by BC Hydro on the grounds of confidentiality.

This situation was reported to your office and, as well, to federal and provincial ministers in 2002 and 2003. No remedial action was ever taken.

NEB and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency were similarly informed and, again, no action was forthcoming. At no time did the published records show that any of the parties involved had made an exhaustive examination of the possibility of a Canadian supply of Canadian gas and the comparative long-term multifaceted impacts were never assessed against any alternatives.

It is my belief that the NEB decision did not demonstrate due diligence by demanding a more secure and economic source of gas or optional processes which would better serve the interests and particularly the environmental needs of the people of BC, Canada and nations of the world.

The whole matter is one of our future as a nation and is a federal responsibility. It cannot be left to short term parochialism.

Unfortunately, given the circumstances, one feels a vague subversive aura envelops this whole issue. I sincerely hope that I am wrong and I would urge that through your good offices answers will be forthcoming which eliminate such an impression. That any government or any agency of government at any level would blindly hand over control of our energy resources and future to the U.S. is difficult to conceive. However, with the greatest respect, I would like some reassurance that, in fact, this is untrue.

George Legg, Nanaimo

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Forested by cedar, arbutus and alder, this large sunny (.81 acre) lot has a building site ready for your vacation home. Ample space for RV or trailers.

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FULFORD DAYS from page 5

baked potatoes, corn on the cob, hot dogs, hamburgers or fruitsicles. Don't forget to top off the day with a slice of home-made pie.

The challenge quilt, now on display at Island Savings Credit Union, will be raffled off near the end of the day. The nautical themed work of art is the creation of eighteen local fabric artists. Next year's challenge squares will be available on the site.

While entertainment is free and the prices for food are kept as low as possible, the group still expects to see some profits. Over the last fifteen years Fulford Day has raised \$53,785, which has been donated back to local community organizations.

Come and support a great community event and you won't be able to help but enjoy yourself. Be there. Do it all. And don't forget to buy the T-shirt. You'll love the anniversary Lambo design by Dennis Parker. /

Helicopter ambulance scare over

Recent concern about cuts to helicopter ambulance service have thankfully proved unfounded. Closing of the Victoria (Sidney airport) base is only a change in the service, not a cut. The helicopter based in Victoria will simply fly out of Vancouver in addition to the one already based there, BC Ambulance Service officials clarified. Response times will not be any longer and where the patient is taken will be up to the physician attending exactly as it has been. In fact, basing two helicopters at one base will not only be an economy, it will mean a dedicated paramedic crew giving faster response time as personnel will be on-site during all daylight hours. /

HIROSHIMA, from page 3

the 6 and 9 of August, 1945, I would remind you, we were at war. Our job was to win.' These words were spoken on June 8, 1994, by Brig. General Paul Tibbetts (Enola Gay's son) on receiving the US Air Force's Freedom Award.

The decades-long, half-hearted debate on why the bombs were used misses the point. That Hiroshima and Nagasaki are amongst the most barbaric of war crimes ever is an unavoidable conclusion. When the bombs were dropped, the US shattered every rule of international law about war. It is worse: evidence for the motive points to the bombings being used as 'tests' of nuclear weapons (as Admiral Leahy noted), designed to impress Stalin as much as the Japanese Emperor.

Hiroshima changed everything about war forever. The Cold War's nuclear arms race was inevitable after Hiroshima. The US policy of overwhelming nuclear threat, which became known as nuclear deterrence, started with Hiroshima and has continued unabated, getting a recent official policy boost from the Bush administration. Since World War II and Hiroshima, little serious attempt is made by military forces to avoid civilian deaths in war.

The US military term 'collateral damage' has become part of our language, as has the term 'nuking' our foes. We now accept a world in which most industrial centres are targeted by nuclear weapons. Civilians all over the world are held hostage

to the threat of nuclear annihilation. The US (along with Canadian) and UK militaries are fixed in their belief that national security only comes by this 'nuclear deterrence.' They have sabotaged attempts at UN nuclear arms control and have hamstrung the UN in its peacekeeping role for over half a century.

The broader implications of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were best put by General Omar N. Bradley, Chief of Staff, United States Army, who said in 1948, 'We have too many men of science, too few men of God. We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon of the Mount. The world has achieved brilliance without wisdom, power without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living.'

General Bradley's words are even more relevant half a century later. A world that accepts the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as justifiable is a world ethically retarded, a world dangerously in denial.

We continue to live under the shadow of Hiroshima. After 58 years it is time to face up to the shadow and create a world civilization liberated from the terror of weapons of mass destruction—but let's not go on trusting world governments to do it. /

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Seaweeds—Algae With Attitude - Julie Johnston, Pat Haugh and Susan Taylor

Except for sea grasses (eelgrass, for example), all plants in the ocean are algae: plants with no true stems, roots, or leaves. In the sea, you can be surrounded by millions of plants but not see any because most are microscopic (more than 700 single-celled algae can live in one litre of seawater). In fact, it's said that blue whales, which feed on phytoplankton (drifting plants) and tiny animals, can afford to be so large because they don't use much energy to catch food.

But some algae grow taller than your average apartment building—over 100 feet. Attached algae that are big enough to be seen with the naked eye are called seaweeds. There are over 600 diverse species of seaweed growing in this region, very different from each other, and quite distinct from flowering plants and fungi. They don't need protection such as waxy coatings or bark. Their root-like structure (holdfast) merely anchors them to the ocean floor. They don't need a conducting system because all parts of the plant—stem-like stipe and leaf-like blades—are in constant contact with the water, extracting nutrients and dissolved gases. And although seaweeds reproduce prolifically, they do not have elaborate reproductive structures such as flowers or cones.

However, seaweeds are photosynthetic, like other plants. There are three basic groups of Pacific seaweeds: green, brown and red. Their colours depend on their pigmentation and on how deep they grow. We see all three types of seaweeds intertidally. Most green seaweeds grow near the surface of the water and in the intertidal zone. Farther down are mostly brown (or gold) seaweeds. And in the dim light even deeper, most plants are red. All plants need light, so where the ocean is too deep for sunlight to penetrate (about 100 feet), there

are no seaweeds, although some dimly lit underwater caves are lined with red seaweed.

Among green seaweeds, sea lettuce is the most 'cosmopolitan,' growing on every coast in the world. Sea lettuce flourishes where there are rich nutrients (sewage and fertilizer run-off), and in Italy's Venice Lagoon, 220 tons of it must be harvested daily all summer to avoid the rotten-egg smell of decomposing sea lettuce. On our beaches, this bright green seaweed is more luxuriant where there is a fresh water source.

Rockweed (see illustration) is a common brown seaweed in our cold coastal waters, usually found in the mid and high-tide zones, growing in bushy clumps. It is olive-green in colour with yellowish inflated tips. The dominant pigment in brown seaweeds (fucoxanthin) reflects yellow light and masks the low concentration of green chlorophyll. This same pigment is also found in land plants but is only seen when chlorophyll is destroyed, producing the colours of autumn leaves.

Turkish towel is a red seaweed (although it can be purplish) that grows in the low intertidal zone or subtidally and has a bumpy texture. It often washes up on the beach. Red seaweeds make up the majority of seaweed species worldwide. Species can be red, pink, purple, or greenish to brownish, making identification tricky. Look near the attachment to see the true colour. And check the texture; red seaweeds are more rubbery than the browns or greens.

Seaweeds range from tiny single-celled spheres to long bull whips. They can be filamentous, flattened, branched or not, fleshy, crusts, blades, tubes, sheets or bushes. Some seaweeds reproduce sexually, with gametes. Others reproduce asexually via spores or fragmentation (broken off bits become new plants).

Since grazing is the strongest pressure on seaweed communities, several species have developed survival tactics. Some seaweeds develop quickly, growing so rapidly that snails and other gastropods can't harm them.

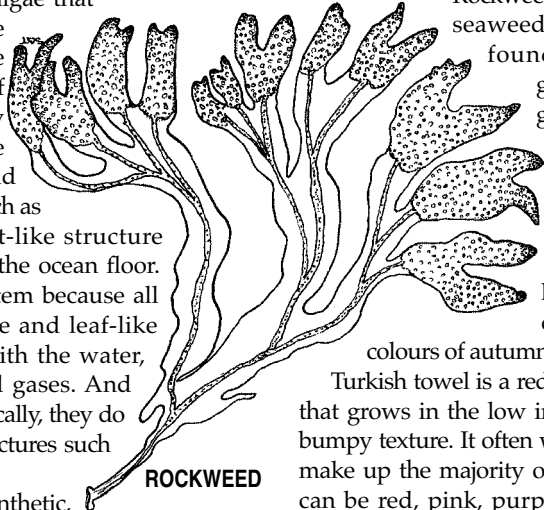
Other seaweeds grow tough tissues or hold their soft tissues high in the water, out of reach of bottom-dwelling herbivores. Some produce chemicals that discourage grazing. And others have different phases in their lifecycle, appearing both as a leaf-like plant and as a crust, which is probably less likely to be eaten or dehydrated than the more delicate blade.

Seaweeds play a vital ecological role, serving as both habitat and food for numerous fishes and invertebrates living near shore. For coastal cultures everywhere, seaweed has long been a foodstuff and renewable resource. The First Peoples along the Pacific coast traded dried seaweed along with fish oils, shells and other sea products to interior tribes in exchange for meat, hides, copper and furs. More recently, seaweeds have been used commercially as emulsifiers in foods, cosmetics, medicines and industrial products. Many are edible, provide plant fertilizers and livestock feed supplements, and have pharmaceutical uses in fighting high blood pressure, some cancers and stroke.

Seaweeds are affected by changes in sunlight, temperature and winds, and also by overharvesting and pollution from industry, cities and ships. With all the gifts we receive from seaweeds, they deserve our respect.

For more information on seaweeds, see *Pacific Seaweeds: A Guide to Common Seaweeds of the West Coast*, by Louis D. Druehl (Harbour Publishing, 2000).

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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