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# Strait of Georgia Island Tides

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Photo: Ken Balcomb, Centre For Whale Research, San Juan Island

**Baby bliss—new calf for the Southern Resident Orca Community—L113 with mom L94 (Calypso). Because young orcas have high mortality, the blushing baby won't be given its nickname till it's a year old. See story page 8.**

## Shipping safety concerns Islands Trust

Meeting on Saturna Island on Wednesday June 16, Islands Trust Council spent much of the day on an extensive information session about deep-sea shipping in and around the Islands.

### Plumper Sound

Plumper Sound, between the Penders, Mayne, and Saturna Islands, is designated as an auxiliary anchorage for Vancouver Harbour, and there had been recent incidents involving ships dragging their anchors, particularly in southeast gales. Jim Lawson, Regional Director of Transport

spent several months there in 2009.) It seemed possible that, with climate change, more severe gales were occurring than previously. A Marine Advisory will be issued about anchoring in Plumper Sound in the winter.

### Oil Tankers

Oonagh O'Connor, marine shipping safety advocate, set the stage for a most informative session by explaining that of the 400,000 vessel movements per day on BC's Pacific Coast, tankers accounted for only 1%. Most concern, however, was expressed about the increase in tanker traffic past the Southern Gulf Islands from the Kinder Morgan Westridge terminal in Burnaby. The terminal is the western end of the former Trans-Mountain pipeline, built in the '50s, which transported Alberta oil to four refineries in the lower mainland and just across the US border.

Only one of those refineries is still in operation, and Kinder Morgan has started to use the pipeline to transport tar-sands oil

**SHIPPING SAFETY, please turn to page 12**

### Hot Coffee by Sam Lightman

## 'I knew it wasn't a done deal'—McLeod

Rejection of the proposal by the Salt Spring Coffee Company (SSCC) to rezone 1501 Fulford-Ganges Road from rural-residential to commercial (C6) continues to reverberate across Salt Spring and throughout the Gulf Islands.

Feelings about the issue both pro and con are strong, and Salt Spring's Islanders for Self-Government (SSISG) has been using it to fuel the flames of discontent with local government. Their latest move was a July 4 event on Salt Spring in support of a demand for a review of the *Islands Trust Act*. Among those on the speaking agenda was Mickey McLeod, CEO of Salt Spring Coffee.

McLeod has vowed to move his operation to Vancouver. 'Vancouver embraces us, they really want us,' he said in an interview at the end of June, 'We almost had a deal, but it crumbled this week.'

So it now appears that his original intention to move SSCC to Vancouver by the end of the summer will have to wait until another Mainland property can be located. 'Certainly we'll do it before the end of the year,' he says. The company's Ganges café will, of course, remain.

### Surprising Agreement

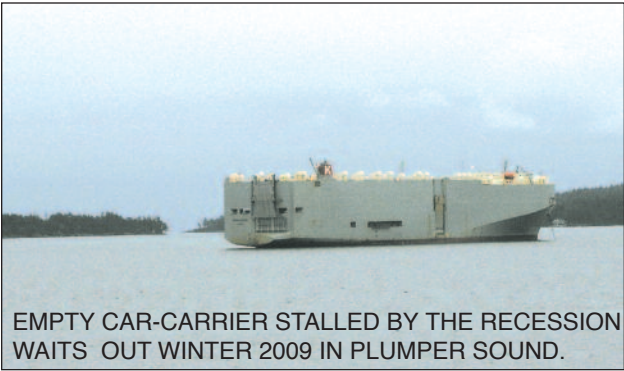
There is surprising agreement between

McLeod and the current Local Trustees, George Ehring and Christine Torggrimson, about the details of the matter. But two questions keep recurring for which no clear answers have been forthcoming: why did McLeod choose that particular Salt Spring property; and why did the Trustees allow the process to drag on as long as it did when the question of the rezoning of that particular property was so controversial?

McLeod sidesteps the first question. 'Mr Ehring told us there were three things we could do: buy an already appropriately zoned piece of property, but there was nothing available; lease a property from someone who had already got his property rezoned; or apply for rezoning, which everyone has the right to do.'

McLeod says he tried the first two options and came up empty. Then he found 1501 Fulford-Ganges Road. 'We talked to the trustees [Ehring and Peter Lamb at the time],' he says. 'We talked to Mac Fraser, the Trust's Director of Planning in Victoria. Told him the plan, where and when. He didn't say 'go' but he sort of gave us a nod, because he said the Trustees wanted us to stay and would help.' But McLeod never revealed

**HOT COFFEE, please turn to page 13**



EMPTY CAR-CARRIER STALLED BY THE RECESSION  
WAITS OUT WINTER 2009 IN PLUMPER SOUND.

Canada, indicated that he was aware of the problem, and that it was not intended that Plumper Sound be used as a long term anchorage (a car-carrier is reported to have

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**Island Tides**  
AT POINT ATKINSON  
JULY

Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.	Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.
<b>7</b> WE	0750 1548 1939	<b>4.3</b> <b>12.8</b> <b>11.8</b>	1.3 3.9 3.6	<b>15</b> TH	0213 0718 1348 2042	<b>8.5</b> <b>12.8</b> <b>3.6</b> <b>15.7</b>	2.6 3.9 1.1 4.8
<b>8</b> TH	0030 0836 1636 2053	<b>13.8</b> <b>3.3</b> <b>13.8</b> <b>12.1</b>	4.2 1.0 4.2 3.7	<b>16</b> FR	0311 0831 1432 2116	<b>7.2</b> <b>12.1</b> <b>5.2</b> <b>15.7</b>	2.2 3.7 1.6 4.8
<b>9</b> FR	0119 0923 1718 2151	<b>13.8</b> <b>2.3</b> <b>14.1</b> <b>12.1</b>	4.2 0.7 4.3 3.7	<b>17</b> SA	0409 0957 1521 2152	<b>5.9</b> <b>11.5</b> <b>7.2</b> <b>15.4</b>	1.8 3.5 2.2 4.7
<b>10</b> SA	0215 1009 1756 2242	<b>14.1</b> <b>1.3</b> <b>14.8</b> <b>11.8</b>	4.3 0.4 4.5 3.6	<b>18</b> SU	0506 1139 1619 2230	<b>4.9</b> <b>11.5</b> <b>9.2</b> <b>14.8</b>	1.5 3.5 2.8 4.5
<b>11</b> SU	0313 1055 1831 2331	<b>14.4</b> <b>1.0</b> <b>15.1</b> <b>11.5</b>	4.4 0.3 4.6 3.5	<b>19</b> MO	0602 1322 1734 2311	<b>4.3</b> <b>12.1</b> <b>10.8</b> <b>14.1</b>	1.3 3.7 3.3 4.3
<b>12</b> MO	0413 1139 1904	<b>14.4</b> <b>1.0</b> <b>15.4</b>	4.4 0.3 4.7	<b>20</b> TU	0659 1451 1905 2358	<b>3.6</b> <b>13.1</b> <b>11.5</b> <b>13.8</b>	1.1 4.0 3.5 4.2
<b>13</b> TU	0023 0512 1223 1936	<b>10.8</b> <b>14.1</b> <b>1.3</b> <b>15.4</b>	3.3 4.3 0.4 4.7	<b>21</b> WE	0755 1557 2032	<b>3.3</b> <b>13.8</b> <b>11.8</b>	1.0 4.2 3.6
<b>14</b> WE	0117 0613 1305 2009	<b>9.8</b> <b>13.5</b> <b>2.3</b> <b>15.7</b>	3.0 4.1 0.7 4.8	<b>22</b> TH	0053 0849 1648 2138	<b>13.5</b> <b>3.0</b> <b>14.1</b> <b>11.8</b>	4.1 0.9 4.3 3.6


ADD ONE HOUR FOR DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

**Island Tides**  
AT FULFORD HARBOUR  
JULY

Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.	Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.
<b>7</b> WE	0713 1624 1818 2326	<b>2.6</b> <b>9.2</b> <b>9.2</b> <b>10.2</b>	0.8 2.8 2.8 3.1	<b>15</b> WE	0144 0620 1259 2025	<b>6.9</b> <b>8.9</b> <b>2.6</b> <b>11.2</b>	2.1 2.7 0.8 3.4
<b>8</b> TH	0754 1657 1944	<b>1.6</b> <b>9.8</b> <b>9.8</b>	0.5 3.0 3.0	<b>16</b> FR	0246 0748 1341 2053	<b>5.9</b> <b>8.2</b> <b>3.9</b> <b>11.2</b>	1.8 2.5 1.2 3.4
<b>9</b> FR	0008 0837 1730 2053	<b>10.5</b> <b>1.0</b> <b>10.5</b> <b>9.8</b>	3.2 0.3 3.2 3.0	<b>17</b> SA	0345 0934 1426 2122	<b>4.6</b> <b>7.9</b> <b>5.6</b> <b>11.2</b>	1.4 2.4 1.7 3.4
<b>10</b> SA	0100 0921 1801 2151	<b>10.5</b> <b>0.7</b> <b>10.8</b> <b>9.8</b>	3.2 0.2 3.3 3.0	<b>18</b> SU	0441 1134 1517 2151	<b>3.6</b> <b>7.9</b> <b>7.2</b> <b>10.8</b>	1.1 2.4 2.2 3.3
<b>11</b> SU	0158 1006 1831 2244	<b>10.8</b> <b>0.3</b> <b>10.8</b> <b>9.5</b>	3.3 0.1 3.3 2.9	<b>19</b> MO	0535 1337 1625 2222	<b>3.0</b> <b>8.5</b> <b>8.2</b> <b>10.5</b>	0.9 2.6 2.5 3.2
<b>12</b> MO	0258 1050 1900 2340	<b>10.5</b> <b>0.3</b> <b>10.8</b> <b>8.9</b>	3.2 0.1 3.3 2.7	<b>20</b> TU	0629 1505 1801 2258	<b>2.3</b> <b>9.5</b> <b>9.2</b> <b>10.2</b>	0.7 2.9 2.8 3.1
<b>13</b> TU	0359 1134 1929	<b>10.2</b> <b>0.7</b> <b>11.2</b>	3.1 0.2 3.4	<b>21</b> WE	0720 1603 1952 2343	<b>2.0</b> <b>10.2</b> <b>9.5</b> <b>10.2</b>	0.6 3.1 2.9 3.1
<b>14</b> TU	0041 0506 1217 1957	<b>8.2</b> <b>9.8</b> <b>1.3</b> <b>11.2</b>	2.5 3.0 0.4 3.4	<b>22</b> TH	0808 1648 2115	<b>1.6</b> <b>10.5</b> <b>9.5</b>	0.5 3.2 2.9

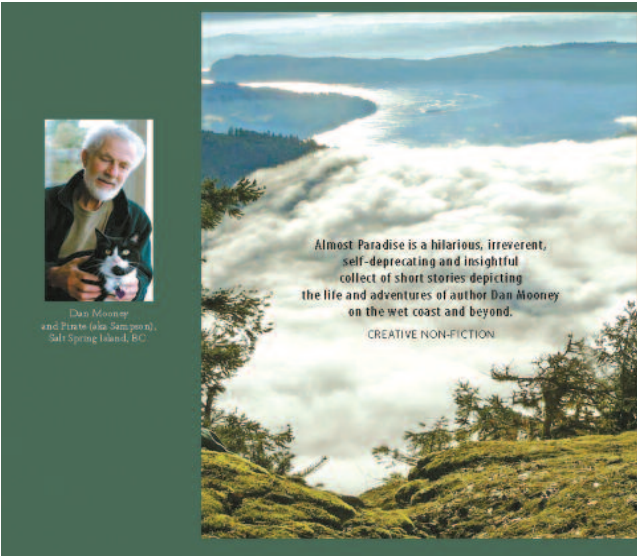
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Tide Table Courtesy of



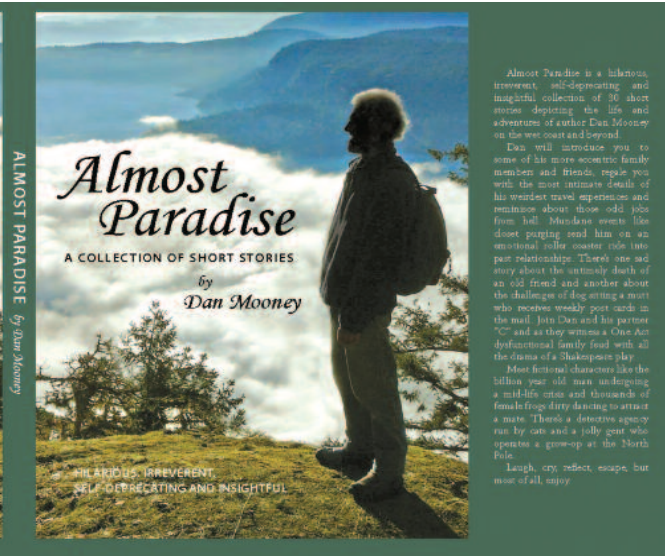
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Almost Paradise is a hilarious, irreverent, self-deprecating and insightful collect of short stories depicting the life and adventures of author Dan Mooney on the wet coast and beyond.

CREATIVE NON-FICTION



Almost Paradise is a hilarious, irreverent, self-deprecating and insightful collection of 30 short stories depicting the life and adventures of author Dan Mooney on the wet coast and beyond.

Dan will introduce you to some of his more eccentric family members and friends, regale you with the most intimate details of his weirdest travel experiences and reminisce about those odd jobs from hell. Mundane events like doing pigging and him on an emotional roller coaster ride, his past relationships. There's one sad story about the untimely death of an old friend and another about the challenge of dog sitting a man who receives weekly post cards in the mail. Join Dan and his partner "T" and as they witness a Once An Infunctional family find with all the drama of a Shakespeare play.

Most fictional characters like the littlest year old man undergoing a mid-life crisis and thousands of female frogs dirty dancing to attract a mate. There's a detective agency run by cats and a jolly gent who operates a grow-up at the North Pole.

Laugh, cry, reflect, escape, but most of all, enjoy.

Living Intents-ly ~ Dan Mooney

When the ice finally releases its stranglehold on the northern lakes; when the sun reaches its zenith after a tortuous, tortoise-paced six-month ascent of the southern skies; when the woods are humming with the mellifluous sound of new and improved populations of mosquitoes, no-see-ums, blackflies, deerflies, and horseflies; when every trail is graced by delicate, slender, arching stocks of stinging nettles; when industrious colonies of yellow-jackets and mud wasps have taken up residence in every rotten log and hollow tree; when each new day brings reports of bear attacks and cougar mauulings; when every body of swimmable water reaches a temperature capable of supporting the biological conditions necessary to produce swimmers’ itch, when all the back roads of the province have dried out sufficiently to produce clouds of choking, impenetrable dust; when the schools have closed, disgorging hordes of obstreperous little ostra sgoths to even the remotest corners of the land; it’s time to dig out the maps and the guides, it’s time for that annual Canadian masochistic ritual: yes, it’s time for the camping trip.

No matter how disastrous the previous summer, no matter how many sleepless nights you spent in a soggy sleeping bag swatting mosquitoes, no matter how many times you shook your head vowing never again when the neighbouring campers’ 10-year-old rode through your campsite on his minibike for the hundredth time, no matter how many times his mother dropped by to borrow salt, sugar, tea, a flashlight, a band-aid, some matches, your last beer and finally, after you had just managed to get to sleep, an aspirin!

Each new summer holds the promise of the perfect camping trip (an oxymoron); previous disasters are conveniently forgotten by a voluntary suspension of disbelief that I call camnesia.

There must be some sort of weird synchronicity happening when half the Lower Mainland chooses the same isolated unnamed lake (or hot spring, or waterfall, or glacier, or cave, or alpine meadow) that you thought you would have all to yourself.

One summer we beat our old VW van over an execrable logging road near Lilloet Lake to reach a hot spring we had been told about and were overjoyed to find the place deserted. We threw off our clothes and jumped into the refreshing hot water and had just laid back to relax when we heard an ominous, all too familiar sound—the wild four-wheeler. It was a club from Surrey, about 20, in all who pulled up, covered wagon style, around the spring and proceeded to crank up their tape deck, crack open unending cases of beer and fill up the night with wild, loud, obscene cries. So there we were in the hot water surrounded by beer thirsty barbarians, all the essential ingredients for a Mel Lastman\* nightmare. Our little paradise transformed in seconds into just another never-again mistake. (\*Mel Lastman, a former mayor of Toronto, caused quite a stir when he stated he would not travel to Africa because he didn’t want to be boiled alive in a cauldron.)

But despite some bummers, we do occasionally have some rewarding experiences. In the late 1970s, with the Hot Spring Guide of Western Canada in hand, we hiked 10 miles

up a rough mining road built by a lady-driven D-9 cat on the east side of Harrison Lake. According to the guide, the lady had constructed the road to access her mining claim. This is incredibly wild terrain with raging torrents, crashing waterfalls, rough and tumble rangtang loggers and lots and lots of bears. We finally reached a small plywood cabin she had erected and were absolutely amazed to find an olympic-size pool with steaming hot water built from first growth cedars placed in a huge rectangle. The hot water came out of a rock face and fell into a gigantic enamel claw foot tub which overflowed into the pool. Sitting in the tub, so nonchalant and blissed-out it didn’t even see us, was a large black bear. No, we didn’t have the camera. We had to wait for our turn to get into the tub.


Trailheads, despite their lack of camping amenities, can be interesting and entertaining places to people watch. You see couples arriving fresh from the city in their shiny, brand new camping outfits, neat and tidy, every hair in place, hand-in-hand like latter day Adams and Eves, eager and excited to be getting on the trail and back to nature.

You encounter them again a few days later utterly transformed by the experience, mud to the armpits, battle-scarred, weary and irritable after nothing for days but gorp (hippie bridge mix) to survive on: the male often carrying both packs, hers mounted in reverse on his chest and she a mile or two behind, hair a mad tangle, her now muddy new boots tied over her shoulder, picking her way gingerly on blistered feet, muttering to herself incoherently and abstractly, almost despondently, words that sound suspiciously like ... ‘never again!’—which translates as not till next summer anyway. Another back-to-nature trip that went too far back.

One of the most common groups one encounters at trailheads is the father-daughter combo: the poor, guilt-ridden, single parent desperately trying to make up for the last 11 months of neglect and dereliction of duty by sharing some quality time in the great outdoors. The daughters fervently wishing they were back at the mall with their friends or just anywhere but cooped up in a hot, dusty car for miles over rough, interminable, boring logging roads with the one person in the world they *just can’t stand*—each other—with a parent so square he won’t even let them listen to their favourite Eminem or Snoop Dogg CD’s. As miles drag on, the tensions build until they finally arrive at some godforsaken parking lot in the middle of freak’n nowhere and when they do, it’s best to keep out of their way because in their haste to finally put some space between each other it’s like the running of the bulls at Pamplona.




I observed one pair of these simmering volcanic sisters attempting to disembark simultaneously into the narrow space between parked vehicles accidentally bump into each other. There were immediate and vociferous accusations and recriminations reminiscent of the Arab-Israeli conflict—outraged cries of ‘whyjadothatfor’ followed by a demonstration of hair-pulling, eye-gouging and kick-boxing so brutal you’d think they were on the set of the latest Jackie Chan movie. The mortified and embarrassed father did his level best to keep them separated, wondering despairingly,

CAMPING, please turn to next page



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G20 – Was It Worth It? ~ Elizabeth May

World leaders had been planning for a G20 meeting in 2010 for over a year, when Stephen Harper changed the plan. The 2010 G20 meeting was planned for November in Seoul, South Korea. It will still take place in November in South Korea. The June Toronto G20 was an add-on. Why the Prime Minister chose to add a G20 in Toronto to the planned G8 in Huntsville is a question to which Canadians deserve an answer. It is the \$1 billion + question.

The extravagance of taxpayers’ money that was the G8/G20 summit received most of the media attention. The ‘fake lake,’ the restored steamboat in Tony Clement’s riding that is still not in the water—among various amusing and infuriating examples of pork-barrelling—will be fodder for electioneering, but far more substantive aspects of the event need to be discussed and reviewed.

These questions fall into two categories: what did the leaders actually accomplish (at a cost to Canadians of \$50 million/hour), and were there options to avoid the street clashes that will be the enduring memory of Toronto last weekend?

The most substantive achievement from the G8/G20 meetings is the \$5 billion maternal healthcare commitment. Canada’s contribution is generous, especially in contrast with the other donor nations. We have committed \$1 billion to maternal health, or slightly less than what the summit cost. Our generosity is tainted by the Harper government’s refusal to allow our funding to include provision of safe and legal abortion services, such as are available to Canadian women, to the poorest women in the world. Nevertheless, despite this offensive and illogical stance, we must hope that the Canadian contribution of \$1 billion will help alleviate suffering and improve health services.

Efforts to confront the problem presented by financial institutions which rely on being viewed as ‘too big to fail’—but never ‘too big to bail out’—were something of a wash. Those nations committed to

create a tax on banks will proceed individually.

The larger potential for a tax such as that envisioned by the late James Tobin, Nobel Laureate in Economics, to reduce the destabilization of currencies through speculative trading was only noted as deserving further study. The Green Party fully supports the Tobin Tax as well as regulation to ensure banks maintain an embedded capital contingency fund. Such a fund would essentially require them to ‘bail themselves out’ without turning to the taxpayers.

Deficit reduction became the big story, with G20 leaders agreeing that developed countries will cut their deficits by half by 2013. The instability in global markets, the risk that the recession is not over, may lead the world leaders to re-think the rigidity of this commitment. Certainly, we would not want deficit reduction to result in greater recessionary trends and serious cuts in social programmes around the world. Unemployment is still worryingly high in many countries. We, in Canada, have been spared the worst of the recession, largely thanks to the fact our banks were denied the ability to ‘go global’ when former Prime Minister Jean Chretien rejected their requests for mergers in the 1990s. Mr Harper likes to take credit for our superior banking system, and conveniently forgets that he agreed with the banks in their bid to merge and engage in the same global financial risky behaviour of the Big Boys, like Goldman Sachs and Lehman Brothers.

Some world leaders have argued that more stimulus is needed to address persistent unemployment. Certainly, for Canada, we should move to reduce the deficit as soon as possible. We should not proceed with further corporate tax cuts. I presented the Green deficit reduction plan in January to the Parliamentary Budget Officer. We were the first party to do so, and we remain the only opposition party to have worked up detailed approaches to deficit reduction and shared them with the PBO.

G-20, please turn to page 10

CAMPING from page 2  
where did I go wrong? and shuddering visibly at the prospect of playing referee for the whole weekend for these convent educated tomboys who through some monstrous trick of fate have somehow sprung from his loins with their pierced everythings.

The worst part of any camping experience is the interminable hours spent in the van just getting there and back. To break the monotony we rely heavily on the radio and tapedeck to while away the hours and this can give rise to some expensive situations in today’s high tech world. It used to be that the car radio was a simple utilitarian device with only two knobs needed to control all possible functions. You could operate it without once removing your eyes from the road, a blind person could operate it by touch alone, you could operate it with your toes from the back seat if your hands were otherwise occupied.

But today’s miniaturized, computerized, transistorized, theft-proof model is so

sophisticated it demands your full attention. Ours has a digital print-out screen which must be read in order to get the results you want. All the controls are tiny identical buttons impossible to tell apart. They should be declared illegal for use in vehicles.

Why not have your mate control the radio while you drive, you fondly ask? C solves the boredom problem by crawling into the back and sleeping the entire trip, waking only to eat at regular intervals.

It must have been while I was thus occupied that I sailed through a speed radar trap. Next thing I knew I was being signaled to pull over by a very large, menacing, uniformed figure who informed me that I was well over the speed limit. The fine was more than we had spent on the entire camping trip.

Salt Spring Islander Dan Mooney’s book, from which the above is an excerpt, is called ‘Almost Paradise’ and will be published on Island-time—soon, stay tuned. ☺

Saturna Notes ~ Priscilla Ewbank

Having had three daughters who have graduated from our elementary school, the walls, windows and chalkboards are very familiar to me—always with the children bringing the place alive. I feel so thankful to all our school representatives that we still have our school nestled in the community when so many rural schools have been shut and the children are bussed to other places.



The entire community is welcomed at the annual Saturna School Open House—both a matinée and an evening performance. Visiting were Salt Spring parents, siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles and friends of the school and parents.

A wander around the school with the kids at their stations to explain their writings, booklets and displays started the afternoon session. I was impressed with the amount of writing the kids do and pictures they draw to illustrate various studies and reports. Regularly they present their findings and results to each other orally.

The kids had displays of their work filling the tables, walls and boards of the two rooms. They gave speeches and performances demonstrating the individual talents and interests that they had worked on during the year with community mentors: tailoring, singing, horseriding, filmmaking, bike competing, and baking were some of the passions the kids presented.

I enjoyed myself; the students individual

projects were really interesting and, most of all, they themselves were really interested in them and did a great job confidently and enthusiastically sharing that information. I love them all for their willingness, their vulnerability, their potent selves that are unfolding before your very eyes. With luck, we will witness their successes and challenges as they navigate life alongside you in your community.

Feral Goat Study

During the Open House, the 14 students, smaller and older, presented the long-awaited results of their study of the Saturna feral goat population. Listeners included Parks Canada’s Todd Golumbia. Many Islanders were interviewed with short or long interviews. ‘Are the goats harming the habitat with their eating habits or are they no problem?’ Another question was: ‘Do you want them to stay, be managed or removed?’

At the Open House the students were remarkably poised and able to speak clearly

SATURNA, please turn to page 13

Saturna Island Fire Protection Society announces

The Sale at Auction of Saturna Island Fire Hall #1  
185 East Point Road  
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When? Sunday, August 15, 2010, 11:00 a.m.  
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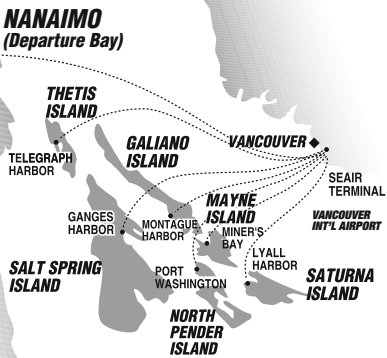
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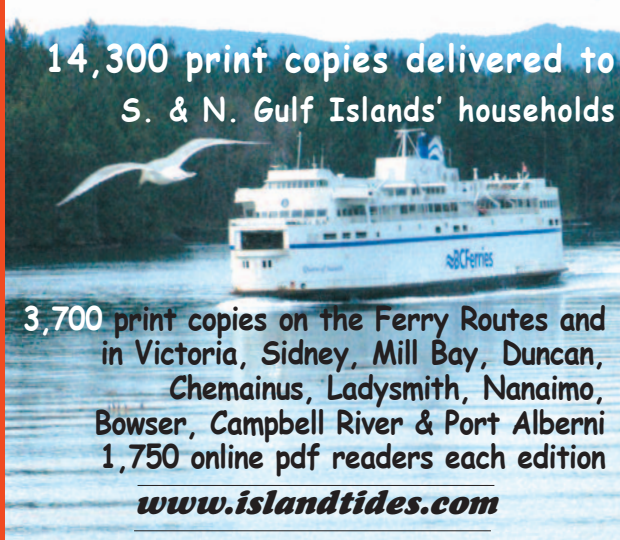




# Island Tides

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## Editorial: Not Worth The Risk

Oil sands producers want to ‘hedge their bets’ on the US market by shipping 1.2 million barrels per day in tankers through BC’s coastal waters to Asia. It’s not worth the environmental risk. If there is an answer to this problem, it will take more imagination than two competing pipeline companies have so far shown.

### The To-&-Fro Of Oil Trade

Canada currently exports over two million barrels of oil per day (mbpd), virtually all of it from western Canada, to the US, under NAFTA.

Canada imports over 1mbpd, mainly from Europe and the middle east, to supply eastern Canada. The US, in total, imports 11mbpd from many countries; Canada is its biggest supplier, with Saudi Arabia second.

China is the world’s fastest growing market for oil. It imports nearly 4mbpd (about half its total needs), with its major supplier being Saudi Arabia, followed by Angola, Iran, Russia, and the Oman. Japan imports about 4.6mbpd; South Korea about 2.1mbpd.

Canadian tar sands bitumen producers would like to develop a market alternative to the US, both to ensure a competitive price, and in case US threats to reduce imports of Canadian ‘dirty oil’ are actually carried out. China is the obvious alternative. Together with Japan and South Korea, it has the potential to absorb an ever-increasing quantity of tar sands oil. (Chinese companies have so far invested \$1.9 billion in Canadian tar-sands operations.)

### Pipeline Company Plans

Some idea of that increasing quantity is expressed in the plans of two competing pipeline companies to export tar-sands oil from BC ports. Kinder Morgan, operating the Westridge terminal beyond the Second Narrows in Burnaby, have recently expanded the former Trans-Mountain pipeline to a maximum of 300,000bpd, and now dispatches some 100 Aframax-sized tankers per year. They have plans to increase their pipeline capacity to 700,000bpd, which would more than triple their tanker traffic. They cannot load larger tankers because of the limitations of the Second Narrows and First Narrows; but all their tankers travel through Boundary Pass, down Haro Strait, past Race Rocks and out the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Enbridge, who propose to construct the 525,000bpd ‘Northern Gateway’ pipeline from Bruderheim, Alberta, to

Kitimat, would ship oil from Kitimat in some 225 Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs) per year. VLCCs (like the Exxon Valdez) are more than twice the size of Aframax tankers, and would reach Hecate Strait via some 90 miles of narrow channels.

### More Ships: More Chance Of Accidents

An accident with any size tanker anywhere on either route would be an environmental catastrophe. While the potential damage from any disaster is proportional to the size of the tanker, the probability of an accident is proportional to the number of ships. (For an assessment of the hazards, see ‘Is shipping tar sands oil from Kitimat wise?’ from March 4, 2010 *Island Tides*, available as a reprint through [www.islandtides.com](http://www.islandtides.com), ‘Energy’ archive).

Neither Enbridge nor Kinder Morgan are willing to assume responsibility for any accident beyond the end of their pipelines, although Enbridge have indicated that they intend to install advanced navigational aids to guide ships.

In effect, Alberta’s tar-sands oil producers, and these two pipeline companies, are prepared to gamble British Columbia’s coast in order to hedge against US pressures on the supply and the price of their oil.

One of the most difficult problems in economics is to establish the appropriate price to be paid for a small risk of a large disaster, particularly an environmental one. In this case, no price is great enough.

### Solutions

At the very least, there should be an oil shipping route to Asia that does not require large tankers to snake through BC’s coastal waters. A more imaginative solution might see western Canadian oil piped to eastern Canada, displacing imports from Europe and the Middle East.

Or, a rearrangement of world oil-trading patterns, which would guarantee North American markets for an agreed quantity of tar sands synthetic crude, in return for guaranteeing a supply from elsewhere to Asian markets.

If there is to be a solution, it will require more enterprise than either of these two market-driven limited companies, and their tar-sands customers, can muster; it will require government taking responsibility for the environment. Isn’t that what government is for? ☞

## Readers’ Letters

### Publishing Long Form Necessary

Dear Editor:  
The decision of the federal government to no longer do the long form of the census will erode women’s rights. This survey was the sole avenue we had to tally unpaid work and was only reluctantly provided after a hard-fought battle across the country headed by homemaker Carol Lees of Saskatoon in 1993. The data from the long form was used by women’s groups to let government see how much of the economy depends on free labour of women in the home, and gave legislators new perspective on career-family balance, gender equality and the third wave of women’s rights. To substitute a new survey but not publish results risks silencing, yet again, the voices of women.

The contributions of homemakers can nor will not be fairly recognized by abandoning the collection of data on the roles they play. Results must be published!

Beverley Smith, Calgary

### Trustbusting Misinformation

Dear Editor:  
Our friendly neighbourhood ‘Trustbuster’ bent my ear the other day about how ‘the Islands Trust threw 15 people out of work on Salt Spring by turning down Salt Spring Roasting’s rezoning application without giving any reasons.’

Of course, I had to go looking for the facts and the following is a summary of reasons given for denial of the rezoning application.

- reluctant to impose an industrial use on a rural area.
  - the combination of uses proposed in this application—coffee roasting, education and agriculture—are not currently accommodated by any existing zoning.
  - sprawl and odour remain a concern.
  - the impact on neighbours is likely to be significant.
  - the project is too big a use, too big a change and too big a disturbance for the proposed location.
  - the proposal with all of its various uses, employees, visitors and customers, would create too much impact in this rural neighbourhood.
  - numerous aspects of the Official Community Plan are in conflict with the application at this location.
  - approval would create challenging enforcement needs.
- Both trustees supported and encouraged the endeavour and hoped Salt Spring Roasting would find a more suitable

### North Of Active Pass

Dear Editor:  
Re: ‘Extend national park to Galiano,’ June 10, *Island Tides*, I have the following clarification. From the lands available, when the governments of Canada and British Columbia agreed to which lands would be consolidated for the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve and what newly acquired lands would go to the creation of new provincial parks, it was decided that lands south-east of Galiano and Saltspring would be for national park purposes, and lands north of that area, such as Bodega Ridge, would become a provincial park.

During Wayne Bourque’s time as Park Superintendent, a number of groups have contacted him concerning the possibility of lands on Galiano or Saltspring becoming part of Gulf Islands National Park Reserve. He has always maintained the agreement between Canada and British Columbia to consolidate lands south-east of Galiano and Saltspring for national park purposes and lands to north would be for provincial protected areas. He has further explained that any proposed change to that agreement would have to be taken to both governments for their consideration and it would not be something that Parks Canada would do on its own initiative.

Additionally any lands proposed for the national park would have to meet selection criteria for national park purposes. Without the benefit of any kind of assessment of proposed lands against these criteria, he could not support nor dismiss such proposals. To date Parks Canada has not assessed any lands on Saltspring or Galiano for national park purposes.

Laura Judson, Coastal BC Field Unit, Parks Canada

### Pipeline In The Works

Dear Editor:  
I was shocked to open my recent *Island Tides* newspaper and find a full page from Enbridge Oil Company who are proposing the Northern Gateway Project to bring oil from the tar-sands to the coast of BC. I can only hope that the reaction to the ad informs your readers of how many people oppose this company and its pipeline plan. Please use the income from this ad to further your journalistic efforts to expose this company’s PR tactics.

Elizabeth (EJ) Hurst, Gabriola Island

location and remain on Salt Spring Island. They also expressed appreciation for community participation by the company.

Here are some details from the July 2, 2009 Local Trust Committee meeting minutes:

‘Trustee Torgrimson now has few concerns regarding the environmental impacts, but said the volume of proposed regulations suggests there are great difficulties in putting this operation into a rural setting. She is reluctant to impose an industrial use on a rural area.

‘Trustee Ehring said that the combination of uses proposed in this application—coffee roasting, education and agriculture—are not currently accommodated by any existing zoning. It is only because there is a rezoning application that performance issues regarding coffee roasting can be addressed. He supports the vision, is not convinced there are serious environmental issues, favours the additional local food production, but said sprawl and odour remain a concern.’

From the August 6, 2009 Local Trust Committee meeting minutes:

‘Trustee Ehring noted that although most of the comments he had received about the application were helpful, he was disappointed by the increasingly nasty tone and personal attacks that people on both sides of the issue had begun to level at each other. He pointed out that a lot of attention had been given to the investment that the company makes in the community, but that perhaps the investment that individual property owners have in their own neighbourhoods does not get enough attention.

‘Policies in the Official Community Plan offer conflicting guidance. While the studies indicate that there would be minimal environmental impact; the impact on neighbours is likely to be significant. He said that the project is too big a use, too big a change and too big a disturbance for the proposed location, and he hoped that the company would look for a more suitable location and remain on the island.

‘Trustee Torgrimson noted that a great deal of time and thought has been given to this complex and controversial application. She applauded the innovative nature of the proposal but not at this location. She said that the proposal with all of its various uses, employees, visitors and



# 'What's On?'

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### Fri thru Sun, July 9-11

**Vancouver Island MusicFest**—6 stages of music; Roberta Flack, Little Feat, Nanci Griffith, Joan Osborne, The Holmes Brothers, Adrian Belew, Po'Girl, and more; on-site riverside camping, kids stuff, green festival projects • Tickets Adult \$149, Senior 119, Youth (13-18) \$79, Under 7 free online or 1-866-898-8499 • Info: [www.islandmusicfest.com](http://www.islandmusicfest.com) • IN THE COMOX VALLEY

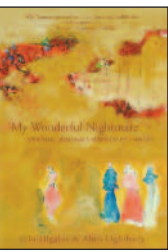


### Saturday, July 10

**Bard to Broadway's 5th Annual Garden & Home Tour**—includes 13 never before seen, spectacular gardens and stunning homes from Nanoose Bay to Qualicum Beach • 10am-5pm • Tickets: \$30 (includes tax), toll free 1-877-752-6813 or online [www.b2btheatre.com](http://www.b2btheatre.com) • ON VANCOUVER ISLAND

### Wednesday, July 14

**Book Launch: My Wonderful Nightmare**—by Erin Higgins and Alma Lightbody; a diagnosis of ovarian cancer at 31 forces Erin to question her existence and life purpose; honest sharing of insights about 'listening to your body', refreshments served • Talisman Books (outside) • 2pm • [www.mywonderfulnightmare.com](http://www.mywonderfulnightmare.com) • ON PENDER ISLAND



### Thurs, Fri & Sat, July 15, 16 & 17

**ArtSpring Treasure Fair**—lots of great items available at the Silent Auction, Live Auction & Cash 'n Carry Room • ArtSpring, 100 Jackson Avenue, Ganges • Tickets: free but reserve 250-537-2102, toll-free 866-537-2102, [www.artspring.ca](http://www.artspring.ca) • ON SALT SPRING ISLAND

### Thurs thru Sun, July 15 to 18

**Denman Island Readers and Writers Festival**—mainstage events, themed readings and intimate solo sessions; workshop space still available; featuring Brian Brett, Robert Bringhurst, Sharon Butala, Zsuzsi Gartner, Charlotte Gill, Des Kennedy, Richard Mackie, Emily Mandel, Philip Kevin Paul, Nancy Turner, Deborah Willis, Jan Zwicky, moderated by Bill Richardson • Info: 250-335-2576 [www.denmanislandreadersandwritersfestival.com](http://www.denmanislandreadersandwritersfestival.com) • ON DENMAN ISLAND

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### Friday, July 16

**Hornby Festival Tastings**—sip locally and regionally produced spirits, sample gourmet snacks, listen to talented musicians and meet renowned artists displaying their talents • Carbreia Vineyard & Winery, 1885 Central Road • 2-5pm • Tickets : \$30 available at [www.hornbyfestival.bc.ca](http://www.hornbyfestival.bc.ca), \$34 at the gate • ON HORNBY ISLAND



### Saturday, July 17

**Pender Film Group Screenings**—SAT JUL 17: *A Single Man* (2009)—after the sudden death of his partner, an English professor tries to go about his typical day; directed by Tom Ford, starring Colin Firth & Julianne Moore • 7:30pm • Community Hall • Admission by donation • Info: [www.penderislands.org](http://www.penderislands.org) • ON PENDER ISLAND

### Sat, July 24 thru Mon, August 2

**Summer on Salt Spring**—paintings by the Salt Spring Painters Guild; view and purchase art at great prices; enter to win a \$100 gift certificate toward the purchase of anything in the show; **JULY 24:** Opening Reception, 5-7 pm • ArtSpring, Ganges • Daily 10am-4pm • ON SALT SPRING ISLAND

### Saturday, July 24

**Mae Moore**—new album pre-release concert with Joby Baker, bass and Bill Hicks, drums • Community Hall • \$18 advance, \$20 at the door • ON PENDER ISLAND



### Saturday & Sunday, July 24 & 25

**14th Annual Art Off the Fence**—informal art show and sale; featuring the work of Ghenia Bogun, Carol Davidson, Frank Ducote, Diane Kremmer, Joy McAughtrie, Wendy Munroe, M. Isabel Roberts, Susan Taylor, Judith Walker, Diane MacDonald, Christopher Nowlin, Noriko Sasaki, Karl Stittgen & Tait Wilman; paintings, drawings, folk art, ceramic sculpture, photography; live music & food kiosk • Whalepointe, 9929 Southlands Drive • 11am-4pm • Info: 250-629-6241 • ON SOUTH PENDER ISLAND

### Fri thru Mon July 30, 31, Aug 1, 2

**The Filberg Festival**—28th Annual Filberg Festival—excellence in Canadian art, craft, and music; 140 artisans, entertainment & kids' area; fundraiser for Filberg Heritage Park • 61 Filberg Road • Tickets: \$15 daily, 12 years and under free, advance tickets \$13 daily or \$30 for a three day pass at Thrifty Foods and online • Info: [www.filbergfestival.com](http://www.filbergfestival.com) 250 334-9242 • IN COMOX

### Sat & Sun, July 31 & August 1

**Arts Denman 2010 Studio Tour**—25 studios; basketry, carved signs, culinary arts, fabric arts, felting, glass art, jewelry, mixed media, mosaics, painting, papercraft, photography, pottery, prints & cards, quilting, sculpture, woodwork, wooden toys; tour brochures/maps at Denman Island Arts Centre, 9:30am-4pm • Open 10am-4pm • Free admission • [www.artsdenman.com](http://www.artsdenman.com) • ON DENMAN ISLAND



### Wed thru Sun, August 4 to 8

**Denman Island Arts Centre Workshops**—Don Taylor: *Hand Bookbinding*—introduction to a variety of tools, materials, sewings and constructions fundamental to hand bookbinding • Workshop: \$350; materials: \$30 • Denman Island Arts Centre • [www.artsdenman.com](http://www.artsdenman.com) • ON DENMAN ISLAND

### Saturday, August 14

**Galiano Wine Festival**—wines from local producers and around the world; local cheese to taste and purchase; music by Brad Prevedoros; 50/50 draw, silent auction, souvenir wine glass; Galiano Health Centre fundraiser • 1-4pm • Tickets: \$35 at the door, reserved tickets from Pat Woolhouse 250-539-3117, [dw3117@telus.net](mailto:dw3117@telus.net) • Info: [www.galianowinefestival.com](http://www.galianowinefestival.com) • ON GALIANO ISLAND



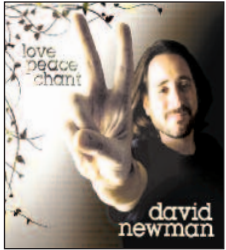
### Friday thru Sunday, Sept 17-19

**Yoga and Writing Retreat**—strengthen your intuition, nurture your body and spirit, listen deeply to the voice of your heart; no yoga or writing experience needed • double accommodation: \$545; single: \$645; commuter: \$345 • Ocean Resort, 4384 South Island Highway, [www.oceanresort.ca](http://www.oceanresort.ca) • Info: [awiens@meridiancom.ca](mailto:awiens@meridiancom.ca) or 780-722-4251 • IN CAMPBELL RIVER



### Fri thru Sun, September 24 to 26

**Wisdom of the Heart**—Kirtan & Devotional Yoga Retreat with David Newman and Mira, a gifted devotional vocalist and percussionist; a heartfelt weekend of ecstatic call and response chanting, devotional music and sacred song • Info: [yogadance@telus.net](mailto:yogadance@telus.net), or [www.arbutusretreats.com](http://www.arbutusretreats.com), 250-335-1616, • ON DENMAN ISLAND



#### LETTERS from previous page

customers, would create too much impact in this rural neighbourhood. While the process has been comprehensive and lengthy, she said it has enabled the trustees to perceive the whole picture and understand the full ramifications. She cited numerous aspects of the Official Community Plan that are in conflict with the application at this location, and added that approval would create challenging enforcement needs. She said she hoped than the company and the community can work together respectfully and constructively to find a more appropriate site.'

For full details go to at [www.saltspringtrustees.ca](http://www.saltspringtrustees.ca).  
These seem like good reasons given to me and the decision was not made lightly. I'm glad I checked out the facts before making a fool of myself by spreading misinformation.

Cheryl Bastedo, Galiano Island

#### Anti-Israel Or Anti-Semitic?

Dear Editor:  
It was a relief to read Elizabeth May's article in the June 24 edition of your great paper. I have family living in Israel and worry for their safety. Yet, I sometimes feel decisions made by their government are wrong, but have been hesitant to voice my thoughts. The big fear is that they will be ignored and labeled 'anti-Semitic'. Ms May clarifies this dilemma clearly and simply.

Jody Slakov, Salt Spring Island

Dear Editor:  
Someone just sent me Elizabeth May's article about the Middle-East. I am astounded! An informed politician who has thought through the issues and is able to express herself concisely and wisely. She touches on most of the aspects of this very pressing issue. She stands up for the importance

of free speech. And she is not afraid to say what she and her party stands for.

Thank you, Elizabeth, for writing the article and to the newspaper for printing it.

Reverend Marianna Harris, Vancouver

#### Accentuating The Positive

Dear Editor:  
I read the *Island Tides* from first page to last and am so grateful for the quality of reporting both on the 'large' issues of the day and on the local level. Yours is a wonderful example of thinking globally while acting locally and, only slightly hidden, is an important message for all of us who see environmental degradation as what should be our most important concern.

Often, so much of the way we speak about the environment is focused on what is wrong and what people are doing wrong. For those of us already in the choir, this is a given. For those who need to be brought on board, however, this is a risky approach. It implies that a need to search out the cheapest food or enjoy the comforts of central heat makes bad people. It does not surprise me that people run from this apparent finger-pointing or seek to shift the blame to someone else (often legitimately).

What if we began instead with a positive statement of vision, something like: 'We have achieved something unprecedented and amazing by unleashing human creativity in the service of providing for basic needs. We now easily produce enough so that everyone can have the essentials necessary for a comfortable life. Now it is time to shift our focus from acquisition to meaning as the central organizing principle of our lives.'

Flowing from such a vision sentence is a sense of

unlimited possibilities for work, pleasure, art and culture. We can learn again how to make the objects we purchase of high quality and workmanship, using more labour and fewer materials. We may pay a bit more up front, but what we get will last longer, be repairable, and provide meaningful work for skilled people.

The list can go on and on and everyone who reads this newspaper can add to it. How refreshing it would be, how stress-relieving for us, to move from a politics of confrontation to one aimed at securing the common good.

How good we will feel as we begin again to allocate precious resources in ways that allow them to do the most good. How wonderful it will be every time we can allow a resource to remain where it is so that future generations can have access to it should they need it (Raven coal mine proponents take notice!). How exciting it will be as we turn our competitive instincts to outdoing each other in keeping our lives comfortable while consuming less energy, just as hybrid car owners compete against themselves to see how efficiently they can drive.

Most important, how refreshing it will be when we drop the win-lose approach to life which leads to the wastefulness of war and concentrate instead on building a collaborative international community focused on peace and sharing.

This is the message which *Island Tides* hides in its reporting. The analysis of what is wrong is clear and honest. The local reporting shows how much we are all doing in our little Island worlds to actualize our concern and take positive steps to move in a new direction. Now let's bring that vision of a new direction, full of possibility, challenge, fun and growth out into the open and share it.

Daniel Siegel, Hornby Island





HORNBY'S HANDS ACROSS THE SAND EVENT Photo Julian Laffin



## Round The Islands

### Hands On Hornby ~ Shannon Warwick

We had our Hands Across The Sand Gathering on Hornby on Saturday, June 26. It was part of a global outreach ([handsacrossthesand.com/international.php](http://handsacrossthesand.com/international.php)) saying 'no' to offshore drilling and 'yes' to clean energy. Two months before the Gulf of Mexico disaster, 10,000 people gathered on Florida beaches calling for no more offshore drilling.

After the accident, they decided to go global and at last count 900 events have taken place around the world in solidarity. I know Salt Spring, Gabriola, and Comox also had gatherings.

We gathered at Big Tribune Bay and listened to speakers—100+ people (10% of our total off-season island population!)

Will Thomas arrived on his electric bike and shared his experience ([willthomasonline.net](http://willthomasonline.net) has most of the content of his talk) of cleaning up an oil spill in Kuwait. He expressed outrage at the absolute destruction that is still occurring from shortsighted disregard for safety, pointing out how offshore drilling leases are still being issued with no relief valve being required, both in the States and in Canada.

Matthew Fredbeck, the owner of Ford Cove Store, told us about their wind generator, ready to go as soon as Islands Trust clears their site plan. Tom Knott reminded us that when it comes to finger-pointing, it eventually comes back to we, whose usage demands the need for fossil fuels. Reina LeBaron, who wore a sign 'Frogs & FarmGirls Boycott Oil,' reminded us of the need to keep as close to local as possible, growing food in a sustainable manner, and riding our bikes as much as possible. Silas Crowe shared with us two songs calling for community to rise up and find our voices—make our actions count.

We then processed down to the beach and joined hands, as many thousands of people around the world were doing the same, in hopes of at least raising awareness around this crucial issue.

### Sooke Harbour House - Longtime Locavores Honoured

On June 23, Sooke Harbour House Hotel owners Sinclair and Frédérique Philip were among the first recipients of a Governor General's Award in Celebration of the Nation's Table, with a particular mention for Stewardship and Sustainability. The awards were presented June 23 at a Rideau Hall ceremony.

Awards were given to 14 recipients to recognize and celebrate outstanding efforts in improving the quality, variety and sustainability of all elements and ingredients of

our nation's table, stated a press release from Rideau Hall. The Philips have created and maintained an 'incubator' for regional and sustainable food philosophies over the past 31 years and have mentored and produced some of Canada's most respected chefs including Michael Stadtlander, another recipient of this award. 'With the inexhaustible food knowledge of Sinclair and the artistic eye of Frédérique, Sooke Harbour House has mentored and produced some of this country's most respected chefs,' continues the release from Rideau Hall.

'With its network of local fishers, foragers and artisanal food producers, this dynamic couple have created one of the most internationally recognized and acclaimed inns in this country. By working their own extensive gardens and building strong relationships with local growers, Mr and Mrs Philip are an unsurpassed testament to quality and commitment to a regional economy.'

The award follows on the heels of a lifetime achievement award at Vancouver Magazine 21st Annual Restaurant Awards on May 18. Sooke Harbour House was also named Best Restaurant on Vancouver Island. *Vancouver Magazine's* Christina Burrige commented 'Long before the 100-Mile Diet, before Bishops and Ocean Wise and the word 'locavore,' there was Sooke Harbour House. Every proponent of regional dining owes a debt to this locavore granddaddy.'

'Sooke Harbour House has been celebrated by everyone from Condé Nast Traveler to Wine Spectator, and has drawn discerning guests from around the world, but it's the Philips' three decades of infusing visitors, chefs, and staff with their knowledge of place that has helped define West Coast food and earned them this award.'

The Philips attribute their recognition to the local fishermen, farmers, First Nations People, foragers, food artisans and employees of Sooke Harbour House.

Of the national award, Frédérique Philip says, 'I am very proud that our kitchen team has once again been honoured for their hard and consistent work. It is very hard to maintain this level of quality day-in and day-out and I really admire them for their ongoing creativity and consistency. It is a pleasure to work with artisans who come up with new dishes that reflect the rhythms of the seasons, and who respect the intrinsic nature of the ingredients from our certified organic gardens and the sea nearby. We have been very fortunate over the last thirty years to have been able to work with such outstanding people.'

The Philips have not relented in their crusade to promote seasonal, regional, Canadian cuisine since 1979 when they began their hundred-mile focus. For the Philips, serving seasonal, regional foods at Sooke Harbour House was never about being in vogue.

'In 1979, when we started to serve local food, we had no idea that eating regionally and seasonally would become as popular as it is today,' says Sinclair Philip. 'When we opened, we simply thought, with such an abundance of high quality regional ingredients, why would we need to bring in foods from anywhere else? We weren't trying to start a trend, it was just common sense, and also the way we used to eat when we lived in rural France.'

This year, the couple has redeveloped the Sooke Harbour



The Philips (left) at Rideau Hall.

House original farm and, it is certified organic, just like the gardens at Sooke Harbour House. Over the years, almost all of the food served at the Sooke Harbour House has come from its certified organic gardens and farm, local area farms in Sooke and Metchosin, and the ocean around their doorstep.

'We still have some of the same suppliers we have worked with for the past 31 years,' says Mr Philip. 'We have established a regular supply of free range lamb from across Sooke Bay at Silver Spray Farm, local rabbits, Tamworth pigs, suckling kid, Vancouver Island bison, pastured Cowichan Bay chicken, and we serve rare breed animals from our area.' On top of this, 'we were perhaps the first restaurant in Canada to make widespread use of edible flowers, grown outdoors, twelve months of the year,' he adds.

'From the very beginning, we realized that it is important to support the production of small scale, artisan cheeses from Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. I even have a cheese named after me—St Clair, from Hilary's Cheese. We can now serve sheep, cow, goat and water buffalo cheeses most months of the year so why would we bring in cheese from the outside?'

'We have also worked to sustain local wines, spirits, ciders and vinegars, as well as meads from Tugwell Creek Meadery and Honey Farm in Sooke.'

In addition, the Philips and their team have learned to work with roughly twenty different types of local seaweeds and large numbers of indigenous plants, berries, wild herbs and mushrooms. ☞

## Stay safe on the water this summer

Starting this week, thousands of people will be out on the water enjoying the summer. While no one wants to think that going out on the water with family and friends can turn in an instant, it happens. Every year there are more than 100 boating-related casualties.

Much of Canada's water is cold year-round, so always wear a lifejacket while boating—it could save your life. Most boating fatalities are caused by a combination of cold water shock and not wearing a lifejacket. The law requires boat operators to carry an approved lifejacket that fits, for each person on board. Wear it! No longer bulky and ugly, today's lifejackets are comfortable and slim-fitting.

### Be Prepared

Anything can happen on the water, that is why before you leave shore: inspect all of your equipment, make sure you have the proper gear required for your vessel size, check the weather forecast, leave a trip plan with a responsible person on shore, bring along your marine charts

Most pleasure boats must carry: lifejackets, a floating heaving line, flares and/or a flashlight, a manual bilge pump or bailer, navigation lights, paddles, an anchor, a fire extinguisher, and a whistle or horn.

### Get your Pleasure Craft Operator Card

Every powerboat operator must have proof of competency with a Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC), along with photo ID—or face a \$250 fine.

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Cedar & Barrie Garden

My first garden began when I ripped out old boards that held two raised beds, long ignored by the previous owners of our new house in the Gulf Islands. Our first child, Taeven, barely 2, watched me with great interest, before turning to the colonies of scurrying woodbugs on the discarded boards.

It was a season of digging up—and digging in seaweed and compost. We flung seeds around like confetti—buckwheat, phacelia, chard, kale—things quick to sprout, attractive to beneficial bugs, and nutritious to the soil. We inspected the communities of worms and centipedes. We patted in mysterious bulbs and wished them goodnight until spring.

When spring finally came, I had a new baby boy, Cedar, in my arms. I did what I could in fleeting moments between naps, feeds, and waning young mother energies. Mostly we sat and made flowery cakes in the sandbox. We pushed in a few bean and pea seeds and let the bulbs surprise us with their unfolding, brightly coloured faces.

As a parent, I had to adapt my own expectations of the garden layout to fit the whims of my little ones. While being careful to bring awareness to Taeven and Cedar of certain details, practices and handling of tools, I learned many limits to the realm of my control. Besides, when working with such variables as sun, water and soil, how could I expect to have control?

As a toddler, Taeven hated getting any part of herself dirty or wet. She became very adept at handling shovels and rakes. Cedar, however, was not deterred by any amount of water and soil. He always wanted the hose, and we were very careful to stay out of his direct (and indirect) aim. When he was a toddler, I distracted him with other places of exploration. When he was three, I began to teach him about plant survival and water conservation.

As the ages and phases of the children grew and changed, so did the garden and our deepened awareness of all it had to offer. I marveled as they munched contentedly on kale, chard and fennel, collected heaps of peas, and absorbed themselves in the microbial world of the soil. The garden

became a place to go when the day was turning tense. One fall, as I turned fresh earth for the garlic patch, mixing in rich sea-soil, Taeven began stripping off her socks and shoes. When Cedar saw her stepping with barefooted ecstasy into that soft mound of cool soil, he followed right behind. I, too, stripped off my socks and shoes. I felt the connective force of nature that has always called to me, and that, so naturally, calls to my children. We are of this, we are from this—we grow from this earth.

This connection to nature shows in their faces when the pile of fall leaves is finally big enough to leap into, to bury down in the leafy womb; inhaling the cycles of the trees until the echoes of life become the pulses in their veins. Gardening for children is a tactile interaction of the senses—they dig, pile, water, bury, munch, and poke at all the wriggling bugs. Growing food is a physical manifestation of what can someday translate to a feeding of the soul.

Last summer, I was asked to help in a neighbours’ veggie garden. I have never turned down an opportunity for more gardening, and I was excited to have the kids experience a different garden and build a relationship with our neighbour. Barrie is a quiet, but energetic man who delighted at seeing the children running fluidly down his driveway to the garden gate.

Together we measured rows, stretched string lines, discussed flower and lettuce varieties, built bean and pea teepees, and pruned and weeded while waiting for the harvests. Sometimes Taeven would pick bunches of flowers to give to Barrie, or she would retire to a shady patch under the huge grape vine to draw. Sometimes Cedar and Barrie would take on projects together, working through mulch piles and taking wheelbarrow rides until the job was done, or until juice and cookie time. Eventually we would leave the garden with arms and baskets full of beets, beans, tomatoes, and zucchini.

Barrie also invited us to pick apples, plums and pears from his orchard. He does not need to have such a huge garden for himself, but he does because he values the simple act of growing food locally. By

inviting us to join him and share in the harvest, he was fulfilling an age-old practice of community connection and sustenance. I was honoured and happy to see my children warmly befriend a community elder.

Pizza Garden

That same spring, our homeschool group started a plot in a community garden. Our goal was to grow and harvest everything we would need for a pizza. We sowed a large plot of red fife wheat, and planted a three sisters garden. Having spent a day together in early spring starting seeds in containers, then nursing them at our homes, we now bent together with our spades and forks making little mounds for the three sisters, a Native American triad of corn, beans, and squash growing together. The corn stalks act as a trellis for the beans, which in turn fixes nitrogen into the soil. The broad leaves of the squash provide shade, keeping the soil moist and cool while also suppressing weeds.

Through an arrangement with our local public school, we were fortunate to have Julie Johnston, our home-school facilitator, gardening with us. As the kids marked-out the round circle in the soil for the pizza garden and cut it up into 6 ‘slices’ of planting area, she enthusiastically declared, ‘This is what education is all about!’

Julie is a teacher and adult educator whose life work is dedicated to creating the best possible future for children—of all species. Julie has been creating Green Heart Education, a growing resource on transformative sustainability learning and environmental action. Green Heart helps teachers ‘green’ their curriculum, their classroom, and their school community, ([www.greenhearted.org](http://www.greenhearted.org)). She deeply understands the importance of connecting our children to the earth, and brings a shining exuberance to our group.

Through the contribution of one of our homeschool families, we were able to plant a large plot of heritage red fife wheat, the cornerstone of prairie agriculture throughout North America between 1840 and the early 1900s. Red fife wheat proved to be hardy, resistant to plant diseases, adaptable to a diversity of soil types, conditions, and climate changes, and boasted exceptional flavour.

Loiselle Organic Family Farm, the founders of the Prairie Red Fife Organic Growers Co-operative Ltd, states: ‘Red fife represents hope that we can continue to provide pure food in spite of threats by genetically altered crops (GMOs) and control of the food production systems by transnational corporations. It represents farmers’ rights to save and grow their own seed without having the menace of plant breeders’ rights and patent infringements endangering this time-honored tradition.’

That sums up why I love to give handfuls of seeds to the small hands of children to spread along the rows. Of course, they don’t need to know what dire straits our food economy is in. They just need to know that from a seed, and with the help of their own and others’ hands, a feast can be created.

From the wheat, we hulled and ground enough flour to make eight large pizzas,

which we garnished with veggies from our collective labour. And of course, we set aside enough seeds for our next spring planting.

Island Apples

Then there are the apples. All over these islands there are fruit trees offering their abundance and not being picked. For three years, we have gathered a group of friends and neighbors and have collectively picked at an orchard currently owned by part-time residents, and transported the boxes to a local press to make fresh apple cider. It is so uplifting to be on a tall ladder surrounded by the smell of sweet apples, and hear the shouts of discovery from all around. Almost every tree is of a different heritage variety that is not easily recognized. With no form of identity, the best way to find out if a tree is ready to pick and juice, or if it should be kept aside for eating, is to bite into its fruit.

Because of the huge variety in this orchard, our juice is always exceptionally flavourful, and with every sip all year I remember the sunny autumn days spent in the orchard with friends, watching my children and their friends climb through the luscious branches of the trees.

A few years ago, we moved to a new property, not far from our old house. But this one is an undeveloped three acres. There is an open acre and a beautifully forested two acres in the back. It is the land of my gardening dreams. If ever I was frustrated in the past at not seeing my garden flourish fast enough, I will look back on it now as simple practice. It was a slow learning curve in the upward spiral, a pace that suited having small children and many demands of early motherhood.

I can see that Taeven and Cedar have had a fine first few years’ introduction, and are ready for more hands-on work and input of ideas. We have envisioned a children’s garden, a Japanese garden, an herb garden, a small orchard, and a berry patch. Our imagination takes us away into a world of colour and taste and growth. These dreams may be slow in the maturing amongst the other inspirations and aspirations of our life’s path, but we can work with patience and passion. Gardening can become another integrated aspect of our daily lives as we discuss, plan, and create projects and experiments together, learning about herbs, ecosystems and permaculture.

In our societies today, there is an increasing amount of pressure and concern battering down on families, bringing newly diagnosed childhood disorders—obesity, diabetes, ADD, and Nature Deficit Disorder. When we take a look at the big picture that contributes to these epidemics, we would see the remedy: arrows pointing outwards—out to nature, out of our boxes, out into our communities.

There are many creative ways to find the space needed to grow a garden of food, from digging up lawns, joining a community garden, or by getting involved in a local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Farm. There are opportunities available near everyone of us on all of our own Islands if we are ready. Once we begin the dance of co-creating with nature herself we will start

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Photo: Henny Schnare, [www.henny.ca](http://www.henny.ca)

Low-tide at Whaler Bay, a safe tie-up for fishboats on the straits-side of Galiano Island.

## New kids in the pond ~ Mike Wiley

Every Orca receives at least a murmur of appreciation when it passes a whalewatching boat or a throng of devoted shore-based whalewatchers.

Outright applause usually is reserved for the acrobatic pod members. The spyhoppers are always appreciated as they poke their heads gently out of the water, seemingly to check out the crowd. The hands-down, crowd-pleaser manoeuvre is the airborne breach—an eye-popping explosion out of the water, followed by a spectacular re-entry splash. Imagine the physics involved in moving an eight-ton body upwards through the water fast enough to clear the surface!

However, the favourites of any Orca parade are the babies. A 160 kilogram, two and a half metre long ‘baby’ Orca elicits excited ‘oohs’ and ‘aahs’ from the appreciative watchers, confirming that the charm of a newborn outweighs size any day.

### Toxins Not Predators Are The Problem

Orcas represent the top of their food chain. They have no predators, yet they are endangered. Their food supply (primarily Chinook and Spring salmon) is dwindling, and their habitat has been fouled and polluted by man. The worst of the pollutants are the highly toxic, non-deteriorating PCBs that each Orca carries with it in ever-increasing amounts.

Breeding females offload toxins every time they give birth—not the kind of baby gift that any mother would wish on her young. Some toxins are transferred directly to the calf at birth, and others are transferred throughout the next two years as it nurses. Because of this toxin offload, the first year mortality rate for Orcas is close to 50%, higher for the offspring of first-time mothers. Babies of all species should be adored and appreciated and, based on their importance to the continuation of Orca populations and the daunting

odds against them, the newborn Orcas fully deserve every ‘ooh’ and ‘aah’ they get.

Orcas seen in the southern Strait of Georgia are referred to as the Southern Resident Orca Community. Oddly, the term ‘resident’ does not refer to locality but, rather, it differentiates fish-eating (resident) from mammal-eating (transient) Orcas.

The just-across-the-border, San Juan Island Center for Whale Research (CWR) has confirmed that the Southern Resident population numbers about 90. The numbers always are subject to change as new calves are born and others, unfortunately sometimes breeding-age whales, die. While the numbers game is important, the current shortage of breeding age females may be the ultimate critical factor in the community’s survival.

Last year and early 2010 brought a Southern Resident baby boom. Eight newborns were identified by their telltale orange blush (on those parts that eventually become white). Eight new Orcas is a very encouraging statistic. As soon as a birth is confirmed, the CWR gives the newborn an alphanumeric designation. For example newborn Orca L113 is a member of L pod and is the 113th member of that pod since scientists have been tracking and identifying individual Orcas. (See photo of new calf, front page.)

If an Orca survives its first year, the Whale Museum (also based on San Juan Island) gives it a nickname such as Polaris (J28) or Calypso (L94). The fact that these names are not bestowed until the calf survives its first year speaks volumes for the Orca’s high mortality rate.

While the orange blush helps identify newborn Orcas, determining the sex of the calf is not so easy. That requires observing the whale’s underside, generally during a breach or back roll. Two of the eight newborns have been identified as males, and finally, almost eight months after her birth, the CRW has confirmed that Calypso’s calf, L113 is female. Very important, and encouraging news!

One way to get to know more about babies and adults of the Southern Resident Community is to attend ‘Orca Day’ on July 24 at Pender’s Thieves Bay Community Park. Details can be found at [www.OrcaDay.blogspot.com](http://www.OrcaDay.blogspot.com); another is to visit [www.whaleresearch.com](http://www.whaleresearch.com).



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# Julia Gillard - Australia's first woman prime minister ~ Richard Curchin

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd resigned on June 23 to make way for Julia Gillard to be elected unopposed as Labor Party leader and therefore Prime Minister of Australia. The first Australian woman prime minister was sworn in by the first Australian woman Governor General, Ms Quentin Brice.

Kevin Rudd led the Labor Party to victory in 2007 after 13 years of conservative coalition government. Rudd was a relatively unknown politician who usurped the previous Labor party leader, Kim Beasley, in 2006. Beasley had previously lost two general elections and Labor was looking for a fresh face.

Rudd's term as Prime Minister started well with an apology to the generation of indigenous Australians forcibly removed from their parents, the repeal of right wing industrial relations laws, and ratification of the Kyoto protocol. The opinion polls gave him a commanding lead over the opposition who were in disarray.

The global financial climate stalled his reform plans. His government instigated stimulation packages to prevent Australia sliding into recession, notably the building education revolution and the housing insulation initiative. Whilst these packages had the desired effect of stimulating the economy, the unemployment rate did not drop below 5%, and the schemes were exploited by unscrupulous operators.

In the case of the housing insulation scheme, free retrofitting houses with ceiling insulation caused four deaths by electrocution where operators had stapled through electrical cables and hundreds of house fires where insulation had been incorrectly laid over light fittings. Over a million houses were insulated and hundreds of thousands of these houses now need to be checked for electrical and fire safety.

In the case of the building education revolution, school halls and classrooms were built right across the country; sometimes for school communities who disputed their need for the buildings or argued that the money should not be spent in that way. The cost of many buildings seemed to greatly outweigh the benefits provided. Both schemes seemed to have suffered from being rolled out too quickly without sufficient supervision. The

Conservative opposition was relentless in its criticisms of these schemes, which at first the government denied. In the case of the insulation scheme, the scheme was cancelled prematurely sending many contractors bankrupt.

The Labor government had a mandate to introduce an emissions trading scheme (ETS) but this was blocked in the Australian Senate by an unholy alliance of the conservatives, who said the ETS was a giant tax grab, and the Greens, who thought the ETS carbon pollution reduction targets were too low to be effective. Instead of risking a double dissolution of both houses of parliament to try to pass the ETS Act, the Labor government elected to shelve the ETS because it was thought Australians were not prepared to change their lifestyles to reduce their carbon pollution or to accept the risk of higher energy prices.

The combination of the economic stimulus package debacles, the abandonment of the carbon pollution reduction and problems with illegal immigrants caused Kevin Rudd's popularity to crash in the opinion polls.

Rudd's final throw of the dice was to propose a royalty tax on mining. Previously the states had levied royalties on mining companies. Australia's economy has ridden high on the expansion of China and India by selling them coal, iron ore and gas. The government thought it time that the whole of Australia shared in this bonanza and proposed a badly named 'super profits' tax where mining companies paid 40% of their profits above 6% per annum as a royalty.

The mining company billionaires were outraged and started an massive advertising scare campaign saying that the Rudd government would force the mining companies to go off shore and thereby kill the industry sector that had saved Australia from recession. The mining companies spent \$100 million on the campaign.

Rudd had promised, before the election in 2007, that his government would not use taxpayers' money to promote government policy as the previous conservative government had blatantly done. Faced with the mining companies' advertising campaign Rudd back flipped and started a

[AUSSIE PM, please turn to page 11](#)



Photo Erika Merrick

Growing up Canadian! Constable Stephen Merrick and son Gavin at Mayne's Canada Day celebration.

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# Tugs—not what they used to be

Patrick Brown

Most of us think of a tug as a lot smaller than an ocean-going ship, but with a great deal of power so it can push or pull a ship to help it in maneuvering in a harbour or in docking.

Rubber tires slung all round, relatively beamy and fat underwater, and a towing line from a winch on the after-deck; the tug generates an enormous bow wave and wake when it has to go fast—a small vessel with a can-do attitude.

That’s your classic harbour tug. Very powerful, quite maneuverable, but not very fast, it usually works at less than six knots. Moves ships slowly and carefully to avoid accidents. And on the BC coast, many tugs are employed towing barges and log booms.

## Escort Tugs

While conventional tugs may be powerful, they are not powerful enough to control ships weighing hundreds of thousands of tons by directly pulling or pushing on them. For example, it is hard to imagine that a conventional tug capable of 80 tons ‘bollard pull’ (direct pulling or pushing force) would have much effect on a Very Large Crude Carrier weighing 250,000 tons and proceeding at 12 knots—the speed necessary for such a heavy and bulky ship to maintain steerage. It is also hard to imagine how a conventional tug might apply a steering, or sideways, force on the stern of a ship traveling at that speed.

Over the past ten years, entirely new designs of tugs have been developed to escort large ships, bulk carriers and tankers. These are escort tugs; they are designed to ‘take charge’ of large and heavy vessels, travelling at speeds far greater than six knots, and they must develop forces enough to steer or stop fully loaded ships.

The escort tug is, in fact, a powered

keelboat. Sailboat skippers understand that it’s the keel of a sailboat moving through the water which converts the sideways force of the wind into a force that propels the sailboat forward. The escort tug has a keel but reverses this effect; it converts the direct forward propulsive developed by the engines (the ‘bollard pull’) into a sideways (hydrodynamic) force which, applied via a line to the stern quarter of a large and heavy vessel, can pull it sideways.

And the sideways force developed can be 150% or more of the bollard pull. All of this while both vessels are moving forward at, say, twelve knots.

## Indirect Towing

During the steering manoeuvre, the tug will be at a slight angle to the centerline of the vessel, and out to one side. If there are two tugs tethered to the vessel, one will be on each side, which will require a substantial channel width, several times the width of the ship.

This is called indirect towing, and it is the technique which makes it possible to control large and heavy vessels, with their immense inertia. The full power of the escort tug is used to produce the maximum sideways force; the tug is positioned relative to the ship to apply that force to steer or brake the ship, as required.

## Escort Tug Design

According to Vancouver’s Robert Allan, who may be the world’s leading designer of escort tugs, conventional screw-driven tugs cannot be used in escort service over six knots. Escort tugs are each specifically designed for the service expected.

The forces involved are massive. The towline is not led over the stern of the tug; instead, it is led over the side at an appropriate angle to the centerline of the



Photo: Buksér og Berging

## Indirect tow, keeled tug in action.

tug. It is, of course, a substantial piece of line. A 3-inch diameter synthetic fibre Plasma 12-strand line has a minimum breaking strength of 900,000 lbs (450 tons).

The tugs have powerful winches which enable a constant, controllable tension to be maintained on the towline. Vessels, for their part, must have really robust cleats and bollards at towline attachment points.

A typical escort tug would have a length of 36–40 metres, beam 14–15m, and draft 6.5m (deep keel). Current designs have either Azimuthing Stern Drives (ASD) propulsion—steerable through-hull drive legs enabling the propellers to be aimed in any direction (very much larger versions of the same system used on some smaller BC ferries), or a Voith-Schneider propeller (VSP)—a vertical shaft drive system with feathering blades, again enabling full power to be expressed in any direction. Engine

power would typically be in the 7,000 horsepower range; not, essentially, very different from convential tugs of similar size.

Many different types and designs of keels are used, positioned to create a centre of lateral resistance (the point on the length of the tug where underwater sideways forces are at a maximum) close to the point where the towline is attached.

Escort tugs must be beamy, so they are not capsized by towline tension. The wheelhouse may be forward or aft of the towline; it must provide excellent all-round visibility.

## Words Of Caution

Modern escort tugs, however, may not be a solution to navigating coastal waters, with its strong currents, or in bad weather. As Robert Allan cautions : ‘Nothing is foolproof.’—the voice of considerable experience. ☞

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## G-20 from page 3

We can also cut in certain areas where growth in budgets has increased deficits. Chief among these globally has been military spending. In the last ten years we have seen a 50% increase in military budgets up to a worldwide total of \$1.5 trillion (US\$). This increase in military spending is a big part of the reason our deficits have grown; however, not one word was uttered at the G20 about cutting military budgets as a means of reducing deficits.

Nearly invisible in G20 reports was the new nuclear trade deal brokered between India and Canada. I was certain this move violated the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty, and contacted our former Ambassador for Disarmament, former senator and MP, the Honourable Doug Roche, OC for comment. He had this to say: ‘The Canada-India nuclear trade deal bypasses the fact that Canada is prohibited under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty from entering into nuclear commerce with non-NPT parties, in this case India. Instead of throwing its weight behind the gathering movement in the world for a Nuclear Weapons Convention, which would be a treaty banning all nuclear weapons, Canada has chosen to expand its commercial interests through the weakening of its disarmament efforts.’

This deal is all the more galling in that in 1974 India violated the requirements in Canada’s 1956 gift of a nuclear research reactor by using spent fuel to build a nuclear weapon. Former Minister David Emerson, in re-opening talks with India, said ‘India’s been in the penalty box long enough.’ Now, the Harper government has moved Canada into the penalty box alongside India as a nation undermining non-proliferation

goals.

Lastly, and perhaps most disappointing, is the absolute lack of progress on the climate crisis. The one silver lining is that climate was mentioned at all, given the Harper government’s efforts to keep it off the agenda. Nevertheless, this communique has the weakest, least helpful climate language from either the G8 or G20 since the late 1970s. It does nothing to create momentum for the Cancun negotiations in late November-early December. Let us hope that the South Korea meeting can do better. That nation’s top diplomat, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, is certainly aware and committed to global climate action and may assist the host government in making up for ground lost in Toronto.

The second aspect of the G20 that bears mention is the questions raised by the huge costs of security and the acts of vandalism on the streets of Toronto. My sense, although I was not present at the G20, was that the police themselves were extremely restrained and performed well under pressure. Still, the orders from the top need to be reviewed. Why were police told to allow vandalism, without interference or arrest, but to charge and arrest people who were non-violent? The practices employed by the Toronto police, creating cordons and ‘sweeping the streets,’ appear very similar to those of the London police in last year’s G20, which resulted in false arrests and charges of police brutality in the UK. One year later, charges are being dropped as UK juries have found alleged provocateurs to be innocent bystanders caught up in the melée. Can we learn lessons from the over-militarized approach to security and the possibility that such displays of militarized



Islanders show strong opposition to HST

The three months time period for gathering signatures on the HST Initiative Petition to end the Harmonized Sales Tax (which came into effect on July 1) ended on June 30. Proponent Bill Vander Zalm organized an astonishing campaign and recruited many volunteers to canvass for signatures.

The initiative reached the required 10% in all ridings long before the deadline but canvassers continued to gather signatures. Vander Zalm said he was looking for 15% in all ridings. He succeeded beyond his wildest dreams.

The Islands’ final figures on signatures to the anti-HST petition were:

RIDING:	SIGNATURES	%
Alberni-Pacific Rim	6636	18.3%
Comox Valley	12051	25.2%
Cowichan Valley	8552	20.9%
Esquimalt-Royal Roads	10546	28.5%
Juan de Fuca	8947	27.0%
Nanaimo	8120	20.8%
Nanaimo-North Cowichan	10344	27.0%
North Island	10042	25.5%
Oak Bay-Gordon Head	8997	23.5%
Parksville-Qualicum	11382	28.2%
Powell River-Sunshine Coast	11736	32.9%
Saanich North & Islands	13488	30.8%
Saanich South	9281	25.1%
Victoria-Beacon Hill	10163	24.2%
Victoria-Swan Lake	9279	24.5%

AUSSIE PM from page 9

\$38 million government advertising campaign to explain the merit of the proposed mining tax.

Kevin Rudd was an autocratic leader, a workaholic and a tyrant to his staff. He just lacked people skills. Whilst he was electorally popular and was the darling of the Labor Party, now that the polls had turned against him, with an upcoming election, he could no longer survive.

It took just one day to depose him as party leader and replace him by the former deputy prime minister, Julia Gillard. When Rudd was confronted by opposition from the Labor caucus on the evening of June 23 he stood down as Labor party leader and called a caucus meeting for the following morning to decide the matter. By the morning it evident that the numbers were against him so he did not stand for the leadership and Gillard was elected leader unopposed.

Julia Gillard was born in Wales in 1961. She went to Australia with her parents and her elder sister when she was

Judicial Review Challenges Draft Bill

Meanwhile, a number of business associations, led by former Attorney-General Geoff Plant, have initiated a court action to challenge the constitutional validity of the draft bill (the HST Extinguishment Act) at the heart of the petition. The point of their proposed Judicial Review is that the draft bill is intended to be considered by the provincial legislature, but the legislation enacting HST in British Columbia is federal. Plant says that the existence of the draft bill gives rise to uncertainty about the future of BC’s tax policy, and that has ‘the potential to harm BC businesses and the economy at large’.

‘Seeking judicial review at this juncture will avoid the considerable legal confusion that would result if the initiative process were to proceed unchecked on its current course,’ said a statement by the business associations. Those challenging the bill are the Council of Forest Industries, The Mining Association of BC, the Independent Contractors and Businesses Association, the Western Convenience Stores Association, the Coast Forest Products Association, and the BC Chamber of Commerce.

The implementation of the HST has been expected to transfer \$1.9 billion per year in taxes from business to consumers. Lower income consumers would receive periodic compensatory payments from the Province.

5-years-old. Her father was a coal miner who retrained in Australia as a psychiatric nurse. Julia is a product of the state education system. She entered politics at Melbourne University and later went on to practice as a lawyer in industrial law before entering parliament in 1998.

Gillard was Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Minister for Education, and Minister for Social Inclusion. She was a member of Rudd’s inner cabinet and was party to many of Rudd’s decisions. She has said that the Rudd government had lost its way. It remains to be seen if Gillard can distance herself from the policies of the Rudd government and find the way forward for the Australian government.

On July 1, Gillard struck a deal with the mining companies for a 30% super tax but only on some kinds of mining. Her next challenge will be to sort out Australias immigration policy before the November election.

Would a Grizzly Bear Certify This Fishery?

Misty MacDuffee, Corey Peet and Chris Genovali

As the Canadian federal inquiry examining the 2009 Fraser River sockeye salmon collapse in British Columbia kicks into full gear, one might be surprised to learn that at the same time, the Marine Stewardship Council wants to designate this fishery as ‘eco-certified.’

Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification for the Fraser River sockeye fishery raises serious questions about the process and methodology for MSC certification, especially given the latest Fraser sockeye collapse of some eight million fish. Even the possibility of MSC certification for Fraser sockeye has led many of BC’s environmental NGO’s to express qualms about the logic and rationale of the MSC, and its judgment which has overlooked serious concerns about the status and management of Fraser sockeye.

It is an unfortunate situation, because the existence of MSC certification should signify an opportunity to increase the protection of wild salmon on the coast and to work around the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) who have been a major obstacle to achieving that goal.

MSC began in 1997 when the World Wildlife Fund and Unilever —a major seafood buyer—formed a partnership to try to leverage buying power into transformative change for global fisheries and collectively define sustainable, or at least environmentally preferable, fisheries. A collaboration of this type represents a potentially powerful step forward, as conscientious members of industry can work with NGOs to integrate conservation and social justice agendas into fisheries sustainability.

This new approach also changes the role of governments, ECO-FISHERY, please turn to page 12

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ECO-FISHERY? *from page 11*

given their poor track record at managing fish, into a follow-up function that implements policy as it is defined by the collaboration between industry and NGOs. This scenario has the potential to drive substantial change as long as the environmental NGOs involved fully grasp the conservation science at the local level. It is also key that they never lose sight of the fact that establishing sufficient rigour for such a process is vital to ensure its integrity .

The Raincoast Conservation Foundation recognizes the value that certification could play in terms of improving fisheries practices. However, we are concerned that MSC relationships between the client (industry) and the certifier are far too close and not independent. Secondly, we are concerned that the MSC criteria sets a low bar and will not result in transformative change. These factors have allowed them to endorse fisheries around the globe that are not sustainable. For example, the stock status of both Alaskan pollock and New Zealand Hoki have declined under MSC certification. Their criteria also lack sufficient ecosystem considerations. For example, BC salmon fisheries do not consider whales, bears or other wildlife that depend on salmon. In addition, if the Fraser River certification moves forward then Cultus Lake or Sakinaw sockeye would also be whether the MSC is actually sanguine about certifying endangered fish populations?

Certification must account for all environmental (and social) issues facing the certified fish in question, even if this means committing to continuous improvement on certain issues, especially as science and conservation objectives evolve. Failure to do so is greenwashing and forces NGOs who are also working on these issues into difficult positions, where they find themselves opposing the MSC instead of supporting it.

As an example, the industry is proposing that MSC give the green stamp of approval to pink and chum salmon runs in the Great Bear Rainforest, the area where Raincoast has been working for over a decade to protect salmon-grizzly systems and other important salmon ecosystem linkages. In the last several years, however, there has been a disturbing silence at the time of year when these streams should be vibrant with spawning fish and splashing bears. Raincoast believes it to be imperative to account for these types of ecosystem functions when considering a fishery’s sustainability.

We suggest that the MSC re-examine both their process and how certification standards are determined and pay much more attention to their ecological shortcomings if they want long-term legitimacy from conservation groups. They need a transparent, independent and impartial certification process, as well as a mechanism for ongoing improvement of criteria that would continually push for the highest fishing standards and truly drive conservation in the world’s oceans. To attain this, they must address the structural flaws in their certification process and commit to incorporating ecosystem objectives for marine and terrestrial environments. Their brand reputation is at stake and they run the risk of turning their theoretical supporters into very real opponents if their approach to these issues is allowed to continue.

*Misty MacDuffee is a biologist with Raincoast’s wild salmon program and ecologist Corey Peet is an aquaculture specialist and a member of the board of directors for the Raincoast Conservation Foundation. Chris Genovali is Raincoast’s executive director.*



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Tanker moratorium disputed

It was in 1972 that the Trudeau government announced that there would be a moratorium on tanker traffic on the inner BC coast. The moratorium was in response to ships carrying crude from the Valdez terminal of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline to the Cherry Point refinery near Bellingham. At the time, there was no indication that large tankers would use BC’s north and central coast ports.

The moratorium established the Tanker Exclusion Zone (TEZ). The TEZ boundary was therefore established well to the west of Haida Gwaii, with careful calculation of the likely distance and response time of rescue and salvage tugs from various points on the coast.

The intention was to ensure that should a breakdown (loss of power, loss of steering) occur with any of these tankers, it would be far enough from the coast of BC (including Haida Gwaii) that it could be reached by emergency tugs before bad weather might drive it ashore. Currently, about one tanker a day follows this route.

The TEZ also had the effect of banning the tankers from Dixon Entrance, Hecate Strait, and Queen Charlotte Strait, and of course the inner fjords of the north and central coast. As the tankers came closer to land in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, more ‘tugs of opportunity’ were available, with less travel time to reach a disabled ship, and so the exclusion zone boundaries were closer to shore into Juan de Fuca Strait.

A rescue tug, with 365-day, 24-hour availability, is stationed at Neah Bay, at the mouth of the Strait, costing about \$10,000 a day to maintain. The tug assists about 40 ships each year, mostly not tankers. For its first twelve years, the tug was financed by the State of Washington. In 2010, funding was permanently transferred to the shipping industry.

SHIPPING SAFETY from page 1

for export, initially to westcoast US ports, but potentially to China and other Asian markets. With this in mind, the company has recently increased the capacity of the pipeline to 300,000 barrels per day (bpd) and tanker traffic has grown from 34 tankers in 2007 to 65 in 2009, and an anticipated 104 in 2010.

Tanker Restrictions

It is clear from the Second Narrows restrictions (see BOX, below, right) that exceptional precautions are being taken for oil tanker traffic from the Kinder Morgan Westridge terminal, and that similar care is necessary in their passage through the Gulf Islands and out to Juan de Fuca Strait. (Please refer to the article ‘Is shipping tar sands oil from Kitimat wise?’ in the March 4, 2010 edition of *Island Tides*, available as a reprint through [www.islandtides.com](http://www.islandtides.com), ‘Energy’ archive.) With Kinder Morgan’s future plans to increase tanker traffic to as much as one each day, Islands Trustees’ concerns appear to be justified.

What If There Were A Spill?

Marine Consultant Fred Fellerman spoke to trustees about oil spill response in the Strait of Georgia–Puget Sound–Juan de Fuca Strait area. This includes not only Vancouver tanker movements, but also inbound tankers from Alaska to BP’s Cherry Point refinery near Bellingham. Fellerman said that the risk of an accident has been reduced by the use of tug escorts, but there is a ‘cost factor’.

A large tug is maintained at Neah Bay, at the mouth of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, to assist any ship that gets into trouble in the outer strait.

Graham Knox, Manager of Environmental Emergencies with the BC Ministry of the Environment, said that the cleanup of spills was primarily the responsibility of the spiller, supervised by the ministry. In Vancouver Harbour and in the southern Gulf Islands, the Chamber of Shipping ensures that each deep-sea vessel transiting the area has an oil spill reponse contract—a form of insurance. Burrard Clean, the spill clean-up contractor for Vancouver Harbour, carries on a continuous training program, and is expanding to cover growing traffic. A recent incident on Snake Island (off Nanaimo) showed a 85 minute response time from their Vancouver base. But oil spill response beyond the Islands is the responsibility of the Coast Guard.

However, the industry says that recovery of only 15% of a spill is considered a successful clean-up. The BC coast has no real capacity to use dispersants, and cannot do on-site oil burning.

Fellerman remarked that the original estimates of any spill are invariably wrong.

Cutting Back On Advice

The Federal Government has so far not taken up an invitation to join in a co-operative oil spill response team. Additionally, the Pacific Regional Advisory Council on Oil Spill Response—formed to advise the federal Minister of Transport following the *Exxon Valdez* calamity in 1989—has recently had its budget cut and can now hold only two half-day meetings per year. It has apparently been

The moratorium, though frequently referred to by politicians, does not appear to have ever been enshrined in law. Lawyers representing Enbridge, in a July 11, 2006 letter, stated ‘there is in fact no restriction on the movement of tankers into or out of Canadian ports’ and this has not been disputed by either the provincial Liberal or federal Conservative governments.

According to federal cabinet minister Gary Lunn, Conservative MP for Saanich-Gulf Islands, it is only referred to in a ‘voluntary agreement’ between the Canadian and US Coast Guards.

Elizabeth May, Green Party candidate for Saanich-Gulf Islands disagrees, ‘A major oil spill in British Columbia would absolutely devastate the delicate ecosystem and natural beauty of our Island coastline,’ she said. The tragedy of the *Queen of the North* illustrates that accidents can and do happen. It is deeply disturbing that the current Member of Parliament for Saanich-Gulf Islands has disregarded the moratorium and even attempted to argue that the moratorium would not apply to tankers leaving our waters for China.’

The Green Party has long pressed for legislation covering the ban. Recently, Michael Ignatieff, leader of the federal Liberals, has also indicated his party’s support for such legislation.

At present, smaller tankers carrying condensate (also known as diluent—a petroleum product used to mix with tar sands bitumen so it will flow in pipelines) travel up Douglas Channel to Kitimat; the condensate is loaded into tank cars and travels by rail to Alberta. Besides the main Northern Gateway pipeline, Enbridge also plans a parallel reverse pipeline to carry condensate to Bruderheim.

superseded by a new industry-based Canadian Marine Advisory Council.

Pilots

Inbound and outbound takers are required to have pilots, but the number of pilots is decreasing and their average age is increasing. On a simulator in Seattle, the Pacific Pilotage Authority has been carrying out training of pilots to work with skippers of escort tugs in the control of tankers. Larger vessels require two pilots. (See related article on modern tugs, page 10.)

To become a pilot you must have ten years’ experience as a master, followed by at least seven years of ‘on the job’ training. The authority has requested federal funding for a simulator to be installed in North Vancouver.

Island Trust Resolution

Following the highly informative session, Island Trust Council passed the following resolution:

That the Islands Trust Council request the Executive Committee and the Trust Programs Committee to develop, implement and report on an advocacy program to address shipping safety issues in the Trust Area.

That the Islands Trust Council request the Executive Committee to advocate for a shipping advisory to improve the safety of all designated anchorages in the Trust Area.

The Islands Trust meeting was just slightly ahead of the City of Vancouver. Mayor Robertson, citing concerns about increasing tanker traffic through the port, called a special council meeting for July 5.

**Tanker Restrictions for Second Narrows**

To date, tankers which call at Kinder Morgan’s Westridge terminal cannot take on maximum loads, due to depth and clearance restrictions at Second Narrows. The size of tanker presently used is termed ‘Aframax’, up to 80,000 deadweight tons (dwt), some 245 metres long with a beam of 34m, with a maximum load of 700,000 barrels of oil. The loaded draft of these ships is nominally as much as 20m, but the maximum permitted vessel draft through Second Narrows at high tide is only 12.5m, so they can never be fully loaded.

However, over the last five years, the Port of Metro Vancouver has been planning dredging and regulations to increase the maximum ship capacity of both Second and First Narrows, to match increases in the pipeline capacity.

Dredging will not only affect ship loading, but also tidal currents. Current dredging plans, according to Harbour Master Yoss LeClerc, are to permit 13.5m draft by March 2011, and would eventually permit 15m draft. LeClerc says that his objective is eventually to accommodate Suezmax class tankers, about twice the capacity of Aframax.

However, Second Narrows has a maximum horizontal clearance of some 137m between the piers of the vertical lift section of the railway bridge, and the maximum vertical clearance of the Ironworkers Memorial road bridge is 44m, over a width of 110m. This does not leave a lot of clearance, particularly considering additional room that may be required by escorting tugs for larger tankers.

Passage of tankers is permitted only at slack water in daylight, at a maximum speed of 6 knots. The latest instructions require two tugs for both First and Second Narrows. For large tankers, the double tug escort continues to Race Rocks.



# SATURNA from page 3

and explain bar graphs and indexes of information they had gotten from interviews. All of the kids, youngest and oldest, provided their pieces of the information. A huge graph collated all of the community responses and occupied the senior room chalkboard.

The presenters gave their personal opinions and rationales or best guesses as to what was being represented by the information they had gathered. The very eldest, Emily Dunsmuir, gave insight into this study in general; Local ‘experts’ are opinionated she concluded because the interviewers had collected a broad range of ‘knowledge’ about the goats that, in some cases, was clearly in direct conflict. More data needs to be collected and assessed over a longer period of time to get a more useful report.

One observation was that the study was as much about Saturna people as it was about Saturna goats!

## Building Firehalls

The Saturna Island Fire Protection Society held its AGM at the Rec Centre, which is adjacent to the main firehall currently under construction. Many people attended to hear

about the project of constructing *two* firehalls on the Island, the second will be at East Point some ten miles distant from the main one. (See ad this edition for sale of the old fire hall, page 3)

John Savage read through a report detailing what has been accomplished in financing from tax levies, bank contracts, potential tenants sharing the premises, to moving the ambulance emergency response volunteers from the oversight of the Community Club to the fire department.

Many standing committees reported including operations, building, finance, and corporate and administrative. A motion was passed to have a permanent nominations committee to assure new blood and the representation of a range of ideas.

A motion was defeated to examine the possibility of property owners voting through the internet. Several members related that, long and onerous as public meetings can be, the public is best-served if voters are present to hear the discussion of various points of view before they make their choice.

Some members expressed a desire for more open communication and a broader



Photo Nancy Angermeyer

## Saturna’s feral goats on Brown Ridge above Plumper Sound.

representation of Saturna’s population. One person expressed a desire for no more trees to be removed from the site and that serious consideration be given to landscaping the remainder of the lot.

Building firehalls can be contentious and Saturna is no exception. What is agreed

upon by all is gratitude for the time, expertise and willingness of the community’s volunteers who use the the firehalls and their equipment following uncounted hours invested in training to help those in need, no matter what their point of view. ✍

## HOT COFFEE from page 1

why he chose that particular property, on the edge of an environmentally sensitive area, in a quiet rural neighbourhood. It apparently never occurred to MacLeod to consult with the neighbours before he bought the property, and no one seems to have suggested it.

On the subject of support for the coffee company’s proposal, however, Ehring concurs. In his statement on the rezoning application, he says, ‘I’ve spent far more time on this than on any other single application that I’ve ever had to deal with in my nearly four years as a trustee—because it is no secret that I would like this project to succeed. I hope it does.’

It didn’t succeed, at least not at 1501 Fulford-Ganges Road. McLeod is not amused. ‘I’m totally fine with ‘no’ or ‘yes’, he says. ‘I’m not fine after 18 months and \$200,000.’

## Read the OCP

Many years ago, when Linda Adams was the only planner here, she told the Advisory Planning Commission (APC) that she was dealing with something like one application a week from would-be rezoners who walked into the Trust office with some exciting new proposal. ‘I’d give them a copy of the Official Community Plan (OCP) and tell them to go away and read it,’ she said at the time. Few ever returned.

So what happened this time? If McLeod selected a totally inappropriate property to hang the local fate of his company on, what took the trustees so long to reject it?

Some delay is attributable to the intervention of an election right in the middle of the process. Two of the three trustees were new faces at the table, and to this application.

But more importantly, no one—not the Trust, not the Advisory Planning Commission, not all the people and agencies who were peripherally involved, and certainly not the company principals—wanted to see the Salt Spring Coffee Company located anywhere but on Salt Spring Island. (Disclosure: this writer was a member of the Advisory Planning Commission when the coffee company’s application came before it.)

The company is seen as a desirable ‘green’ business, and the jobs it provides create a powerful incentive to local government to cooperate in keeping it happy—and on Salt Spring. This is commonplace everywhere in the world, as any jurisdiction which has ever competed for the location of a new factory can attest.

But a zoning change takes the form of an amendment municipal bylaw, and there is this other bylaw—the OCP—with so many subsections standing in the way of the application. Trustee Torgrimson did a review of the OCP and found more than a dozen different sections that militated against approving the application, and only one or two that supported it. It is worth noting that the OCP is a community-developed document; hundreds of residents were involved in its development and subsequent reviews, and it endured several public hearings and revisions before its passage.

The Islands Trust’s planners and the trustees tried to find ways to mitigate the negativity of the community towards this proposal as expressed in the OCP. Hoping to provide some clarity, they requested more studies and the coffee

HOT COFFEE, please turn to page 14

## KIDS GARDEN/ from page 7

to feel the transformative energies reaching into many places of our lives and homes.

My family is lucky to be living on this little island. We are lucky, but it is also what we have chosen, and thus created. It is nothing less than the full potential of our life values that we are seeking, and we give thanks that such a path has been made clear for us to follow, a path that we have made with our own intentions and with the energies of the universe.

Our children may take on many other values than we have in their long and unfurling lives, but we believe that the universal value, that we all struggle to find, is a connection back to the very mother we all sprang from, the mother whose body feeds us, whose breath sings to us,

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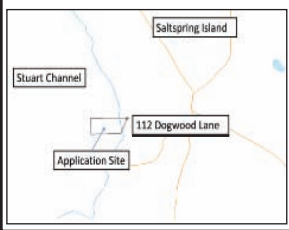
Seeing this life force so pure and vibrant in the eyes of my children inspires me to give them many opportunities to discover the intricate web of nature through the simple act of gardening and growing food. It is my hope that they will carry this on into their lives as they make decisions for themselves and for the future of our earth. ✍

## LAND ACT: NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A DISPOSITION OF CROWN LAND

Take notice that George and Sheri Braun of Saltspring Island BC, intend to make application to Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB), West Coast Service Centre for a *Specific Permission – Private Moorage* situated on Provincial Crown land located at Saltspring Island / Vicinity of Stuart Channel.

The Lands File Number that has been established for this application is File #1413424. Written comments concerning this application should be directed to the Section Head, Integrated Land Management Bureau at 142 - 2080 Labieux Rd, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6J9, or emailed to: [AuthorizingAgency.Nanaimo@gov.bc.ca](mailto:AuthorizingAgency.Nanaimo@gov.bc.ca). Comments will be received by ILMB until August 23, 2010. ILMB may not be able to consider comments received after this date. Please visit our website: [http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/clad/land\\_prog\\_services/programs.html](http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/clad/land_prog_services/programs.html) under the link: **Applications & Reasons for Decision** for more information.

Be advised that any response to this advertisement will be considered part of the public record. For information, contact the Freedom of Information Advisor at Integrated Land Management Bureau’s regional office.

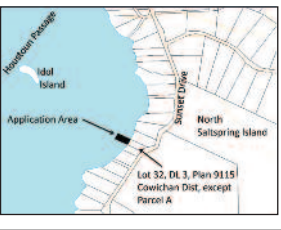


## LAND ACT: NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A DISPOSITION OF CROWN LAND

Take notice that Jeff Goguen of Saltspring Island, BC, intend to make application to Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB), West Coast Service Centre for a *Specific Permission – Private Moorage* situated on Provincial Crown land located at Saltspring Island / Vicinity of Houstoun Passage.

The Lands File Number that has been established for this application is File #1413411. Written comments concerning this application should be directed to the Section Head, Integrated Land Management Bureau at 142 - 2080 Labieux Rd, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6J9, or emailed to: [AuthorizingAgency.Nanaimo@gov.bc.ca](mailto:AuthorizingAgency.Nanaimo@gov.bc.ca). Comments will be received by ILMB until July 29, 2010. ILMB may not be able to consider comments received after this date. Please visit our website: [http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/clad/land\\_prog\\_services/programs.html](http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/clad/land_prog_services/programs.html) under the link: **Applications & Reasons for Decisions** for more information.

Be advised that any response to this advertisement will be considered part of the public record. For information, contact the Freedom of Information Advisor at Integrated Land Management Bureau’s regional office.





## BP starts coalbed methane drilling near Fernie

Exploratory drilling of a new coalbed methane field was started in early June by BP. The first drilling site is some 22km north of Fernie in the Elk River watershed.

BP are reported to have planned the development of a 320 square kilometer field, involving at least 25 wells and costing \$100 million. The exploration will be conducted under a BC government ‘royalty credit’ program, which means no royalties will be paid to the Province until all the initial capital costs have been recovered.

The location is between two national parks in a major wildlife migration corridor, not far from the Flathead Valley where coalbed methane drilling was recently halted over concerns about water pollution.

Coalbed methane drilling often involves high well densities and ‘fracturing’ to maximize gas production. Fracturing is done by pumping potentially toxic fluids at high pressure down wells to open up channels in the rock (or coal) to permit free flow of gas and water. ☞

## Smaller campfires this year

New regulations shrinking the size of legal campfires to reduce the risk of human-caused wildfires came into effect on July 1. Provincially in 2009, 850 fires resulted from careless human behaviour .

Under the new regulations, campfires cannot be larger than 0.5 metres in height and 0.5 metres in diameter, or approximately a foot-and-a-half by a foot-and-a-half. Previously, campfires were permitted to a maximum size of one-metre by one-metre.

The new rules also require campers to build a fireguard around their fires by scraping down to the dirt and clearing away potentially flammable debris, such as twigs, leaves and needles. A shovel or at least eight litres of water must be stored nearby to extinguish the fire.

### G-20 from page 10

force increase the risk of violent clashes? Can we learn from the Toronto Summit and provide advice to other governments of the best way forward to balance the needs for freedom of expression, protection of private and public property, and security for the leaders themselves?

Due to the serious allegations of unacceptable erosion of civil liberties connected with the summit, the Green Party has called for a public inquiry. Canadians deserve to know

### HOT COFFEE from page 13

company complied and provided them. The Trust also commissioned one of its own.

In addition, the company risked a substantial amount of money on architectural designs for its new headquarters, believing it would eventually get to build the structure. It all added up to that \$200,000 McLeod alluded to, but what proportion of it was related to Trust demands is still unclear.

### Complications

The complications surrounding approval of this proposal kept mounting as more objections surfaced. Two in particular were onerous:

- odour control, and enforcement of compliance; and
- spot zoning, where neighbourhoods that believe themselves safe from objectionable development suddenly discover they aren’t.

Regarding the first, McLeod is adamant he can avoid odour problems. Regarding his Vancouver proposal, he says, ‘We’re 100% in compliance with Vancouver’s

emissionstandards.’ But the nose is a lot more sensitive than the best instruments available, and people’s noses are seriously offended by the odours emitted by the coffee roasting process. Ehring: ‘We have visited a number of other coffee-roasting operations. They are modern, efficient plants, and they all smell.’

Admittedly, when Ehring visited the SSCC’s Richmond operation, he detected no smell. But an article in the *Richmond Review* on May 21, 2010 quotes a nearby businessman with a different experience. ‘...Darryl Segal, president of International Cosmetics, questions Salt Spring Coffee’s commitment to Mother Nature... He said he, his father, and their employees have been subjected to headache-inducing, foul-smelling fumes and bone-rattling noise from the first, since it moved in 16 months ago.’

McLeod scoffs at the complaint. ‘Segal couldn’t prove anything,’ he says. ‘He and [Salt Spring’s] Friends of Ford Lake were trying to squash the thing at both ends, the elite

Failure to comply with the new rules will result in a \$345 fine. An additional \$345 fine will be levied for campfires lit during any ban.

A new website, [www.firesafebc.ca](http://www.firesafebc.ca), is also available that encapsulates all provincial information related to wildfire activity, campfire bans, health advisories and evacuation orders.

Since April 1, fire crews have responded to 310 fires across the province, of which 260 were human-caused. Anyone who causes a wildfire through arson or recklessness can be fined up to \$1 million or spend three years in prison. To report a wildfire or unattended campfire, call \*5555 on your cellphone, or toll-free to 1 800 663-5555. ☞

why the summit cost so much, accomplished so little and left an impression of Toronto as a war zone. Perhaps there were no alternatives once world leaders were invited. For the future of us all, we have to hope that there are indeed acceptable alternatives.

*Elizabeth May is leader of the Green Party of Canada and has participated in G8 summits, both the official and Peoples’ Summits, since 1995. ☞*

at Ford Lake and the neighbours.’ He reiterates his compliance with Vancouver emission standards.

Nevertheless, the argument about odours rages on. What represents an objectionable odour? If you prohibit it, how do you measure it, and how do you enforce compliance?

### Four to One Against

But it isn’t only the OCP that seems to be weighted in opposition to the proposal. At the August 2009 Local Trust Committee meeting, Torgrimson noted, ‘In the last month alone, I received over one hundred letters and comments, and they ran four to one against the application. But this is not a popularity contest. It is an important land use matter...’

By the time the Trustees pulled the plug on the proposal, they had in their hands recommendations for some 17 covenants to be placed on the property in order to make it less objectionable to the surrounding neighbours and the wider community. The sheer weight of enforcement issues alone would have made the whole proposal unworkable.

So the Trustees came down with what is essentially a conservative decision—not to approve a 13,000 square-foot coffee roasting plant, educational facility, greenhouses and farmgate sales facility; with an indeterminate number of employees, parking area, lighting, numerous customers, visitors, and deliveries; and the attendant potential for sprawl, odours, and impact on that quiet rural neighbourhood.

Had they done otherwise, two immediate consequences were likely: the precedent would have immediately brought other applicants to the Trust’s doorstep with similar rezoning proposals and strong cases; and complaints about the sanctity of Salt Spring’s rural way of life and the potential for its disruption would have been long and loud. In this respect, the Salt Spring Coffee Company’s proposal clearly put the Trustees in a no-win situation.

### The Heart of the Matter

Spot zoning considerations go to the heart of the Trust Object, the ‘preserve and protect’ mandate. Should a property be rezoned to a new level so that previously prohibited activities can take place there? If so, under what circumstances?

Jobs and economic diversity remain important factors in the Trust’s consideration of rezoning applications. But clearly, with the Islands Trust mandate as its touchstone, they cannot be the overriding concern.

At the end of a long and thoughtful analysis of the entire proposal, Torgrimson summed up her concerns last July. ‘When SSCC purchased these lands they knew the zoning did not meet their need and they decided to take the risk,’ she wrote. ‘I encourage them to go back to the drawing board and find another property on SSI. They are a great business, and I want to see them nestled into a site with fewer conflicts. If they truly love the island, treasure their Salt Spring Island brand, care about their island workers and families and are sincerely committed to doing the right, green thing in as many ways as possible, they will work to find another property here that is more suitable to their needs and desires and more compatible with the nature of that particular place on the island.’

One question remains: can the folks who are so outraged at the rejection of SSCC’s rezoning application come up with a suitable property for the company that the neighbours will embrace and the Trust can accept?

After all, McLeod hasn’t found his Vancouver property yet. It’s not a done deal.☞

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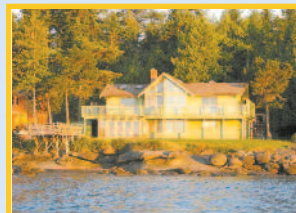
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# Cutting edge, the work of Dorothy Cutting

In 2009, the Islands Trust added a new category to the Community Stewardship Award Program to recognize and encourage the actions of individuals and organizations that are working in the area of climate change. Nominated by the Salt Spring Conservancy, this year the climate change award went to Salt Spring's Dorothy Cutting for the West Coast Climate Equity website and her climate change education work. The conservancy tells the story of how Dorothy became involved in the environment.

At a particularly difficult time in Dorothy's life, she traded in the family car for a used Volkswagen Van, piled in her three kids and set off on a camping trip from Florida to Disneyland in California. She decided to try and visit all the National Parks she could on the way. As she and her family sat, night after night, listening to the park rangers explaining the natural wonders of each park, her life changed. She fell in love with the natural world.

After Disneyland, she headed the family up to Seattle and fell in love again. This time with the Pacific northwest. As soon as she could, she packed up her life in Florida and moved her family to the Seattle area.

Here, as a single mum and two years of college under her belt, she raised her family, took up kayaking (especially on the west coast of Vancouver Island) and eventually became a powerful political force for the environment. It is a long story, as she knew nothing about politics when she began, but in the end she was a huge supporter of parks and one of the major movers to getting the *Washington State Shoreline Management Act* passed into legislation, which



still stands today.

In 1992, her kids grown up, Dorothy decided to move to Salt Spring Island. On a plane trip back east, she picked up a copy of Robert Hunter's book *2030: Confronting Thermageddon in Our Lifetime* and her life changed again. At a time when most people are sitting back in a rocking chair and baking cookies, she has devoted her '70s to raising awareness about Climate Change. Dorothy feels it is her responsibility, as a person who loves the natural world, to do what ever she can to make a difference on this issue—and she definitely has.

At the age of 71 (2002), with the sponsorship of the Canadian Sierra Club, Dorothy departed from Mile Zero of the Trans-Canada Highway in Victoria, bound for the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa in her new Honda Civic Hybrid. Her goal was to deliver to each Member of Parliament a copy of Hunter's book. As successful as this trip was, (she gave hundreds of interviews about Climate Change across the country and in Ottawa was met by David Anderson, Bob Hunter and a team of national media), it did not make the change Dorothy hoped it would. But it did start to get Dorothy a reputation on Salt Spring as a 'can do and will do' lady.

In 2006, she set off again on another 'Climate Crisis' trip in her Honda Hybrid. This time her destination was Inuvik

in northern Canada. 'I want our neighbours in the north to know that we care about what is happening to their homeland and their way of life,' said Dorothy, referring to the melting of the polar icecap.

Meanwhile, back home on Salt Spring Island, in between these two road trips, and since, Dorothy has come to be known as the 'Climate Change Lady'—and she never rests. She has designed and financed posters, bumper stickers, and postcards to send to politicians. She has started many petitions and got others to sign them. She has personally written, and persuaded many people to write hundreds of letters and emails to policymakers. She has become a permanent fixture at the Saturday Market over the last eight years, talking to thousands of people about climate change. She has worked with the SSI Energy Strategy group, Institute of Sustainability Education and Action, SSI Conservancy, Island Pathway, the Fritz Theatre, the local secondary school and other groups, to bring in guest speakers, movies and support special events. During all this time, she continues to read and to keep up with the latest information coming from the lead scientists.

Slowly, this grandmother has become a fount of sound information on the topic. When she had a question, she has asked the experts. Eventually the likes of Professor William Calvin, Bill McKibben, Dr James Hansen, Professor Andrew Weaver and Guy Dauncey have all got to know Dorothy well.

Two years ago, Dorothy decided the best thing she could do was to start a climate change website, [www.WestCoastClimateEquity.org](http://www.WestCoastClimateEquity.org). The website had 12,000 hits the first year and 127,000 the second. As of this month it is getting about 6,000 hits a week. This website takes up to forty hours a week of Dorothy's time.

Dorothy is devoting the remainder of her life to Climate Change because, 'this planet is unique and beautiful. Our civilization is headed full steam towards catastrophe, so we need to make turning it around our top priority. This is my way of contributing to the turn-around.' Dorothy's motto is, 'do what you can and you can do more than you think you can.'

## Other Islands Trust Community Stewardship Awards

The announcement of awards at June Trust Council on Saturna Island also included Tekla Deverell, of North Pender Island, for her gardening mentorship program for young people and to Patti Willis, of Denman Island, for preservation of the Denman Island environment.

Two additional enduring achievement awards went to Jon Guy, of Saturna Island, for his many contributions to the vitality of Saturna Island's community life and to Sylvia Pincott, of North Pender Island, for preservation of the Pender Island environment.

## Forage Fish At Your Feet - Edi Johnston

Forage fish such as surf smelt, herring, anchovy, sand lance, capelin and eulachon are crucial to the survival of the larger species such as salmon and even killer whales. All but herring have been pretty much neglected by fisheries and other species of forage fish are only just now being considered key to the survival of larger species.

Some species of forage fish such as sand lance, surf smelt and capelin spawn in the finite habitat of the intertidal zone, where we walk and unfortunately sometimes drive. Even placement of property erosion arresting devices such as riprap or seawalls can have devastating consequences. Some species of forage fish are prolific spawners and spawn monthly all year around, so to lose them would be devastating. Not all beaches meet the criteria and those that are conducive to forage fish spawning must be identified and preserved.

Recently, a couple of dozen keen and eager Islanders

(including Hornby and Vancouver Islanders) got together on Denman to learn from marine biologist Ramona DeGraaf, how to identify critical forage fish habitat and "sample" the beach for eggs.

These newly trained forage fish samplers along with other volunteer samplers in various coastal areas will be roaming the beaches, taking samples and submitting them for scrutiny to Ramona's lab. Ramona will then provide feedback, identify and document those beaches that have positive results in hopes of creating awareness and with the continuing help of volunteers, start the monitoring process.

This is exciting and groundbreaking territory which will undoubtedly have an extremely positive affect on preserving what is left of our salmon stocks.

For more information, contact the Denman Island Marine Stewardship Committee by e-mail at [dmsave@telus.net](mailto:dmsave@telus.net).

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