

Gulf Islands Island Tides

Regional newspaper linking south coastal BC communities since 1989

Volume 24 Number 9

May 3 – 16, 2012

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Duke Point now open

BC Ferries announced that its terminal at Duke Point would re-open on May 1, with the resumption of regularly scheduled service between Duke Point and Tsawwassen.

The terminal was closed on December 20 following a hard landing of the *Coastal Inspiration*.

Contractors have finalized repairs to the terminal structures including: repair and re-anchoring of the starboard wingwall, repairing the port wingwall inner fender panel, replacing the lower ramp abutment hinges, repairing the upper and lower ramp maintenance hanging bars, repairing the hydraulic cylinders, replacing the electrical wiring and repairing some cracked welds.

Since December 20, BC Ferries has been operating its mid-Island service to both Horseshoe Bay and Tsawwassen from the Departure Bay terminal.

The Departure Bay terminal will now revert back to servicing the Horseshoe Bay route only. ☞



Photo: Richard Philpot

A good mechanic is an essential part of anyone's transportation plans. Laurie Brown recently opened a community bike repair shop on Pender Island (story page 5). For more initiatives to improve low carbon options, see page 3.

Funds put Island rail on the right track

Passenger rail service on Vancouver Island is expected to be underway again soon. Recent funding announcements by the Province of BC and the federal government mean that operational issues on the E&N Railway between Courtenay and Victoria may be resolved within a year. Passenger service was suspended on the line due to poor track conditions, while rail freight is currently operating at reduced speeds.

The Island Corridor Foundation is negotiating several funding agreements so that it may proceed with replacement of about 1/3 of the railway ties. Once these are agreements are in place, the work will go to tender, with construction starting in October, it is hoped.

The \$15 million project will ensure the railway is fully operational, allowing it to attract new lines of business and then incrementally improve the rest of the track.

The passenger service could be opened again as soon as May 2013, with a newly refurbished three-car train, with power lifts for easy access, a galley, and a baggage/bicycle car. Fares and routes will be set by VIA Rail.

Graham Bruce of the Island Corridor Foundation said he expects that the train would travel from Nanaimo to Victoria early in the morning, then return north to Courtenay. In the late afternoon it would go to Victoria, before an evening run back to Nanaimo.

RAILWAY, please turn to page 7

Province could exit NEB's Enbridge review

In an open letter to BC Premier Christy Clark, economist Robyn Allan points out that the federal-provincial agreement, under which a National Energy Board panel is hearing submissions about the Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline proposal, allows the provincial government to withdraw its support for the agreement on 30-days notice. (The Province is also able to hold its own review.)

Allan suggests that withdrawal should be considered by the Province because the federal government has openly endorsed a 'yes' decision, and because new federal procedures have reduced the decision to the prerogative of the federal cabinet, regardless of the Joint

Review Panel's conclusions.

The federal government's behaviour 'has made a travesty of the necessary arms length relationship between government and an independent regulatory body,' Allan writes. 'As long as there was some sense that the Joint Review Panel was independent and had the authority to reject the proposal regardless of the political pressure imposed by the Prime Minister's Office, a semblance of due process was maintained. That necessary condition was violated when Federal Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver unveiled proposed legislation on April 17, 2012.'

ENBRIDGE, please turn to page 7

Tidal power in the Salish Sea? ~ Sara Miles

Legal notices often appear in *Island Tides*, and are usually submitted by folks wishing to install a new dock on their waterfront property. A notice in the April 5 edition was different; it was an application for an *Investigative License for an Ocean Power Project* at Porlier Passage, between Valdez Island and Galiano Island.

Western Tidal Holdings Ltd currently has several applications in for investigative licences for data collection in coastal BC waters. If the licences are granted, the sites, which were chosen for their strong tides and proximity to BC Hydro electrical grid connections, will be studied for their suitability for tidal power installations. The four areas under consideration are: Porlier Passage, Masset Sound in the Queen Charlotte District, Plumper Passage near Oak Bay in Victoria, and Dodd Narrows between Mudge and Vancouver Islands.

Western Tidal President Tony Irwin says the investigations would be non-intrusive, mainly involving equipment towed behind boats to create detailed geographical layouts of the channel bottoms. Another monitoring tool, 'Flowmeters', which are smaller than a refrigerator, would sit on the ocean bottom for several months to measure the currents in the channel.

Western Tidal cannot say whether any of these projects will go forward until proper consultation with First Nations has taken

place. 'We are dedicated to meeting our First Nation obligations and want to develop a working relationship,' stated Irwin.

The need to meet BC's future energy needs, and concerns about climate change, make new generation choices pressing. 'We've got to do something,' says Irwin. 'I think this is one of the best ways of moving forward. Done properly, it will have low impact.' And he believes his company is doing it properly. A major factor in these developments is that technology has finally progressed enough to make tidal power affordable and practical. Irwin says BC has over 3,000 MW of potential tidal power, and about 10-15% of that is currently developable. It could be particularly beneficial for northern communities that presently rely on diesel generators.

While there is no official requirement for Western Tidal to engage with the local community, they are doing so anyway. The company is planning a community information session, likely on Galiano, regarding the Porlier Passage investigation. Comments on this particular application are being accepted at the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations' Nanaimo Office until May 14. Irwin also welcomes direct questions via the new website: www.westerntidal.com. 'We are trying to run an open and inclusive process,' says Irwin. ☞



Island Tides is at these **SERIOUS COFFEE** locations — look for the 'Island Tides' yellow boxes outside or racks inside!

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- South Duncan—Sun Valley Mall
- Duncan—Cowichan Commons Mall
- Mill Bay—Island Highway @ Frayne Rd
- Nanaimo—VI Conference Centre
- Nanaimo—Cnr Island Hwy @ Hammond Bay Rd
- Nanaimo—South Parkway Plaza
- Nanaimo—Hammond Bay Rd CO-OP
- Parksville—Heritage Centre Mall
- Courtenay—Southgate Centre, Cliffe Avenue
- Port Alberni—Shoppers Drugmart Plaza, 10th Ave
- Campbell River—Willow Point Village



Island Tides

AT POINT ATKINSON

MAY

Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.	Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.
2	0145	14.4	4.4	10	0253	10.5	3.2
WE	0838	6.2	1.9	TH	0722	12.8	3.9
	1441	11.8	3.6		1434	2.3	0.7
	2012	7.5	2.3		2207	15.4	4.7
3	0222	14.4	4.4	11	0409	10.2	3.1
TH	0918	4.6	1.4	FR	0825	11.8	3.6
	1546	12.8	3.9		1525	3.6	1.1
	2110	8.2	2.5		2258	15.1	4.6
4	0258	14.8	4.5	12	0527	9.2	2.8
FR	0959	3.3	1.0	SA	0945	11.2	3.4
	1645	13.8	4.2		1620	4.9	1.5
	2204	8.9	2.7		2345	14.8	4.5
5	0336	14.8	4.5	13	0636	8.2	2.5
SA	1042	2.0	0.6	SU	1124	10.5	3.2
	1740	14.8	4.5		1721	6.2	1.9
	2257	9.5	2.9				
6	0415	15.1	4.6	14	0030	14.4	4.4
SU	1126	1.0	0.3	MO	0732	7.2	2.2
	1834	15.1	4.6		1306	10.5	3.2
	2349	10.2	3.1		1828	7.5	2.3
7	0457	14.8	4.5	15	0110	14.1	4.3
MO	1211	0.7	0.2	TU	0817	6.2	1.9
	1928	15.4	4.7		1431	11.2	3.4
					1937	8.5	2.6
8	0044	10.5	3.2	16	0147	13.8	4.2
TU	0541	14.4	4.4	WE	0855	5.2	1.6
	1257	0.7	0.2		1538	12.1	3.7
	2021	15.7	4.8		2040	9.5	2.9
9	0144	10.5	3.2	17	0220	13.8	4.2
WE	0629	13.8	4.2	TH	0930	4.6	1.4
	1344	1.3	0.4		1631	12.8	3.9
	2115	15.4	4.7		2135	9.8	3.0

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Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.	Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.
2	0121	10.2	3.1	10	0236	8.5	2.6
WE	0807	4.6	1.4	TH	0618	9.5	2.9
	1419	8.2	2.5		1351	1.3	0.4
	1921	5.9	1.8		2203	11.2	3.4
3	0149	10.2	3.1	11	0402	7.9	2.4
TH	0840	3.3	1.0	FR	0717	8.5	2.6
	1535	8.9	2.7		1442	2.3	0.7
	2017	6.6	2.0		2250	11.2	3.4
4	0217	10.5	3.2	12	0521	7.2	2.2
FR	0917	2.3	0.7	SA	0837	7.9	2.4
	1640	9.5	2.9		1535	3.3	1.0
	2111	7.2	2.2		2333	10.8	3.3
5	0247	10.5	3.2	13	0626	6.2	1.9
SA	0956	1.0	0.3	SU	1031	7.2	2.2
	1738	10.2	3.1		1633	4.6	1.4
	2205	7.9	2.4				
6	0321	10.8	3.3	14	0011	10.5	3.2
SU	1039	0.3	0.1	MO	0716	5.6	1.7
	1833	10.8	3.3		1237	7.2	2.2
	2302	8.5	2.6		1736	5.6	1.7
7	0359	10.8	3.3	15	0044	10.2	3.1
MO	1124	0.0	0.0	TU	0755	4.6	1.4
	1928	11.2	3.4		1419	7.9	2.4
					1842	6.6	2.0
8	0005	8.9	2.7	16	0113	10.2	3.1
TU	0441	10.5	3.2	WE	0827	3.9	1.2
	1211	0.0	0.0		1535	8.5	2.6
	2021	11.2	3.4		1946	7.2	2.2
9	0116	8.9	2.7	17	0139	9.8	3.0
WE	0527	10.2	3.1	TH	0857	3.3	1.0
	1300	0.7	0.2		1632	9.2	2.8
	2113	11.2	3.4		2045	7.9	2.4

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The ongoing attack on charities

Elizabeth May

When I heard that ForestEthics, a group targeted in a Prime Minister's Office (PMO) memorandum as an 'adversary' of the PMO agenda, had decided to split its activities so as to make advocacy a separate arm, I thought 'how brave.'

The fact that PMO senior staff had pressured the group's main funder, Tides Canada, to stop supporting the conservation work of ForestEthics, (verified by the memo obtained through Access to Information), would, in itself, have been a shocking scandal even a decade ago. Now, it barely caused a murmur in a nation seemingly losing our sense of outrage in the face of suppression of dissent—like the proverbial warming frog in a toxic political stew.

It becomes increasingly clear that the 'chill' effect of the bully-boy tactic of threatening all non-government groups and all charities with as yet unspecified 'new sanctions' (promised at p.205 of the 2012 federal budget) will silence critics. Where I would expect a phalanx of executive directors of the country's major national conservation and environmental groups blasting back with one voice at the unravelling of decades of environmental protections, there has been a fairly small roar from only the bravest. This is not intended as any criticism of my former colleagues. When you don't know what the new rules will be, when you have an obligation to your organization to stay in the black, and when money is scarce and threats abundant it is hard to know how to respond.

Then there is ForestEthics. On April 17, Valerie Langer, its Director of BC Forest Campaigns stood up bravely.

In the summer of 1993, Valerie had rallied thousands to the clear-cuts of Clayoquot Sound to halt the logging of the ancient coastal temperate rainforest. At the Kennedy Lake blockade she was chained to a log suspended out into space.

Valerie has been working with ForestEthics for 18 years. Far from the civil disobedience of the early 1990s, she and ForestEthics have pioneered market-based campaigns, tackling catalogue giant Victoria's Secret. ForestEthics has also worked to create economic opportunities, such as the toy-building project with Heiltsuk First Nation. ForestEthics found ways to find consensus with the forest industry at boardroom tables. The group is clearly too effective for the Harper regime.

Social and environmental justice lawyer, Clayton Ruby, has agreed to head up ForestEthics Advocacy, the new organization that will not seek any charitable dollars for its work.

Ruby declared, 'what we need now is more advocacy for the environment, not less advocacy for the environment. We need more speech, not less speech.'

This announcement was barely made before the spin doctors of the Prime Minister's Office issued the following Info Alert by email at 7pm, April 17, with the subject line 'Legitimate Charities':

'Canadian law has long restricted the generous tax advantages associated with charitable status to organizations that focus their energies on charitable activities—not politics. Unfortunately, some organizations have been using taxpayers' generosity for their own political purposes.

'In *Economic Action Plan 2012*, our Government announced that charities would be required to be more transparent and more accountable to Canadians when it comes to their activities.

'But this was all too much for at least one radical organization who today announced the creation of a stand-alone group devoted entirely to political advocacy.

'ForestEthics may be the first radical group to admit that their activities, for which they have collected tremendous financial advantages at the expense of Canadian taxpayers, were not charitable at all. After all, legitimate organizations carrying out legitimate charitable activities would have no reason to do anything differently.'

This memo is grossly inappropriate to come from a Prime Minister's Office. It reads like the kind of smear issued from the Conservative Party War Room during an election campaign. Its arguments fall into the same category as the anti-civil liberties argument: 'If you aren't doing anything wrong, you should not mind the police searching your home without warrant—or checking into your email.'

When any conservation group, unsure how to speak in the current climate of harassment where the 10% legal advocacy by charities leads to endless harassment with threats of loss of charitable status, decides to voluntarily relinquish its charitable status, it will stand condemned by the PMO.

This is my country. The actions of this PMO belong in some other country—maybe one described by George Orwell where an 'Info Alert' could be a tool of propaganda and smear.

This PMO spends more on 'information officers' than any previous one. Talk about abuse of taxpayers' dollars; this bunch spends \$10 million a year in shadowy political operatives and 'Info Alerts.' This PMO does not belong in Canada.

Sneaky techniques - Commentary by Patrick Brown

The federal Conservative government has decided to 'streamline' the environmental review process for resource development projects. This is a change of both style and substance, which appears to be the establishment of a 24-month time limit for National Energy Board hearings applying to oil, gas, coal and pipelines. This is said to establish certainty for investors. To date, the record of the review process is of almost certain approval; one might conclude that the new time limits also establish certainty of environmental impacts.

Other changes have been mentioned: an 18-month limit for *Environmental Act* hearings; the transfer of many reviews to the provinces; changes to the impact thresholds that would trigger the review processes; limiting evidence at public hearings to witnesses 'directly affected' or 'having special expertise'; and let's not ignore an *Income Tax Act* attack on environmental NGOs (see above article). Limited hearings may well be just a smokescreen for decisions which, in the end, will be made by the federal cabinet.

Few details of the changes have been provided. The government indicated that the new procedures will be included in the budget legislation, which will authorize regulations under ministerial authority. Neither the legislation nor the regulations have yet been published.

The Conservative majority government ensures Parliamentary adoption of the budget, so it ensures adoption of the necessary legislation. This legislative process, also 'streamlined', makes no mention of consultation with the public, negotiation with the provinces, review by committees, or, for that matter, Parliamentary debate. (The Minister has, however, mentioned complaints from potential Chinese investors.)

In the meantime, the government is managing a careful and measured revelation of details, a process clearly intended to control public debate. Delaying details and omnibus legislation are the government's substitute for proper introduction of a new *Environmental Assessment Act* for full committee review, debate in both Houses of Parliament, consultation, negotiation, possible amendments, and final adoption.

These proposals for changes in environmental assessment represent, in fact, major changes in the interpretation of Canada's constitution. The way they are being introduced also represents a major departure from the nation's legislative traditions.

Neither the substance of the proposals nor the style of their introduction is straightforward or transparent. Their legitimacy must be strongly questioned.

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While most people want to reduce their carbon emissions and be more active, the lack of pathways and cycling lanes on the Islands can make foot and bike travel challenging. This is gradually changing, as many Island groups are working to make roads safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

Moving Around Pender, the group that originated the Car Stops program, will be conducting a survey this summer to better understand the transportation needs of Pender Islanders and enable future planning. This is a great opportunity to make suggestions for improving Pender's transportation! (See advertisement, page 5.)

The Car Stop program has already expanded to other islands, including Mayne and Salt Spring. Car Stops provide a protocol and safe stopping location for those on foot to catch a ride with a passing motorist—it's like organized hitchhiking. Some Galiano residents have recently expressed interest in putting Car Stops on their Island, too.

On April 21, a Pathways Initiative got rolling on Mayne Island with a community bike ride celebrating Earth Day. Founding member and ARCycles proprietor, Louis Vallee, talked to *Island Tides* about the relationship between motorists and cyclists. Louis said some people think that cycling on Island roads should be discouraged because of safety concerns, but he thinks a change in perspective is all that is needed.

For example, motorists may need a reminder not to pass cyclists until it is clearly safe to do so. Also, groups of cyclists disembarking from BC Ferries can be encouraged to wait a few minutes for the vehicles to go ahead, thus avoiding potentially dangerous situations. Louis said cyclists often wonder if it is better to ride in a cluster or single file. A cluster makes it more difficult to pass, but as cars should not be passing unless it is safe, theoretically clusters work. It takes understanding on both sides of the road, so to speak. As for those hills, there are power-assisted bikes to help with that—just call ARCycles!

On Denman and Hornby Islands, Ferry Advisory Committee Chair Tony Law reports that at a recent community meeting with RCMP, Islanders raised concerns about the number of weekenders arriving by vehicle who are intent on

'partying'. He says members of the public are encouraged to report drunk drivers to the RCMP, including those seen drinking on the ferries.

Jim Ramsay, of the Gabriola Transportation Association, said several topics were on the agenda for the GTA's May 2 AGM. They are looking into developing a community-operated transit service on Gabriola, perhaps similar to the one that was on Salt Spring before its current system. The GTA is also working to establish a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (MOTI) to facilitate communication between Islanders and the Ministry regarding Gabriolans 'road needs'. Other work include efforts to make the village area on Gabriola more pedestrian friendly.

On Salt Spring, major road advancements are happening this year, with funds recently announced for construction of Phase One of the *North Ganges Transportation Plan*. After five years of planning, construction on a network of pedestrian pathways and cycling lanes in Ganges will begin this summer. The pathway portion is expected to be done between July and October, with the cycling lane construction deferred until September, after the busy tourist season.

The North Ganges Cycling Route is a \$1.4 million project, which is a three-way partnership between the CRD, MOTI and Salt Spring taxpayers. It is Salt Spring's first segment of the CRD Regional Trail, a circular cycle route that will eventually connect with the Vancouver Island section.

Another group on Salt Spring doing related work is Island Pathways, a group that acts as an advisory to the SSI Transportation Commission, and that serves in an advisory role to the CRD Director. It is a non-profit grassroots group of volunteers that operates on donations and is working on a separate project called the Ganges Village Pathway Network. Island Pathways Chair Brenda Guiled says they are hoping to improve rural cycling everywhere.

We've yet to hear about island bicycling from the Northern Islands! Send your reports to news@islandtides.com.

Help us afford the news – phone in your voluntary \$28 subscription today, 250-629-3660. Thank You!

Creatively United.. Island Tides Staff

We were there Saturday, April 21. It was a lovely day, the best so far. Earth Day had turned into Earth Weekend, with the 'Creatively United for the Planet Festival' from Friday to Sunday—a fundraiser for some 15 charities and NGOs, held at St Matthias Anglican Church in Victoria.

Lots of people were there; the bicycle parking was packed. The Church and Hall were surrounded by some 60 booths, selling exotic food, crafts, and most importantly, ideas. These ranged widely, from the Sierra Club to the Compost Education Centre.

There was a dance on Friday night, a performance in the church on Saturday afternoon, a fashion show Saturday night, and a John Lennon tribute concert on Sunday afternoon. And lots of other things going on all the time—speakers, music, and so on.

Saturday afternoon's concert featured Holly Arntzen and Kevin Wright, with a Grade 5 chorus from nearby Margaret Jenkins School. Then, conservation photographer Garth Lenz, showing the good (beauty from all over), and the bad, and the ugly (the tar sands).

Next Ann Mortifee, inspirational speaker, with her account of starting sustainable forest projects on Cortes Island and at Shawnigan Lake. Mortifee took us back into song, spectacularly, with a hundred members of the Gettin' Higher Choir, led by Shivon Robinsong and Denis Donnelly.

The Gettin' Higher Choir's full strength is 350. They sing all kinds of songs, mostly a capella in four-part harmony. To wrap it up, Ann read from her writings, accompanied by new husband and world-renowned flutist, Paul Horn.

More Gettin' Higher Choir

The Gettin' Higher Choir was invited to sing for the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Regional Event in Victoria on April 13-14. The Commission's Hearings in Victoria followed hearings in many communities in BC and centred on

survivors of the residential school system.

For the last few weeks, Shivon Robinsong has been leading Pender Islanders in songs, simple, beautiful, and fun, at the community hall on Wednesdays (her first community choir was on Cortes, many years ago). If you thought you couldn't sing, Shivon's genius could prove you wrong. Join thirty or so others in an hour-and-a-half of getting higher by using your voice.

World Harmony Run Awards

Shivon and Denis received World Harmony Run Torch-Bearer Awards for 'their tireless inspiration and service to humanity.' The awards were presented on the steps of the Legislature on Monday, April 23.

The World Harmony Run is a global torch relay spreading a message of goodwill among people of all nations. As the Run travels through each country, it offers an opportunity for national leaders and ordinary citizens alike to come together and celebrate a common quest for a better humanity. World peace leader Sri Chinmoy founded the World Harmony Run and many other cultural and athletic activities to encourage people to work for the betterment of humanity.

It's Canada's turn; the Western Canada run began on April 20 in Tofino, and will travel 1,400km over 19 days. The route through Eastern Canada will cover 1,200km over 17 days.

Robinsong and Donnelly's photos and nomination statement will be in the global gallery of recipients at the World Harmony Run website: www.worldharmonyrun.org. As will be the details of another Islands' recipient, read on...

World Harmony Run on Galiano, Too

The runners were on Galiano Island April 24, to present the Torch-Bearer Award to Ken Millard for his work with the Galiano Island Conservancy and Restorative Learning Centre. Board member Gary Moore said that Ken humbly accepted the

UNITED, please turn to page 7

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Coastal History: Jeanette Taylor
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Imagining an Oil Spill

Dear Editor:

Imagine waking up one morning in your beautiful waterfront home waiting to hear the cry of the gulls and the answering kingfisher, but instead experiencing only a strange silence and a terrible smell.

To your horror, there is a thick goopy mass covering the rocks and the beach. You see 12 dead harbour seals, covered in black, floating in the slimy kelp, and a dead eagle with coated feathers hung up in the thick mass. As far as you can see, there is a black stinking mass of oil covering the once pristine shoreline, the purple starfish, the barnacles, the sea anemones and mussels.

You phone DFO but apparently no one works in the fish habitat department after the recent cutbacks. You call the Coast Guard to see about cleanup but Canada has no infrastructure in place to deal with oil spills. You call the local wildlife center but the volunteer who works there says they cannot deal with dead animals. You call the Islands Trust but they have no mandate to deal with oil spills. You call the government and eventually find a human to talk to, but they say the only hope is to declare your area a disaster and that they may make some funds available. You call your insurance company but, unless your home is damaged, you are not covered. Finally, in exasperation you call your friendly real estate agent who sold you your million-dollar home but she has no interest in listing the property.

Is this fear mongering from an eco-terrorist? I think not. This could be reality if the Northern Gateway Project or Trans Mountain pipeline are allowed to proceed. Are you part of the growing voice to stop this wholesale giveaway of our resources without due discussion, allowing tankers to ply the most pristine coastline on the planet? Get involved before it's too late.

Susan Paynter, Salt Spring Island

Ed's Note: See the Wilderness Committee's centrefold pull-out for information on how to get involved.

Ecojustice Ecstatic About Orca Case

Dear Editor:

I am writing with an update on Ecojustice's killer whale lawsuit. In February, the Court of Appeal ruled in our favour, confirming that the federal government is legally bound to protect killer whale habitat. [April 10] was the deadline for the government to file for leave and signal their intention to challenge this ruling.

However, they have *not* filed for leave, which means that the Court of Appeal's ruling stands. This is fantastic news for the killer whales and other marine species listed under the *Species at Risk Act*. We are ecstatic—this case was the culmination of many years of slow but steady progress on the environmental law front.

It now remains to be seen how this all plays out in terms of on-the-ground protections for the whales, but we'll be watching how things unfold closely.

Kimberly Shearon, Ecojustice

Unqualified Reports or No Pensions

Dear Editor:

Patrick Brown has once again introduced your readers to the enormous gulf between money to be spent by the national and provincial governments and reality [re: *Island Tides*, April 19, 2012, 'Federal Budget']. The F-35 lifetime costs per unit have been estimated at about \$750 million by the Norwegian military while in Canada the politically accepted amount in Ottawa is a little more than half that figure.

A 'qualified' report is what the BC Auditor General has been forced to deliver to the people of BC for every year in the past 12 years. A 'qualified' report is 'auditor speak' for incorrect financial statements and/or incomplete ones, which is another way of saying the governments are lying to citizens.

My suggestion is that all MLAs and MPs who are part of the government of the day forfeit their pensions, 'skin in the game', if the national or provincial Auditor Generals are unable to issue an unqualified report.

This would be one way past blind party discipline; unqualified obedience to a central authority rather than to a riding electorate. It could achieve the accountability we read and hear so much about but never see as a 'walk the talk'.

Erik Andersen, Gabriola Island



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Connecting The Climate Dots

Dear Friends:

Good news this time. At some point every one of us at 350 has thought to ourselves a little despairingly: 'is the world ever going to catch on to climate change?' [April 19] is one of those days when it feels like it just might happen.

A story on the front page of yesterday's *New York Times* described a new poll: Americans in record numbers are understanding that the planet is warming because they're seeing the 'freaky' weather that comes with climate change.

The story ends by describing the next step in this process: May 5, the giant Connect the Dots day that people are joining around the globe: www.ClimateDots.org

When the zeitgeist conspires to help our efforts, we need to make the most of it. Two weeks is plenty of time to organize a beautiful photo for May 5, one that will help spread this idea. Are you in a place where flood and rain have caused havoc? Ten people with umbrellas can make a memorable 'climate dot' for all the world to see. You'll think of something appropriate for your place—and you can find lots of examples and ideas here.

This movement is growing quickly, and with not a moment to spare—new data from scientists like Jim Hansen at NASA show that our carbon emissions have already made extreme weather many times more likely. We can't take back the carbon we've already poured into the atmosphere, but if we work together hard and fast then we can keep it from getting steadily worse.

When you're on the front page of the *New York Times*, it's a sign that the message is starting to get through—but only one American in 300 reads that newspaper. Now it's up to all of us to make sure that everyone around the world gets the message, and Connect the Dots day on 5/5 is our best chance to do that. Please join us.

Bill McKibben for 350.org

Ed's Note: Please send your Salish Sea 'Connect the Dots' photos to news@islandtides.com too!

Clarification On Those F35s, Please

The following letter was sent April 18.

Dear Prime Minister Harper, MP Mulcair, MP Rae and MP May:

I am not sure what emotion I should be feeling—astonishment, fear, confusion—after hearing, for the second time in the past two weeks, that the F35 stealth bombers are needed because Canada fears China and needs to keep China under control, or something to that effect. The first time I heard it I thought I must have been mistaken. Today, I heard it again on Question Period on CTV.

I am astonished that Canada could be fearful of this large trading partner, China! Confused that the Harper government says it must build a pipeline to ship oil to China, no matter what the environmental concerns are, when it is suggested that stealth bombers appear to be needed to deal with China. Fearful that there are implications of possible war with China, where Prime Minister Harper has made so many trips for free trade talks and deals.

Please answer the following clarification:

1) What has given rise to the repeated statement that Canada is concerned about China's power and needs to increase its military capacity for future threats from China?

2) Prime Minister Harper's government has told us that the F35s were needed to patrol the Arctic. However, we hear that F35s are not meant for long distance patrol. Why would stealth bombers be needed in the Arctic? Please explain what the real purpose of the F35s is and why would we need them in the next few years, if we can manage without them right now?

3) I believe that as long as human beings engage in negative thinking, expecting and investing in wars, that is what we will get. When and how will you change this negative direction and focus on peaceful initiatives? Or does the Harper government know something else that they are not telling us, in regard to future threats to Canada?

I look forward to explanations from each of you, based on your knowledge and understanding of this astounding information regarding the aforementioned in the news—Canada's fear of China.

Lavonne Garnett, Nanaimo



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WANT TO HELP STOP AN OIL SPILL?



WILL CANADA'S PACIFIC COAST BECOME THE TAR SANDS SHIPPING PORT?



Ben West
Communications
Coordinator
& Healthy Communities
Campaigner,
Wilderness Committee
@BenWest

When I was little I used to play on the beaches of Burrard Inlet in Vancouver. I remember being in awe of the giant trees in Stanley Park and being delighted to see the playful birds and seals. Like so many of us, our oceans and rivers have all been special places to me. This is a big reason why for so many of us the idea of converting the Pacific coast of Canada into a shipping port for dirty tar sands oil is such an ugly prospect.

Two years ago, as we all watched the BP Gulf coast oil spill in horror, the possibility of an oil spill on Canada's west coast really began to sink in. **Giant tankers carrying tar sands crude oil are already passing through Vancouver Harbour** on a regular basis, and there are plans to drastically increase these oil exports. Can you imagine walking along the seawall, or along any beach in

BC, and seeing birds and sea life covered in oil?

Not long after the BP disaster, we hosted a concert at Stanley Park's Second Beach to remind everyone what was at stake. When I spoke to the crowd at that event, and looked out at the tankers in the inlet, it really hit home to me that we are the last line of defense between the tar sands in Alberta, and new and expanding markets of the Asia Pacific region.

We in Canada also have an extra responsibility to the global community to stop the building of new pipelines that facilitate **the growth of tar sands exports which are a major contributor to global warming.**

The front lines of that fight are

now right in Vancouver Harbour where Kinder Morgan, a giant Texas energy corporation, has quietly been transforming our inlet into an export facility for dirty oil.

I have spent a lot of time recently with Rueben George and his family of the Tsleil-Waututh First Nation, the indigenous people of Burrard Inlet. From their reserve we have been watching the number of tankers steadily rise from Kinder Morgan's facility across the water. In 2005 there were only 22 tankers in the inlet, primarily sending oil to California refineries and then bringing it back for our consumption as fuel. Since Kinder Morgan bought the pipeline in 2005, we have seen the number of tankers rise to over 80 tankers a year. The Tsleil-

Waututh are already experiencing the oil spill threat posed by every tanker that passes their shores.

Make no mistake, this oil is not for our use in Canada; it's intended for export. That means billions of dollars in the pockets of Big Oil executives, while we take all the risks. If they think we will stand by and let this happen, then they have another thing coming. The Tsleil-Waututh are taking the lead in the Vancouver area saying that these tar sands exports represent "a risk too great to accept". Indigenous people from all across the west coast, ranging from Alaska to Washington, have now formed a historic, unbroken wall of opposition to oil exports through their lands.

I have been so inspired by the flood of people I meet who want to get involved in this campaign. This is a fight for all of us. It's time for us to pick sides. We can be with the orcas and everyone that wants to protect our coast, or we can be with Big Oil. We will all have to live with the decision that we make.

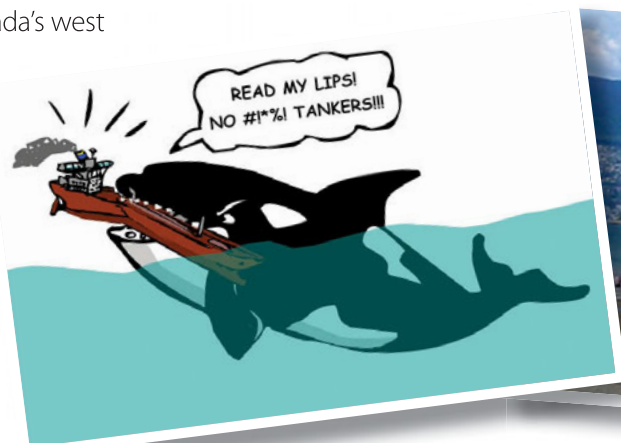


Photo top: **Orca, Port McNeill, BC** (All Canada Photos), **Oil Tanker** (Peter Laurence), left: **Kits Beach, Vancouver BC** (Creative commons, David Drucker).

1 THE ENBRIDGE 'GATEWAY TO GLOBAL WARMING' PIPELINE

The proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline from the tar sands to Kitimat, BC has become a huge issue as of late. Over 4,500 people have signed up to speak at the ongoing public hearings and the story is making front pages across the country.¹

Activists sometimes refer to the pipeline project as the 'gateway to global warming'. All of the tar sands pipeline proposals could be called long fuses on the world's biggest carbon bomb. If we are ever going to kick our addiction to fossil fuels, we need to stop building the infrastructure that facilitates the expansion of their use.

Stopping this gateway to global warming would have a huge impact by reducing the global supply of the dirtiest oil. [more info: WildernessCommittee.org/Enbridge](http://WildernessCommittee.org/Enbridge)



Photo: **Kermode bear** (Daryl Spencer).

2 KINDER MORGAN: TRYING TO STAY OUT OF THE SPOTLIGHT

While there has been a lot of noise about the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline and the Keystone XL pipeline, the proposed expansion of Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline from the tar sands to Vancouver's Burrard Inlet has gone virtually unnoticed.

Kinder Morgan, it seems, would like to keep it that way and who could blame them, given the strong public opposition. A

poll conducted in 2012 showed only 31 per cent of local residents support the existing pipeline and even less support Kinder Morgan's proposed expansion.² If completed, the capacity of the Kinder Morgan pipeline would go from 300,000 barrels a day to 850,000 barrels a day.³ And that means a lot more tankers threatening Burrard Inlet.

[More info: WildernessCommittee.org/KinderMorgan](http://WildernessCommittee.org/KinderMorgan)



WHO IS KINDER MORGAN?

Richard Kinder and Bill Morgan are ex-Enron billionaires, who founded Kinder Morgan. Enron is the company that swindled their own shareholders, stealing some \$11 billion from their own company.

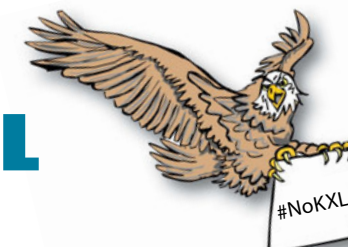
Kinder Morgan purchased BC's Terasen Pipelines in 2005. This is now Kinder Morgan Canada, and they have plans to turn Vancouver into their shipping port to supply China & the Pacific region with tar sands crude oil.



4 WHAT ABOUT THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE?

The Keystone XL pipeline is a mega project aiming to ramp up exports of tar sands crude to heavy oil refineries in Texas. Faced with overwhelming public protest, the Obama administration has turned down the pipeline expansion – for now. When people in the United States rose up and took action to convince their president to back down from building the Keystone XL pipeline it empowered us all. Strong

links have been built across borders and all of us were reminded that massive oil companies with unlimited financial resources can be defeated. The lesson to be learned is that a mass grassroots mobilization can win important victories. This is still an ongoing fight but the movement against this project has inspired people worldwide to work together. For more information visit: 350.org



3 THE MOST DANGEROUS POINT IN VANCOUVER HARBOUR: THE SECOND NARROWS

All crude oil tankers servicing the Kinder Morgan terminal on Burrard Inlet must pass through these treacherous narrows.

- October 1979 - Freighter Japan Erica crashed into Second Narrows Bridge, North Shore bulk terminal closed for three months and railway traffic stopped for four and a half months.⁴
- Between 1998 and 2008, there were 17 reported marine accidents or other incidents.⁵
- Oceanographer Peter Baker has warned, "The Aframax tankers [which carry up to 700,000 barrels] have less than 1.5 meters clearance between ocean floor and ship's keel".⁶
- Kinder Morgan now wants to dredge the Second Narrows, which could have serious ecological impacts, to make room for supertankers in the Vancouver Harbour.⁷



Photo top: **Oil tanker** (WC files), right: **Orca** (Thomas Kitchin), above: **Keystone XL pipeline protest** (350.org).



6 SAVE THE WHALES

Southern resident orcas are an endangered species and oil tankers already pass right through what is sometimes called "Orca Pass", the Strait of Georgia and Juan de Fuca Strait. Parks Canada has called the southern Strait of Georgia "the most at-risk natural environment in Canada"¹⁰, and the proposed expansion of the oil exports from the Kinder Morgan terminal would only make things worse for the orcas and other species that pass through the region. Already one unique pod of orcas (the AT1 pod) was doomed by the Exxon Valdez disaster in Alaska. Of the 22 members of the pod, nine were killed, likely by ingesting oil and no new calves have been born into the pod since then.¹¹ We have a duty to protect this critical whale habitat from tankers.

7 ENBRIDGE IN ONTARIO AND QUEBEC?

Enbridge was quietly trying to sneak another pipeline route through Ontario and Quebec by reversing the flow of the Trailbreaker pipeline¹², but they seem to have backed down due to strong opposition. They intended to refine tar sands oil in Quebec and cut off the supply of light crude to Ontario.¹³ Enbridge justified the project by stating: "any potential adverse environmental or socio-economic effects are not likely

significant, and are outweighed by the benefits."¹⁴ It's still possible that this pipeline proposal could return. Hearings are still planned for a proposed reversal of Enbridge's pipeline route from Sarnia to Westover Ontario (close to Hamilton). Ultimately, if it proceeds, this pipeline proposal would take us further down the road of dependence on some of the world's dirtiest fossil fuels.

5 TAR SANDS: THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

The tar sands – or, as industry public relations folks like to call it now, the 'oil sands' – is truly the elephant in the room in any discussion of pipelines and tankers. At the start of these proposed pipes is the biggest industrial project on Earth, and if big oil companies have their way this is only the beginning. Already, according to the Alberta government, studies show

that cancer rates in aboriginal communities around the tar sands are much higher than normal.^{*}

Tar sands are also one of the most carbon intensive sources of fuel on the planet. If we are ever going to turn the tide in the fight against climate change, stopping the expansion of the tar sands is critical.

[more info: WildernessCommittee.org/TarSands](http://WildernessCommittee.org/TarSands)



Photo: **Alberta tar sands** (garthlenz.com).



TAR SANDS BAD FOR THE ECONOMY?

"The only reason the dollar is high, it's a petrodollar, driven by the global demand for oil and gas to be sourced in Western Canada. If I had my preferences as to whether we have a rapidly growing oil and gas sector in the West or a lower dollar benefiting Ontario, I stand with the lower dollar."

– Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty⁹

OIL & WATER DON'T MIX

Crude oil is a thick, black sludge that contains sulfur, paraffins, asphaltics, naphthene, benzenes, and other compounds that have toxic effects on plants and animals. Some impacts from oil spills in a marine ecosystem include:

Persistence: evidence from the Ixtoc spill in the Gulf of Mexico and the Amoco Cadiz spill in France show that oil remains in the substrate after 30 years and will likely persist for a century with impacts on flora and fauna.

Death: Fish, birds, mammals, reptiles, shellfish, and plants are suffocated and poisoned. The Ixtoc spill in 1980 killed 50-80% of the bottom dwelling animals along some shorelines.

Disease: Oil causes cancer, liver decay, tumors, ulcers, respiratory failure, narcosis, and other diseases in animals and humans.

Erosion: Oil kills and stunts wetlands grasses and other plants, causing root structures to decay and soil to erode. This causes food chain disruption following the loss of phytoplankton, shellfish, fish, and birds.

Breeding habitats destroyed: The loss of plants and eroded soil destroy wetland nurseries for birds, fish, and other animals.

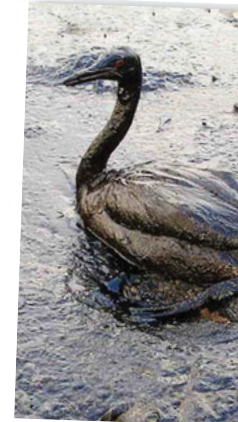


Photo top: **Oiled bird**, **Black Sea Oil Spill** (Creative commons, marinephotobank), above: **BP oil spill, Gulf of Mexico** (Creative commons, NOAA's National Ocean Service).

⑧ HISTORIC FIRST NATIONS OPPOSITION – THE SAVE THE FRASER DECLARATION

First Nations chiefs have united together to sign a historic declaration opposing the export of oil through their traditional territories. This declaration now has the signatures of 130 First Nations chiefs representing an unbroken wall of opposition all the way from Alaska to the US border.¹⁵

“In upholding our ancestral laws, Title, Rights and responsibilities, we declare:

We will not allow the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines, or similar Tar Sands projects, to cross our lands, territories and watersheds, or the ocean migration routes of Fraser River salmon.”

– Excerpt from the Save the Fraser Declaration.



Photo: (savethefraser.ca).

WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES?

Changing the dominant energy infrastructure of planet Earth is no small thing and the solutions are not one size fits all. What is clear is that oil is a transportation fuel first and foremost. Oil is too expensive for most countries to use for electricity. We could put wind turbines all over the planet and it wouldn't reduce demand for tar sands oil, unless we convert our transportation system too.

Land use and transportation planning is actually our best tool to reduce demand, along with investment in public transit and light rail. This of course must be part of a multifaceted green jobs strategy that considers equity and ecology. For more on this topic visit:

WildernessCommittee.org/GreenJobs



Photo: **Salmon in Adams River, BC** (All Canada Photos).



Photo: **Urban rail is lighter on the climate** (Creative commons, VeloBusDriver).

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TAKE ACTION

- Please write to the Government of Canada and demand they stop tar sands exports.
c/o Prime Minister Harper – 80 Wellington Street, Ottawa ON, K1A 0A2 or tankers@WriteWild.ca
- Join our **action alert mailing list** to get updates on important forums, rallies and other actions. WildernessCommittee.org/ClimateAction
- We need volunteers like you to help these grassroots efforts. Also, if you would like copies of this paper to distribute, you can call 1-800-661-9453 (toll free) or (604) 683-8220 in BC's Lower Mainland or email us at tankers@WildernessCommittee.org



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Saturna Notes -Priscilla Ewbank

What a riot spring is! Our home area is not grazed and the grass blades are so dense that the lawnmower is intimidated. The air smells robust, full of blossom scent. The birdfeeder is standing room only and no room at all on the prized rim. Seems like every bird has something to say and is dressed smartly and vividly for the occasion. Banana slugs are on the go, rough skinned salamanders are mating in shallow warmish ponds and more mushrooms are to be found. Cars are gritty green-yellow with the great clouds of pollen released from firs, cedars, alders and maples. Who would watch a movie, where would you find enough dark? Let's do spring more frequently!

Saturna Fire Department Revisited

A quick way to find out what is what in Saturna's history is to make an error! In my last column (April 19), I made three. Writing about the community's tribute to retiring Saturna Fire Chief John Wiznuk, I stated that the Saturna Island Fire Department was started in 1980 when an Islander died. This is not correct. It has evolved since the late 1950s, from guys with shovels and forestry waterpumps to men and women with standardized training, better technical backup, effective turnout gear, and shovels and pumps.

How many fire chiefs have we had? Not three as I stated; ten have so far been identified.

While checking on fire department facts, I heard lots of great stories and lots of 'Hmmm-I'm not quite sure' mixed in with lots of enthusiasm. Compiling a common history from volunteers and fire chiefs and getting it written down would be a great community asset.

Mistake three: the Saturna Women's Service Club does not put on the Remembrance Day Ceremony as I stated. The Saturna Women's Service Club has done the refreshments for the Remembrance Day Memorial since the Club started in 1947 or so. Before that the wives of the veterans that wanted to celebrate the occasion handled the refreshments. At the current time in Saturna's history, the Remembrance Day Service is organized by the Saturna Lions. Earlier, the veterans themselves handled it and then the Canadian Legion and possibly some other ad hoc groups.

History is important as it is our common heritage and the stories we know in common. It's important to get it right, especially in print, for the sake of those who were involved and for the rest of us. I appreciate having the opportunity to correct these errors and to learn more about my community.

An Early Annual Visitor

Edgewater Fortune, a 150ft ship, has been tied up at Saturna's dock on the past two Mondays. She has come annually for the last four years. Rundle School from Calgary leases her to take 40 of their students around the Gulf Islands for two weeks.

Their days on Saturna are very popular with students and

staff, as they hike up Brown Ridge with Gulf Islands National Park Reserve interpreter Athena George and kayak in Lyall Harbour and around Elliot Bluffs. Some examples of trickle-down benefits to the community have been that the Calgary school uses boats from the Saturna Boat Club and has either rented or made a donation to Club. They use the schoolbus and make a donation to the school, Saturna Lodge owners drive the bus and take sandwiches up to the hikers and move people around. Saturna Café has made lunches, student treats were purchased at the General Store and three competent and experienced guides were hired to accompany the kayaking contingent.

This type of enthusiastic energy with everyone playing a part is very attractive to visitors. The word of mouth about the great Saturna experience led to Oilfield High School joining us aboard *Edgewater Fortune* last fall; they are expected back this fall.

Bob and Bev Bruce, owners of Saturna Sea Kayaking until last year, took pride and pleasure in organizing the school tour: 'We loved it and the kids had a fabulous time!' Of equal importance to Bob and Bev was their business-style, 'everyone can do a little bit and share,' spreading the wealth around various community enterprises and maximizing the experience for Rundle School.

The Bruces encouraged present kayak business owners, Victoria's Kelp Reef Adventures, to keep up the contract as it is money in the off-season for them and for Saturna. Katy Jones has moved back to Saturna with her partner and they will be handling the Saturna outpost of Kelp Reef Adventures!

Developing Island Economies

Speaking of Saturna Island economics, new Islander John Simpson is concerned about economic vitality. John reached out to people in the community and created a steering committee to organize an economic development workshop. The Capital Regional District gave \$2,500 to help with costs.

At the April 21-22 workshop, a variety of young and old, new-to-the-Island people, long-time Islanders, Islanders who had earned their livings elsewhere, and those who work on the Island all got together and shared experiences and looked at ways to capitalize on strengths and assets.

Sixty people, working together and in small groups, were really energizing. Ultimately, people chose one from five selected topics: ecotourism, business mentoring, creating a hostel, ferries, and educational initiatives to further investigate. They will put into place new practices and initiatives and refer to a website set up for continuing communication.

While the BC economy is what it is, the added cost of ferry transportation adds a big burden to the economic situation in the Gulf Islands. But Gulf Islanders are an inspired, creative lot and the archipelago has its natural environment as a bottom line to inspire and to use wisely for economic sustenance. ☺

The dreaded bike mechanic of Pender Island - Mike Wiley

The new 'ReCYCLE' Community Bike Shop is now open at the Recycling Depot on Pender Island! During Depot hours, Laurie Brown is busy doing bike repairs and the first few restored bikes are ready to go. For less than the cost of a weekend bike rental in Victoria, one can purchase a restored and refurbished bike by donation at ReCYCLE.

The shop's official opening will be held in conjunction with Pender Island Recycling Depot's open house on Saturday, May 19 from 1-4 pm. There will be a free BBQ, live music, Re-Art show, Silent Auction, recycling exhibits and bike repair demonstrations at the open house celebration.

Laurie's passion for bikes goes back a ways. After a 95-day bicycle adventure across Canada, he spent two years working as a bike mechanic in Halifax. Back on Pender, he was

contemplating on starting a community bike repair shop. Richard Philpot had been pondering the same idea, so imagine his reaction when the amiable, dreadlocked Laurie walked into the Recycling Depot and asked, 'Have you ever thought of a operating a bike repair shop here?'

Other Penderites and Recycling staff members had also expressed similar thoughts. Many hours were spent mulling over how to bring the plan to fruition... then along came Laurie Brown. As if having their own on-island bike mechanic weren't enough for Penderites, Laurie also sells his crafts at the Saturday Market and plays cello in an old-time Bluegrass group called The Pesky Alders. You can see them on stage at the Open House, May 19. ☺

Why not Cherry Point?

Patrick Brown

Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline is also connected to the BP refinery at Cherry Point, Washington. Why not export tar sands oil from there, instead of through the trickier Burrard Inlet? The Cherry Point terminal is, however, not permitted to export oil.

Cherry Point receives Alaskan crude through a tanker dock on Rosario Strait. Tankers from Alaska, observing the BC coast tanker ban, travel outside Haida Gwaii and Vancouver Island and up the Strait of Juan de Fuca. A 136-foot, 7,200hp emergency response tug, *Gladiator*, is located at Neah Bay, at the mouth of the Strait, to assist any tanker which may get into trouble. Funded by the State of Washington since 2008, it costs \$10,000 per day plus fuel.

The export prohibition dates from 1977, when US Senator Warren Magnuson, representing the State of Washington, attached an amendment to the *Marine Mammal Protection Act* which he had authored in 1972. The amendment banned the expansion of any terminal or dock on the Washington coast east of Port Angeles, unless it was required to serve the energy needs of the State of Washington.

Specifically, it read:

'No officer, employee, or other official of the Federal Government shall, or shall have authority to, issue, renew, grant, or otherwise approve any permit, license, or other authority for constructing, renovating, modifying, or otherwise altering a terminal, dock, or other facility in, on, or immediately adjacent to, or affecting the navigable waters of Puget Sound, or any other navigable waters in the State of Washington east of Port Angeles, which will or may result in any increase in the volume of crude oil capable of being handled at any such facility (measured as of the date of enactment of this section [Oct. 18, 1977]), other than oil to be refined for consumption in the State of Washington.'

This amendment was aimed at a proposed expansion of the Cherry Point dock, and targeted to limit increases in tanker traffic along the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Washington State has five refineries, which serve not only local requirements, but also gasoline markets in Oregon.

In 2001, BP built a second dock at Cherry Point, obtaining a permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers. BP made the argument that a second dock would reduce tanker 'traffic jams' and would therefore reduce, rather than increase, the exposure of local shores to oil spills, and the Corps of Engineers ruled that no Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was required.

Citing the Magnuson Amendment, the NGO Ocean Advocates sued the Corps of Engineers. But an EIS was subsequently ordered by the 9th US Court of Appeals.

Concern remains over the ability of local facilities to handle oil spills in the Puget Sound area, particularly in view of the *Exxon Valdez* spill in Alaska, the same type of tanker that serves Cherry Point. ☺

Ed's note: It was announced late April that, due to cutbacks in the 2012 federal budget, BC's command centre for oil spill response will move to Montreal.

WATCH FOR THE PENDER'S' TRANSPORTATION SURVEY



The Moving Around Pender Alternative Transportation Society (MAP) is conducting a Survey of Pender Islanders' opinions about non-mechanized transportation issues.



The Survey is being generously funded by the Pender Island Community Service Society (Nu To Yu) and the CRD, as well as MAP, and has the support of the North Pender Local Trust Committee.



The results are intended to help local, regional and provincial authorities increase pedestrian, cycling and motoring safety on the Penders as well as to decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

A paper copy of the Survey and instructions for online completion of the Survey will be distributed with the May 17 edition of *Island Tides*.

Complete the Survey to be eligible for a prize!

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Boaters: no sewage discharge in harbours

Going boating? Make sure you know about new regulations for sewage discharge.

Transport Canada advises that the five-year phase-in period for black water (raw sewage) holding tank requirements ends on May 5, and that all pleasure craft boaters must be in compliance by this date.

Untreated sewage may be discharged not less than three nautical miles from shore; treated sewage may be discharged not less than one nautical mile from shore. Discharge of

untreated sewage is prohibited in inland waters.

Discharge of any sewage is prohibited in local sites including: Pilot Bay (Gabriola Island), Cortes Bay, Manson's Landing, Montague Harbour, Prideaux Haven, Roscoe Bay, Smuggler Cove and Squirrel Cove, as set out by Schedule 4 of the *Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and for Dangerous Chemicals*. The fine for 'discharging a prescribed pollutant' is \$250.



Trails & Stewardship ~ Leanna Boyer

A new interpretive nature trail was recently completed at Mayne Island's Henderson Community Park as a result of collaboration between the Mayne Island Parks and Rec commission and the Mayne Island Conservancy Society (MICS). Spring is here—time to get out and hike the self-guided 1.2-kilometre trail!

If you want to learn more about the natural ecology of your own property, you may want to take advantage of MICS' walkabout program; trained MICS staff and volunteers will walk your property with you and exchange knowledge about the land. The interpretive trail and walkabout program are part of the Mayne Island Community Stewardship Program, which aims to increase knowledge of the natural world within our communities.

Unique challenges come with the Islands' beauty and location between urban centers. There will always be economic motivation for residential and commercial development in the Gulf Islands, and it is essential that a balancing motivation be present in the form of love for the natural world. This balancing motivation cannot exist without first cultivating an understanding of this special place. MICS hopes to do just that.

MICS expresses gratitude to our long list of volunteers and to the funders of the Mayne Island Community Stewardship Program: EcoAction (Environment Canada), Vancity EnviroFund, TD Friends of the Environment, Mayne Island Parks and Recreation Commission, and a BC Provincial wage subsidy. For information, contact 250-539-5168 or visit www.conservancyonmayne.com.

'Island of Art'

For the first time this summer, Pender Island will make official its largest unofficial industry, when Pender becomes an Island of Art, from July 14 to August 13.

The first annual Island of Art Festival celebrates the diversity of arts activity on Pender. The Island's summer calendar is studded with a number of gallery openings, outdoor shows, 'paint-ins,' concerts and spoken word festivals, as well as over 30 at-home art studios. Island of Art embraces and promotes all these activities.

Arts calendar fixtures such as the long-time Art Off The Fence, Pender Island Arts Society Annual Show and Sale, Red Tree Gallery's Annual Outdoor Art Show, and Island Mosaic Arts Festival make Pender a busy place for arts activities. A network of dozens of home studios will also be open with painters, sculptors, and jewellers at work as visitors browse.

The Island of Art Festival brings additional promotion for these individual events to people on Vancouver and Victoria who are interested in the arts and may consider a trip to Pender to take part in some of the festivities.

Pender islanders appreciate the arts. Many create; others enjoy. During Island of Art both join in to celebrate a most sustainable industry.

Doc Viewers Pay Attention

Looking for that intriguing documentary on Knowledge Network? On April 24, Shaw Cable moved the Knowledge Network from Channel 4 to Channel 11 for the Greater Victoria area including Pender, Mayne, Salt Spring and Galiano Islands.

If you are not already a Knowledge Network fan, check out the wealth of entertaining information now on Channel 11—it could excite your world view.

Have you seen the crew stringing Shaw's cable lines down on South Pender? South Penderlings can sign up for the good stuff by calling Jay at Shaw (see Word Ad, page 7).

Research Centre Closing

The venerable Canadian Food Inspection Agency research centre in Saanich will close, due to recent federal budget cuts. Twelve jobs at the centre will be lost, as well as all of the industry that supports the centre.

The research centre maintains a collection which includes rare fruit trees and English hollies. Staff also study plant health, specifically viruses and pests of grapevines and tree fruits—an important component for the Vancouver Island wine industry. Testing of viruses and imported plants at this facility had the benefit of preventing any accidentally released virus from reaching the mainland.

'This decision was reached without any consultation with the industry or scientific communities,' Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May. 'The top-down orders from Ottawa to close the centre come without any plan for the protection of the knowledge base, the research or for protection of the large area of land on which the centre is based.'

Funding The Forum

During its first year of operations, the Salt Spring Forum has already organized numerous community events. To continue its work promoting dialogue, research and education on matters of national and international concern, the Forum now has charitable status, to further its fundraising operations.

In a short time, the Forum has a long list of achievement, having hosted notable speakers such as David Suzuki, George Monbiot, Maher Arar and Bill McKibben. The Forum organized the 2011 federal 'All Candidates' debate, and helped the Grandmothers-to-Grandmothers campaign raise more than \$11,000 for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. It also ran workshops and supported research on human rights, climate change and Arctic sovereignty.

It came at a cost, though. 'In order to organize all these activities, we've had to run a small deficit,' says Chair of the Board, Michael Byers. 'We were willing to do so, because we knew that successful organizations often lose money during their first year.'

Now that the Salt Spring Forum has received charitable status, it is looking forward to developing a firm financial footing and stepping forward 'boldly into a second successful and exciting year'. To help the Forum continue its work, tax-deductible donations may be mailed to: Salt Spring Forum, Box 673, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2W3.

Hearts for Mothers Day

The Heart Sisters are a Vancouver Island-based group of women survivors of heart disease and stroke who meet monthly to offer each other camaraderie and understanding. Isabelle, a sister, mother and grandmother, contacted the group after she suffered, at age 59, a heart attack and stroke caused by a torn aorta.

A call to her local Heart and Stroke Foundation office directed Isabelle to the Heart Sisters group. She has been a member ever since. Her first phone call to the group's founder, Diane, lasted two hours. 'That emotional support is so important,' she says. 'You can look great on the outside, but inside you are still healing.'

As heart disease and stroke is the #1 killer of women in Canada, Isabelle hopes more women will become aware of the signs and symptoms so that they can recognize a heart attack or stroke if it happens to them. To donate to Heart and Stroke's work and send a card in honour of a woman you love this Mother's Day, see page 8, or contact your local Heart and Stroke Foundation office at 1-888-754-5274.



Did you appreciate this edition of Island Tides? Phone in this year's \$28 voluntary subscription: 250-629-3660 (Visa/MC accepted) Thank You!

What's On?

VANCOUVER ISLAND & ALL THE GULF ISLANDS

Now until May 25

2012 Islands Songwriting Contest—win studio recording time, airplay and other great prizes, including a live performance at the 2012 Islands Folk Festival! • Theme: 'Ecology and the Environment' • Presented by the Cowichan Folk Guild, open to all Island songwriters • Info: www.folkfest.bc.ca • **THE GULF ISLANDS & VANCOUVER ISLAND**

Friday, May 4

'The Artist'—Pender Island Film Group Screening • 7:30pm • Community Hall • **PENDER ISLAND**

Friday & Saturday, May 4 & 5

Spring Show of the Salt Spring Potters Guild—'The Dinner Party': exhibition and sale of new works by 25 island potters; Meg Buckley teapot raffle • Fri: 5-8pm; Sat: 10-4pm • Mahon Hall, Ganges • Free admission • Info: www.saltspringpottersguild.com • **SALT SPRING ISLAND**

Saturday, May 5

Black Saturday: Protest the Pipeline & Connect the Dots to Climate Change—a peaceful, collaborative community gathering; wear black for solidarity and to represent the danger of an oil spill on our coast • 12-1pm • Centennial Park, Ganges • Info: www.350.org, Climate Impacts Day Events • **SALT SPRING ISLAND**

May 7 to 17 & May 23 to June 5

Spring Sharpening Event—Our 37th Year!



Look for Judith, Jurgen, and their vintage, brown sharpening truck and drop off your tools • May 7-17: Driftwood Centre, Pender;

May 23-June 5: Daystar Market, Galiano • Info: www.bbcanada.com/133.html, 250-539-2280 • **PENDER & GALIANO ISLANDS**

Saturday, May 12

Book Launch: The Right & the Real—Gabriola author Joëlle Anthony will read from her second young adult novel; sponsored by Page's Resort & Marina Bookstore • Gabriola Theatre Centre, 1475 Peterson Road • 2pm • All welcome • Info: www.pagesresort.com • **GABRIOLA ISLAND**

Saturday & Sunday, May 12 & 13

Victoria Conservatory of Music's 30th Annual Mother's Day Garden Tour—self-guided tour of 11 private gardens; presented by Newport Realty & Newport Property Management • 10am-4pm • Tickets: two-day pass \$30 @ Thrifty Foods (Victoria), VCM, Dig This, Gardenworks & other locations • Info: 250-386-5311, toll free 1-866-386-5311, www.vcm.bc.ca/events/victoria-garden-tour • **VICTORIA**

Thursday, May 17

22 Years of Newspapering for the Gulf



Islands: The Island Tides Story—hear Christa Grace-Warrick tell heartwarming stories & spine-tingling tales of getting the newspaper into print, presented by Mayne Island Speakers Series •

By donation • 7:30pm • Agricultural Hall, 430 Fernhill Road • Info: Mary Crumblehulme, 250-539-3027 or Brenda Webster 250-539-3574 • **MAYNE ISLAND**

Saturday, May 19

Book Launch: Listen To Your Heart, My Life in Ireland and Canada—Pender Island storyteller Shivaun Gannon to read from her vivid account of nearly 100 years of passionate life • 1-3pm • Talisman Books & Gallery, Driftwood Centre • Info: 250-629-6944 • **PENDER ISLAND**

Saturday, May 19

Mayne Island Conservancy's 6th Annual May



Day Celebration—Morris Dancers, procession to Miners Bay Park with drummers & singers, Maypole, labyrinth for the May Queen's crowning, dancing & games, delicious refreshments • Everyone welcome: elves, fairies and

others • 1pm • Farmers' Market • Free • Info: Helen O'Brian 250-539-5619 • **MAYNE ISLAND**

Saturday, May 19

SEAFEST 2012: 'The Oyster Festival'—oysters, mussels, clams, prawns & salmon in gourmet fixings with good music • Squirrel Cove • Serving starts 11:30am • Tickets: Adults \$18; Kids' Menu & Prices • Free Shuttle from Cortes Ferry to Festival by reservation only, 250-203-2364 • Info: usualmagic@gmail.com • **CORTES ISLAND**



Sat, May 19 & other dates in May

Four Quartets—dance production based on TS Eliot's poem; by Deborah Dunn, Trial and Eros Productions • 8pm • Malaspina Theatre at VIU • Tickets: \$20 / \$15 for CCDS members; pre-show dinner at Firehouse Grill \$15 with show ticket • **Fri, May 4:** Four Quartets reading, 6:30pm, Harbour Front Library • **Sun, May 6:** 'In The Drift of The Stars' astronomy, poetry, dance, 7:30pm, Yogaweyr Studio, Cedar; **Sat, May 12:** Kung Fu for Poets, 10am, Nanaimo Museum • Info: 250-716-3230, www.crimsoncoast.dance.org • **NANAIMO**

Wed, May 23 thru Sun, June 3

Intrepid Theatre's 15th annual Uno Fest—live solo comedy, drama, dance, spoken word and more, featuring Carmen Aguirre, The Birdmann (Australia), Mike Delamont, Hawksley Workman, and 5th anniversary performances of Jake's Gift • Single tickets \$16-25, discount 5-show passes • Metro Studio & Intrepid Theatre Club • Info: 250-590-6291, www.intrepidtheatre.com • **VICTORIA**



Thursday, May 24

17th Annual Bob Dylan Birthday Party—an evening listening to, or performing your favourite Bob Dylan tunes • Galiano Community Hall • Potluck 5:30 pm, show 7pm, Bob's cake at 8:30pm • Admission: donation to Galiano Community Land & Housing Trust • Performers' or general info, please call Tom Hennessy 250-539-2960 • **GALIANO ISLAND**

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MEETINGS
School District #64 (Gulf Islands). A
regular meeting of the Board of
School Trustees will be held at Mayne
Island Elementary/Jr Secondary
School, Mayne Island, Wednesday,
May 9, 2012 commencing at 1pm.
View the meeting agenda at:
www.sd64.bc.ca/board.html#meetings.
Public Welcome!

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Biz Buzz

Ship To Shore

Just like the hummingbirds, our good weather advertisers are flocking back. One of the first is John Racine with his Ship To Shore Tree Service (ad, page 4). He can do tree work just about anywhere on the Islands, as he is able to bring his home (the *MV Penelope Island*) with him!

A Decade of Dental Hygiene
Catherine Bescap at Sidney by-the-sea Dental Hygiene Clinic (ad page 3) told us that they are celebrating their ten-year anniversary this month. The new chair they recently installed is making the client experience even more comfortable, and a new computer system is on the way to streamline operations. Happy ten-year anniversary, Catherine!

First Time Advertisers
We are sad to hear that new advertiser Pender's Driftwood Auto Centre will be closing its doors at the end of June. Another example of how hard it is for families with skills and good hearts to come and start a business on the Islands. How can we change this?

Finishing Those Quilts
Bea McDowell is passionate about quilting. With her new long-arm machine, her artistic top-stitching completes quilts for those quilters who have crafted their patches of fabric into dazzling designs. See her ad, above. ☺

UNITED from page 3

award on behalf of the organization for which he has worked so hard.

The Restorative Learning Centre 'has the potential to be a bridge for many Island groups to connect through retreats, work parties, reforestation projects, and community gardening,' Moore added.

The facility will feature proven green technology and infrastructure as a model for sustainable community living within the natural environment. It will continue its environmental education programs for urban schoolchildren, and intends to be a permanent site where people can come for more than just one day. ☺

Book review by Kirsten Larmon

Gabriolan writes Right & Real

In her second young-adult novel, *The Right and the Real*, Joëlle Anthony has again proven her ability to make a big issue immediate. Her focal point is religious cults, as represented by the Right & the Real Church, headed by the loathsome Teacher.

The novel begins at Jamie's father's wedding, where she is unexpectedly asked by the Teacher to sign the Pledge committing herself to the organisation. Though her father has been taken in by the church's dogma, Jamie has remained aloof. When she refuses to sign the pledge, the true nature of the organisation becomes apparent. She is cast out of the church, her house, and her father's life. Anthony creates a keen sense of frustrated helplessness, as Jamie's old life is inexorably stripped away from her. I find myself fuming at the unfairness of it all.

Unable to access her father, and refusing to be sent to live with her estranged mother, 17-year-old Jamie ends up on the street with few options. Outside of fantasy or thriller fiction, teen authors rarely force their characters into such desperate straits, though many teens are one argument away from leaving or being kicked out of home.

Jamie's story illuminates everything these teens face: the day-to-day struggles to feed oneself,

looming threats of danger and violence, and the desperation of watching potential futures slip away. Thankfully, Jamie is a tough and resilient heroine, and she is helped by a guardian neighbour, LaVon. Though LaVon is almost too perfect as a character, it is impossible not to love this ex-con who is trying to kick addiction and live straight, knows his way around a hot plate and has an unshakable environmentalist ethic.

As with LaVon, the novel's main weakness is when it tips towards what we would like to happen in this situation, rather than portraying what is real, particularly in the final act, where a fun but over-the-top caper dominates the action. Nevertheless, with Anthony's tight command over detail, character and suspense, *The Right and the Real* remains a compellingly right portrait of the anguish of losing a loved one and finding oneself without options in a hostile world.

Joëlle Anthony will read from *The Right & the Real* on May 12 (see What's On? page 6). Page's Book Store will have copies of both her books available for purchase at the event. ☺

Kirsten Larmon works in Munro's Books Children's Department. Her reviews are on her blog at www.childrensbookcellar.wordpress.com.

ENBRIDGE from page 1

Allan's letter makes it clear that the Premier should withdraw the Province's support of both the Enbridge Hearings and any future proceedings concerning expansion of the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline, both of which are predicated on the export of diluted bitumen to Asia. The letter was copied to leaders of opposition parties and independent MLAs. ☺

Ed's Note: Patrick Brown's article on Allan's study of pipeline economics, 'An Analysis of Canadian Oil Expansion Economics', which reveals gross exaggerations in statements about economic benefits can be read online at www.islandtides.com. It's a great read; we regret that lack of pages has not permitted us to publish it in print.

RAILWAY from page 1

The stops along the way are yet to be announced, but Bruce says they will be working to make it as convenient as possible. The route will make central Vancouver Island commuting to Victoria possible, and it is also expected to be a significant tourist attraction.

First though, the Island Corridor Foundation must confirm that no further federal investment will be required. This includes costs associated with repairs to the existing track and bridges, and construction of a new station in Esquimalt to replace the municipally-owned terminal in downtown Victoria. ☺

Island Tides
5 TOP
5 TODO
IN MAY
1. Support a group doing work you believe in.
2. Take a photo for Climate Impacts Day, May 5.
3. Treat a Mom on May 13.
4. Go for a paddle with your local kayak shop.
5. Plan Victoria Day weekend

5
years ago in
Island Tides
May 3, 2007
On The Beach
'Don't Wreck Our Beaches' is the slogan of the Earth Day Beach & Harbour Cleanup Campaign on April 23. Volunteers around the Islands removed garbage and debris from their shorelines.



May Garden Calendar

Brian Crumblehulme

Tis the season to be weeding, tra la la la... It always amazes me how quickly a native plant, a mere seedling, can suddenly shoot up at the first hint of warmth, then flower and produce seeds before I even knew it was in there among the lavender. That is why they are successful, invasive even, and tulips are not.

Speaking of which, as I write, we still have a wonderful show this year. As the flowers die down, I will remove the flower heads and add a little mulch and general fertilizer around the bulbs. The same can be said for all spring bulbs. I don't lift mine unless they are overcrowded, just provide a little extra feeding after they have flowered to set them up for next year. Daffodils and hyacinths have naturalized outside the fence while Camus, fawn lilies, tulips, and bluebells thrive between the roses away from the deer. Bugs and creeping things, however, will always slip past a fence so I use fingers to rub early aphids off roses and soap if they become too ambitious. To protect fruit trees, dahlias, and so on, a band of Vaseline near the base will stop most creepy creatures from climbing.

The Salish Sea Islands have a comfortable climate for humans and temperate plants, it is however a short season for many warm weather crops which is why we try to get a head start now. I have had success with plants and crops under glass but those grown outside are subject to attack from native fauna while the ground is still moist. This year my kitchen garden will be confined to late crops while the early ones are already growing in raised planters. These raised beds, approximately 5 x 10 feet, are filled with a light sandy loam and compost and located where they receive morning sun to warm them early in the day. This way the seeds germinate quickly and are less lightly to rot, and the surface areas, including the gravel paths, remain dry and less attractive to slugs. This is pest control by avoidance: to sow where no slug has slid before!

Many of our favourite vegetables and flowers hail from warmer if not tropical climes which is why we have to treat them like exotics

...the whole land, is full of weeds, her fairest flowers choked up, her fruit trees all unpruned, her hedges ruined, her knots disordered, and her wholesome herbs swarming with caterpillars.—Shakespeare, 1595

if we wish to grow them in summer, and this includes another group of plants generally called houseplants. Ironically, the average house is not very conducive to most plants, it is too dry, too hot and there is not enough light.

This is why many of the perennial favourites are indeed very tough if not unkillable. They fall into two groups, the semi-desert plants, geraniums, cacti and such, and the ferns and creepers that normally occupy the shady corners under the canopy of tropical forests. Now is the time to re-invigorate them with a summer holiday outside. If you have a collection of tired tropicals, disentangle them from the banister rails, prune back the weak and untidy growth, re-pot with a high quality potting compost and introduce them outside.

I say introduce them for plants will sunburn as quickly as you and I. The best time to acclimatise them outside is during a warm spring rain. That way they get a much needed shower and a gradual introduction to sunshine.

I have a couple of five-year-old lemon verbena plants in the greenhouse that I recently pruned quite severely: they are so fragrant yet can be so untidy. The clippings yielded about twenty cuttings which I placed four at a time in one gallon pots and they all rooted. Soon I will replant them in larger tubs and gradually set them out on the gravel in full sun for the summer. They will take quite a bit of drought and the deer hate them with a passion.

Hibiscus, oleander, philodendrons and rubber trees (ficus) can all be hacked back, potted and rejuvenated over the summer with enough rooted progeny to provide all the neighbours with additional unwanted gifts.

Then, while you are in a planting and potting mood, why not include some culinary herbs to grow near the kitchen door? Round up a couple of old five-gallon plastic tubs, fill them with loam and compost and stuff with peppermint, parsley, basil, chervil, marjoram,



Photo: Brian Haller

La Conner, Washington, is famous for its annual April tulip festival.

and what have you. The basil will grow like a weed through September and the rest will coast on 'till Christmas.

Finally, as you plant out the summer veggies, no kitchen garden is complete without a few flowers to decorate the salad bowl or the table. Sprinkle marigold seeds among the cauliflowers and broccoli, borage among the

beans, and nasturtiums in with the squash.

This year I planted leeks on either side of my sweet peas, and a couple of buckets of dahlias sent by a friend will inter-plant among the fruit trees for lots of edible cut flowers.

Did you know that the Aztecs used to roast dahlia tubers and eat them with barbecued Guinea pig? 🐷

Recipes for Rhubarb

For centuries rhubarb was used for medicinal purposes. The dried root was ground into a powder and mixed with hot water to drink. In the 16th century it was considered a sure-fire cure for 'wamblings of the gut.' Later in the 18th century when many people ate bread and beef, the same roots were used as a laxative and in 1791 Sir William Fordyce was awarded a gold medal for improving its medicinal and dye properties.

The discovery that the stalks tasted great goes to the French who first created rhubarb marmalade, followed soon after by omelettes. But don't forget the leaves are poisonous.

Rhubarb Tempura

Take really fresh, red rhubarb sticks and cut them into 1/2 inch pieces. Pat dry, dip into a light batter and drop into hot oil. Fry for 5-6 minutes until golden brown, drain and sprinkle with vanilla sugar.

Rhubarb Kulfi

1 cup whipping cream, 6 cups milk, 1 Tbsp rice flour
2 cups cooked sweetened rhubarb, chopped or ground almonds

Put the first three ingredients in a heavy iron pot and cook gently for 1/2 hour stirring frequently. It should be very smooth and creamy. Stir in the cooked rhubarb, adjust for sweetness, spoon into bowls, sprinkle with ground almonds and serve with chai.

Or chill in the freezer for several hours, stirring occasionally, until it has the texture of icecream. Serve with a glass of hot mint tea.

First Green Bill would end shark fin sales

On April 18, during a press conference at the Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre in Sidney, BC, Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May talked about her move to end shark fin sales in Canada. May's Private Member's bill is historic in that it is the first Green Party bill.

'This bill, if fully implemented, will be the most far-reaching national legislation on shark fin in the western world,' said Rob Sinclair, Executive Director of WildAid Canada, who has been at the forefront of the Canadian campaign to stop shark finning.

Bill C-417: An Act to amend the Fish Inspection Act and the Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act complements other anti-shark fin measures in Canada. Bans are being instituted at the municipal level. In Ontario, Toronto, Mississauga, and Brantford have passed laws, and Port Moody, BC, is in the process of drafting a bylaw.

'Currently, we have no idea where shark fin products come from; the trade is completely unregulated,' said May. 'Because we don't know how the vast majority of sharks die in the world, there is no way to regulate them. By requiring the labelling of imported shark products with the country of harvest, we believe this legislation would essentially kill the trade.'

Despite the fact that almost a third of open-ocean shark species are currently threatened with extinction, more than 73 million sharks are poached for their fins each year. Scientists have been ringing alarm bells for years about the precariousness of shark populations, some of which are experiencing a 99% decline.

Shark finning is a cruel and wasteful practice. Struggling sharks have their fins cut off and then are dumped overboard where, unable to swim, they either drown or starve to death. The fins fetch a high price and are used to make soup and other food products.

'Shark fins also contain a dangerous level of mercury and other heavy metals. Stopping the trade of shark fins is not only good for the sharks, but also good for people,' said May.

Bill C-417 amends the *Fish Inspection Act* so that a person importing shark or shark product must indicate the country of harvest and the common name of the shark, in writing to an inspector. It also amends the *Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act* to prohibit the sale or importation of shark and shark product unless it is prepackaged and labelled with certain information, including a statement that it may be unfit for human consumption due to mercury contamination. 🐟

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