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Islands Trust reorganizes planning teams

The Islands Trust has announced interim staff assignments in its local planning unit, following the departure of Wayne Quinn, former director of local planning services, earlier this month.

'We will begin our recruitment process for a new director shortly, but it will likely take some months to fill the position,' said Linda Adams, the Islands Trust's chief administrative officer. 'I appreciate the willingness of our senior planning staff to take on some of the director's responsibilities on an interim basis.'

Regional planning managers David Marlor and Brodie Porter will both join the Islands Trust Management Team as acting co-directors with specific responsibilities in addition to their current roles as team managers. Marlor will be responsible for managing operations of the Northern Office planning team, bylaw enforcement and legal matters. Porter will be responsible for overall management of the planning teams located in the Victoria and Salt Spring Island offices. Porter will also supervise the planning staff in the Salt Spring office and be responsible for coordinating the day-to-day business of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee.

This change will enable regional planning manager John Gauld to focus on the review of the Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan and the Salt Spring Island soil removal and deposit bylaw, the top two priorities established by Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee (LTC).

'We recognize the need to re-focus management attention in the Salt

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Swan ballet in Fulford Harbour, Salt Spring Island.

Photo: Helen Elizabeth Schnare, galiano@gulfislands.com

Denman Conservancy settles marathon legal case

On November 6, after six years, the Denman Conservancy Association (DCA) settled its landmark legal case against 4064 Investments Ltd. As a result, DCA holds conservation covenants on two large, ecologically valuable areas on Denman Island and has title to an additional 156 acres of land.

Mike Jenks, well-known in BC for buying and immediately logging private land, was the manager and operator for 4064 Investments Ltd. at the outset of the case in 2000.

Denman Conservancy Association (DCA) sued 4064 Investments Ltd for breach of a land purchase contract. DCA asserted that 4064 Investments had been obliged by the contract to place covenants on two areas and, having not done so, proceeded to aggressively log one of those areas.

The settlement land includes a significant wetland and is an important link in a network of already preserved lands and adjacent crown lands.

The DCA says that since August 2000, the constant support of the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund (EDRF) of West Coast Environmental Law Association has been a major factor in sustaining DCA's volunteers through their years of struggle. DCA states that it is also grateful for the excellent representation provided by the three law firms: Olstead & Holekamp; Arvay Findlay; and Underhill, Falkner, Boies Parker. ☞

Islanders protest TILMA

A small but motivated group of protesters joined forces on the steps of the BC Legislature on November 22 to show their opposition to the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA), made last April between British Columbia and Alberta.

Rally organizers John Hill, Bob McKechnie, Terry Hanna and Erik Andersen made presentations to MLAs Leonard Krogg and Michael Sather, both members of the NDP caucus. Organizers made their point clear to these politicians—this trade agreement is an attack on local democratically established governments and locally owned businesses.

Adding to the numbers were folks from Vancouver Island, Salt Spring Island and Gabriola Island. Cryptic lyrics sung by the 'Raging Grannies' did much to bring amusement and warmth on the cold granite steps of the Legislature. Richard Goode of the BC Ferry Workers Union took the opportunity to remind BCers of their responsibility to leave the province in good order for coming generations.

Rally organizers are encouraging others to make representations against the TILMA to their Local MLAs, with copies to MLA Michael Sather at michael.sather.mla@leg.bc.ca. ☞

Trust Council to meet in Victoria in December

The Islands Trust Council will hold its next quarterly meeting from December 6 to 8 at the Harbour Towers Hotel in Victoria. The meeting starts Wednesday, December 6 at 12:30pm and finishes on Friday afternoon, December 8.

On December 6, Trust Council sessions will include:

- Planning Session: Trustees and staff from the Northern, Southern and Central Planning Teams will review work programs, followed by a presentation on the Protected Areas Network, a project that identifies an ecologically-viable network of sensitive and important ecosystems in the Trust Area.

- Ministry of Transportation: Tracy Cooper, South Coast regional director, will provide an overview of the Ministry of Transportation's role in Island communities including road planning and standards, the subdivision approval process and the ministry's current views on transferring the subdivision review function to regional districts and the Islands Trust.

- Strategic Plan: Trustees will consider Trust Council's draft Strategic Plan in relation to budget estimates for the next fiscal year.

On December 7, Trust Council sessions will include:

- Town Hall dialogue session at 11am. Presentations are by appointment.
- Budget Session: An overview of the Islands

Trust budget process, the base budget, potential new programs and revenue requirements.

- Private Managed Forest Land Council: Trustees will hear a presentation by PMFL Council chair Trevor Swan and have an opportunity to discuss the way that Private Managed Forest Land legislation interacts with local government land use regulations.

- National Marine Conservation Area: Bill Henwood of Parks Canada will discuss the ongoing feasibility study that is underway to decide if the Southern Strait of Georgia is a suitable candidate to include in the system of national marine conservation areas.

- Gulf Islands National Park Reserve Update: Carolyn Stewart, Community parks planner, will provide an update on accomplishments and priorities for 2007 for the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve.

- Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team (GOERT): Dr. Kathy Dunster, outreach coordinator for GOERT, will provide trustees with information about the long-term and short-term goals for recovery of Garry oak habitat.

- San Juan County Liaison: one of twice-yearly discussions with elected representatives of the San Juan Islands, identifying common island planning issues and solutions.

On December 8, the Governance Session wraps up the event. ☞

Free road reports available over the phone

Travellers can now get the latest road conditions cost-free over the phone. The DriveBC phone line is free of charge, for calls originating anywhere in North America, previously 75¢ was charged.

DriveBC is the Ministry of Transportation's traveller information system, providing road

condition and incident information that is updated regularly as highway conditions change. The DriveBC website also provides weather conditions, travel advisories, road closure information, load restrictions, and webcams. DriveBC information is available at: www.drivebc.ca and 1-800-550-4997. ☞



SGI PARKS COMMONALITY MEETING
MAYNE ISLAND, OCT 23, 2006

Photo: Brian Haller

Southern Gulf Island's CRD parks commissioners meet in late October at Georgina Point Lighthouse on Mayne Island for their annual commonality meeting.

Island Tides

AT FULFORD HARBOUR
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.	Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.		
28	0328	53.3	1.0	06	0730	12.1	3.7		
	1139	11.5	3.5		WE	1220	10.2	3.1	
	TU	1851	6.9		2.1	WE	1532	10.8	3.3
	MA	2216	7.2		2.2	ME	2336	0.3	0.1
29	0426	4.6	1.4	07	0815	12.1	3.7		
	1207	11.5	3.5		TH	1333	9.8	3.0	
	WE	1917	5.2		1.6	JE	1613	10.2	3.1
	ME								
30	0047	7.5	2.3	08	0019	0.7	0.2		
	0529	5.9	1.8		FR	0857	12.1	3.7	
	TH	1231	11.5		3.5	FR	1451	9.5	2.9
	JE	1947	3.9		1.2	VE	1651	9.5	2.9
01	0240	8.5	2.6	09	0101	1.6	0.5		
	0636	7.2	2.2		SA	0936	11.8	3.6	
	FR	1253	11.2		3.4	SA	1615	8.9	2.7
	VE	2020	2.3		0.7	SA	1726	8.9	2.7
02	0401	9.5	2.9	10	0141	2.3	0.7		
	0743	8.5	2.6		SU	1010	11.8	3.6	
	SA	1316	11.2		3.4	SU	1730	7.9	2.4
	SA	2055	1.3		0.4	DI	1830	7.9	2.4
03	0503	10.8	3.3	11	0219	3.6	1.1		
	0850	9.5	2.9		MO	1039	11.5	3.5	
	SU	1343	11.2		3.4	MO	1823	7.2	2.2
	DI	2132	0.3		0.1	LU	2009	7.2	2.2
04	0556	11.5	3.5	12	0256	4.6	1.4		
	0958	10.2	3.1		TU	1103	11.2	3.4	
	MO	1415	11.2		3.4	TU	1848	6.2	1.9
	LU	2212	0.0		0.0	MA	2308	6.9	2.1
05	0644	11.8	3.6	13	0334	5.9	1.8		
	1109	10.2	3.1		WE	1123	10.8	3.3	
	TU	1452	11.2		3.4	WE	1912	5.2	1.6
	MA	2253	0.0		0.0	ME			



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Time to Take Action on Childhood Obesity

Diane Finegood and Laurette Dubé

For the first time since the Industrial Revolution children may have a shorter lifespan than previous generations. Nearly one-in-three Canadian children is overweight or obese and obesity rates have tripled over the last thirty years. For children born in 2000, one-in-three will likely get diabetes sometime over the course of their lifespan and many more of them are getting it as children, teens and young adults. Since blindness, kidney and heart disease tend to follow 10 to 15 years after a diagnosis of diabetes, not only will our children's lives be shorter but their quality of life will be reduced. The epidemic of childhood obesity in Canada and around the world threatens to be the major public health problem of the new century.

Modern society, with its technological development and emphasis on economic growth and consumption, has produced and promoted physical, social and economic environments that constantly challenge us by encouraging excess calorie consumption and sedentary behavior. Children are especially vulnerable to these influences as their control over their own environment matures later in life.

To a large extent, our environments determine whether our children are able to walk safely to school or ride public transit, whether it feels easier for them to follow the crowd up the escalator or take the stairs, or whether fast foods are top of mind and easier to access compared to nutritious foods. Since parents, teachers, policy-makers and the food industry shape children's environments from their homes to schools and stores, they must join forces to help tip the balance towards a healthy lifestyle epidemic where the healthy choice is possible, easy and the norm.

To combat obesity we need to shift our culture and environment so healthy lifestyles become the 'new normal.' Social pressure, public education, industry campaigns and government regulation succeeded in stigmatizing unhealthy behaviors such as binge drinking and drunk driving. Such behaviours went from acceptable and sometimes even socially desirable to unacceptable and not tolerated. Similarly, to change food and physical activity behaviours, all of us must take action to make healthy lifestyles the new normal. Individuals, health organizations, governments and industry can and must act within their own spheres of influence to create healthy environments and model healthy behaviours for our children, friends, family, students, coworkers and customers.

One of the more challenging players to get on board, but one that holds key levers in the battle to reverse childhood obesity rates, is the food industry. This industry needs to include social responsibility as part of its bottom-line, which entails becoming an active participant in creating innovative solutions to societal challenges such as childhood obesity.

The food industry operates predominantly on the premise that 'business is in the business of doing business.' This is a financial bottom-line, which defines business priorities in terms of market share and quarterly returns. The food industry's tactics of super-sizing its products to create 'good value for money' and marketing food as 'fun' to children are but some examples that support childhood obesity.

Health, unfortunately has not ranked high enough on the agriculture and agri-food corporate agenda. But food industry players must acknowledge how linking value to the quantity of food provided and heavy marketing of energy dense food supports over-consumption. The industry can and should play an important role to ensure that health and food quality, rather than quantity are the basis for adding value throughout the food chain.

Health organizations and governments should position themselves as catalysts for change. They must move beyond policy controls and planning to galvanize action across all sectors toward healthier lifestyles. For this to happen, we must bridge the gaps that too often exist between the food industry, from the farm gate to the dinner plate, food regulators and policy makers, health practitioners, academics and health researchers. We must find ways to work together to support healthy eating and active living. Health research can be a champion in this regard by providing a neutral platform for different players to work together and can provide the basis for continuous improvement in our approaches to promoting health.

Policy-makers in particular are in the best position to influence the market arena. They need to view trade policies and investments in our agri-food industry through a health lens. Support for production of fruits and vegetables, rather than excess production of commodities like corn will help shift value in the food chain from quantity to quality. Through smarter regulation and other types of legislative interventions governments can help shape access to healthy products.

We must collectively take responsibility and invest both time and energy in shifting our environment to a new and healthy normal. We must improve the way we work across sectors and overcome the sense of mistrust that exists between players. If we want to save our children from the epidemic of obesity and subsequent epidemics of diabetes and cardiovascular disease, we have no choice but to collaborate and take action now.

Dr Diane Finegood is the scientific director of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes and professor in the School of Kinesiology at Simon Fraser University. Dr Laurette Dubé is professor, James McGill chair of Consumer and Lifestyle Psychology and Marketing at McGill University.

BC Needs More Than Promises When It Comes to Accountability - Keith Reynolds

'I think legislators made a mistake.' Those are the words of BC's recently retired Auditor General Wayne Strelieff in his final report. He was referring to the government's decision to cut his office's funding at the same time that his list of responsibilities was getting longer. These are strong words, and they should worry all of us who want our provincial government to be accountable and transparent.

Life for any government would be a lot easier if people weren't looking over its shoulder. But it wouldn't be very good for democracy. That's why we have independent public watchdogs like the Auditor General and the Information and Privacy Commissioner. Their job is to make sure we have access to information about what our governments are doing and why. The sad reality, however, is that both lack the resources needed to do it effectively.

Over the last five years, both offices have seen serious budget cuts. And in spite of recent increases, the total amount now going to each office has only just caught up to 2001/02 levels. After taking inflation into account, funding is actually lower today than it was when the government took office.

BC's support for our public watchdogs is also low compared to other provinces. BC ranks 8th among the provinces on per capita funding for the Auditor General, and 6th out of 8 provinces that have stand-alone Information and Privacy Commissioners. Both Quebec and Alberta, the two provinces closest to us in size, spend more.

At the same time that budgets were cut, the mandates of both offices grew. The Auditor General is now responsible for auditing

school districts, colleges and institutes, universities, and health authorities (in addition to the direct public sector and Crown agencies). The government has embarked on complex new financial arrangements, such as the privatization of BC Ferries and BC Rail, P3s (public-private partnerships) and the 2010 Olympics. And the province is using new accounting practices—a positive development, but one that requires more resources.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner has also seen dramatic increases in responsibility. In 2002, for example, new rules were implemented requiring lobbyists to register with the Commissioner. And in 2004, new legislation extended our personal privacy rights to the private sector (governing how companies, non-profits, etc. collect and disclose information about their customers or members). These are both positive changes, but they didn't come with adequate funding.

Funding isn't the only problem, however. A lot of government activity is being transferred to the private sector, away from public view. Converting BC Ferries from a Crown corporation to a private agency, for example, took it outside the purview of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. New devices, like 'Alternative Service Delivery,' are similarly opaque—an example is the contract with the American company Maximus to manage our health information. The latest public accounts show that the province has committed to \$27 billion in long-term contracts for P3s and Alternative Service Delivery.

In his 2002/03 report, the Information and Privacy Commissioner expressed concern that: "The provincial government is pursuing alternative means of delivering services to the public, often by transferring functions to private sector service providers. Alasdair Roberts, Canada's leading academic in access to information matters, has described this as the growth of 'shadow government,' where organizations that do not regard themselves as public or governmental perform what are traditionally public sector functions."

The Auditor General faces an additional problem. Traditionally, an Auditor General is appointed with unanimous support of both the government and the opposition. Now, the government has broken with tradition to appoint a 'temporary'

ACCOUNTABILITY, please turn to page 6

BC Hydro has been making many trips over to Saturna Island lately. Seeing the Hydro truck brings a sigh of relief, 'Hydro's on the Island!'

We have had two power outages of some duration. East Point gets hit with the full force of south-east gales and its residents are sometimes in the cold and dark while the rest of us are just fine. Has it been raining! John Wiznuk says that the water reservoir has come up about a meter in the last two weeks, which is welcome news.

Flu Shot Party

Seventy-six people came to the Health Clinic to get their flu shots. Donna Curwen, organizer, calls it the Flu Shot Party—come to the party and get a shot! You stand in line, sign in, roll up your sleeve, squinch your eyes a little, get the shot and then you are off to have a great visit with your other newly immunized neighbors, as you launch into Donna's cookies, coffeecake, and banana loaves and drink coffee or tea! Donna, our inspired community health leader and unofficial nurse, has hosted several years of Flu Shot Parties and Islanders are grateful for this service which comes with lovely treats and good company!

By the way, as a correction to last edition's column, Donna Curwen is *not* writing a book about the Saturna Lamb BBQ but she is compiling first-hand descriptions of what everybody does, including the coordinator, to hand on to future volunteers.

Tiller's Folly Performs on Saturna

The Saturna Arts and Concerts Society sponsored 'Tiller's Folly' at the Community Hall last Saturday night. The large audience was blown away with their virtuosity and the level of sound! Four of our under-8-year-old kids were wonderful concert audience members.

Bass guitar, acoustic guitar, mandolin and fiddle, lead singer and back up vocals; the group's emphasis was Celtic with gorgeous instrumentation. Almost all songs were written by lead singer Bruce Coughlan. Many were ballads describing local historical occurrences in the Gulf Islands and Lower Mainland.

The group has played extensively in Scotland and noted that many settlers, particularly in the Gulf Islands, came from the northeast of Scotland. Bruce explained that while touring there are often times when the local museum or library is open and he makes a point of looking for old stories. The Maple Ridge land he calls home was once part of a large holding owned by settler James Todd; the theme of one song was 'how could you have known the changes that would be?'

Another great tune was about a man who stole a sailboat on Tumbo Island (just east of Saturna) sailed it to Vancouver, stole a large amount of liquor off a wharf there, sailed up north to Read Island and began to sell, trade and party with his ill-gotten gains and ended up murdering a man. Hearing our local history be the stuff of marvelously played music was a thrill.

The energy between players was relaxed and their efforts seamlessly coordinated. I asked two of the musicians what they thought was the strength of 'Tiller's Folly'; both said that the group is daring—continually trying new material and music—and that each member is, independently, a great musician. Two of the musicians have traveled extensively throughout Canada and the United States and played backup for Stan Rogers, Loretta Lynn and many others. The group played a song in honour of Stan Rogers and ended with a smashing version of 'Maggie May' by Rod Stewart.

Meetings and Goings On

Monday, December 4, is the third quarterly meeting of the Community Club. This meeting begins with a potluck dinner starting at 6pm and the meeting starts at 7:30pm. All are welcome to attend.

Saturday, December 9, the Bellingham Lion's Santa Ship will come to Saturna Island. Santa is aboard and he lands at the Government dock to be met by our parents and children. Everyone can walk up to the conveniently close community hall—warm and decorated. All are treated to hot chocolate and treats while Santa visits with the kids and they get their presents. All children are most welcome to be a part of this event.

Polish Feast For Firefighters

Our school kids are going to put on a Polish Feast for the Saturna Island Volunteer Firefighters next Wednesday at the School. The Saturna School has become more involved in the community these past couple of years. Parents are very active in supporting children and teachers in activities like this event. Teacher Jessica Reveley, who taught in Warsaw last year, is helping make this authentic Polish meal.

Saturna will have two school Christmas Concerts this year! The parents, the teachers and the kids work hard to make an entertaining and delightful show, truly part of Saturna's Christmas season. On Wednesday, December 20 the concert will be presented at the Community Hall and on Thursday, December 21 at the Rec Centre. Both concerts will start at 7pm, everyone welcome!

The kids will be presenting a comedy-like Twelve Days of Christmas, singing songs and each child will make a presentation showcasing their talent. Usually the entertainment is not so much in the rehearsed lines of the play but the spontaneous acting that occurs—each performance is fresh and new—you may want to come to both!

Parks BBQ

Saturna Island Parks and Recreation had a wonderful salmon and lamb burger BBQ at their Lyall Creek house last Saturday—given the amount of rain lately, it was surprising it didn't rain, it has for almost every other year. Everybody stops to see what all the action is with cars lined up on either side of the road, and people wandering around eating and laughing.

Twenty or thirty people braved the damp conditions to accompany Rick Jones, active participant in the Saturna Salmon Enhancement Project, on his interpretive hikes up and down Lyall Creek while he described and showed salmon spawning in the creek bed. Rick said we have three to four pairs of coho salmon and about 12 pairs of chum salmon spawning. The salmon are hard to see in the day, as they prefer the cuts under the banks of the creek for spawning.

Coho are native to the creek; the Salmon Enhancement Project has only introduced chum salmon fry. The Coho are on a three-year return cycle and the Chum are on a four-year cycle. The Coho salmon remain for a year in Lyall Creek so the one-year-olds are leaving as the returning mature salmon are coming to spawn.

As elsewhere, the chum were late this year. Last year was the worst return in 10 years of record-keeping—it was the same at Goldstream Provincial Park—so it was a great relief when the fish finally showed up this year. Rick pointed out that we have had just the right conditions of rain. It takes a couple of big rainfalls to flush the gravel and turn it over, removing alder and maple leaves and other organic matter that consume oxygen while decaying. Higher oxygen levels and cold water are great for the eggs and fish.

Parks Canada's Leila Sumi has been working diligently on Lyall Creek's ecology. Every fish in the water was counted last year so her work provides a valuable baseline for comparison.

Firefighter & 'Call Girl' Honoured

At the Saturna Island Volunteer Firefighter's **SATURNA, please turn to page 7**

A FINAL REMINDER



To all Pender Islands' WWI and WWII Allied Veterans & Reserve Forces who missed being included in the Legion (Branch 239) Veterans' Wall Display, honouring all Pender Island Allied Veterans & Reserve Forces for their much appreciated contribution to our freedom.

Please call Tessie McMillian immediately with your photo, rank, and where you served, so you can be included in the special Legion display, soon to be finalized. (Your photo will be returned to you.)

Home: 250-629-2002 Cell: 250-537-6502

DEADLINE: DECEMBER 9, 2006

Enjoy the islands...visit www.islandtides.com



CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

Planning & Protective Services

New 2006 Building Code

The new British Columbia Building Code (BCBC) and British Columbia Fire Code (BCFC) are based on the 2005 National Building and Fire Code of Canada and will come into effect on December 15, 2006.

Provincial Regulation

New code requirements apply to all buildings constructed on or after December 15, 2006.

Education and training are available through the Home Owner Protection Office Building Smart Seminars and Building Insight No. 2 Bulletin.

Copies of the new 2006 BCBC and BCFC are available in print, cd rom and on-line subscriptions through the Queens Printer, Victoria, BC. Public libraries may also have reference copies available or you can contact the Capital Regional District building inspection office in your area.

CRD Building Inspection Offices

Victoria: 360-3230 Pender Island: 629-3424
Sooke: 642-1500 Salt Spring Island: 537-2711



CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF BUILDING REGULATION AMENDMENT BYLAW

Take Notice that the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board intends to adopt **Bylaw No. 3394, Building Regulation Bylaw No. 4, 2002, Amendment Bylaw No. 4, 2006**, at its meeting on Wed., Dec. 6, 2006 to be held at 1:30 p.m., 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC. Bylaw No. 3394 amends Bylaw No. 2990, **Building Regulation Bylaw No. 4, 2002**, and affects the Juan de Fuca, Salt Spring Island, and Southern Gulf Islands electoral areas of the Capital Regional District. The intent of this bylaw is to increase the construction values used to calculate building permit fees to market value and adjust the permit fees corresponding to the new construction values.

A complete copy of Bylaw No. 3394 may be inspected between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday inclusive, from the date of this Notice until Dec. 6, 2006 at the CRD building inspection offices listed below:

- #206-118 Fulford-Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island
- 4605 Bedwell Harbour Road (Driftwood Centre), Pender Island (Mon., Wed., Fri., 8:30 am-Noon; 1:00-4:30 pm)
- #2-6868 West Coast Road, Sooke
- 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria
- Public Notice Posting Place, Main Floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria

The bylaw may also be viewed on the Internet @ <http://www.crd.bc.ca/bylaws/buildingregulationonse/> Select Bylaw No. 3394.

Questions regarding the bylaw may be directed to Robert Gutierrez, Senior Building Inspector, telephone 250-360-3230, or toll free 1-866-475-1581.

DATED this 22nd day of November, 2006

Carmen Thiel
Corporate Secretary

TRUST PLANNERS from page 1

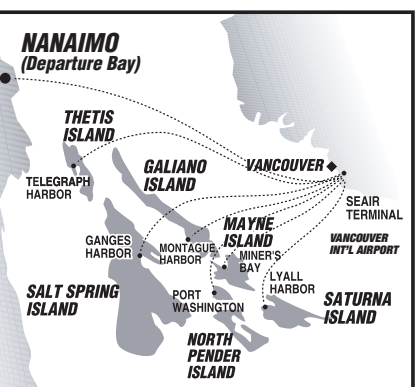
Spring office', said Adams. 'We also hope to identify ways to reduce workloads by streamlining operations and working with the Salt Spring LTC to manage the demand for day-to-day planning services. We appreciate everyone's patience as our staff takes on new responsibilities and as we reorganize our operations in a way that we believe will make some necessary improvements.'



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Editorial: Canada's Afghanistan Responsibility

The US mid-term election has come and gone. The results confirm that a substantial majority of Americans did not agree with the direction that their all-Republican government (president, senate, and house of representatives) was taking. This is a 'victory for democracy' far greater than anything the Americans have achieved in many overseas adventures.

In a symbolic concession to change, Donald Rumsfeld took the bullet for the president. Meanwhile, worldwide, US foreign policy can no longer be predicated on the assumption that US military power trumps all.

In Iraq, where the Republican's election losses have destroyed US influence, the US is now just one nation among several who must act together to clean up the mess. Despite the instability of the region, Iraq and its neighbours: Jordan, Syria, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Kuwait are beginning to talk.

More significantly for Canada, in Afghanistan, US power has also been crippled. Mr Bush's futile pursuit of Osama bin Laden has led to a situation that is looking increasingly similar to Iraq.

Although part of the country is relatively stable under a US-backed government, the rest is experiencing increasing levels of civil war. A US war on drugs policy mandating the destruction of the poppy crop is not helping, particularly when much of the world suffers a shortage of medical opiates.

With US influence crippled, Canada and its troops now seem to be taking a lead in the security and reconstruction effort. However Canada does not have sufficient armed forces or the will to carry on a war, and the troops we have are too valuable to spend their time trying to defend against the rising insurgency.

As in Iraq, isn't it time to involve Afghanistan's neighbours: Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and China to achieve regional stability? Could involvement of the region not lead to a more useful role, and over the long term, an exit strategy for Canada?

In Afghanistan, it may be time for the professionals of the Canada's Department of External Affairs, rather than politicians, to lead the conversation. ✍

Readers' Letters

Islander Mae Moore Merits Recognition

Dear Editor:

Western Canada's Mae Moore is arguably the most multi-talented vocalist, lyricist and guitarist in music that is still virtually unknown in the United States. I did not know she existed until I saw her name affiliated with the International Vegetarian Union. Since then I purchased all of her CDs and every friend that has heard them concurs that she is tenably the finest Canadian vocalist that they have ever heard. This means something because we all love KD Lang and Jane Siberry.

Mae Moore's recordings are mesmerizing, poignant and inspiring. In addition to being a vegetarian, Mae Moore is an animal welfare advocate, environmentalist and organic farmer. Her husband is also an exemplary musician and songwriter. The purpose of this letter is to declare that dozens of people in suburban Chicago profoundly appreciate the music and compassion of Canada's vocalist par excellence, Mae Moore. She truly merits universal recognition.

Brien Comerford, Glenview, Illinois

Put Rainwater Collection in the Building Code

Dear Editor:

Over the past few years changes have been made to the CRD Building Code Bylaws requiring low-flush toilet installation with new construction. This was a very welcome move.

It is now time to take the next step and require another inclusion within the Building Code Bylaw, rainwater collection. We would like the public to know of the efforts of the Mayne Island Integrated Water Systems Society towards this end. MIIWSS has written the following letter to Robert Guterrez of CRD Building Inspection.

Dear Robert,

As a representative Society with 69 private well owner members and 9 water systems, covering Mayne Island water conservation and education interests, we wish to bring to your attention our concerns regarding the imperative nature of rainwater collection on the Gulf Islands.

Mayne Island, in particular, is solely served by groundwater of, quite naturally, unknown quantities. However, our island is not an exclusive area of concern, since all islands are experiencing more frequent water production difficulties over the past years, not only because of the extended drought periods, but also due to the growing pressures of population growth and tourism. This latter type of growth is problematic for water purveyors and community aquifers alike, since it normally draws to the islands the type of user that is not educated in the ways of long term water conservation.

To this end, we recommend and support all and any measures that include the requirement for a rainwater collection system within the CRD building code. We would go so far as to require a method of retrofit for any new construction over a set square footage and/or based on the number of bedrooms on any currently occupied property. This could be in the form of underground cistern style or aboveground storage tanks.

As to the size requirement, our experience from living on the islands and working with our membership, causes us to strongly recommend that nothing under the nominal 2000 IMPG be the basic size of any in-ground or above-ground storage. Most homes that have gardening owners have rainwater collection in the range of 4000 IMPG, and with the active property turnover rate, consideration could be given to this larger tankage.

Regarding backflow prevention (BFP) that is currently a code requirement, Corix will be a displayer at our April water

workshop, I will ask them to bring BFPs so that people may begin to familiarize themselves with the product, its benefits and usage.

Having read the proposed regulations put out by an American association, fear arises that were we to attempt to impose such stringent requirements, it would defeat the purpose of encouraging people to retrofit. Therefore, we are hoping for a sensible middle of the road, basic collection and safety approach within our bylaws.

Those interested in supporting this move should contact me, Mr Guterrez, or your local Islands Trustees.

Mary Cooper, Mayne Island

Human Rights Abuses by United States

Dear Editor:

Stephen Harper's insistence that trade go hand in hand with human rights in China would be laudable if it didn't reek of insincerity and hypocrisy.

Canada's largest trading partner violates human rights at home and around the world, while our prime minister pretends not to notice. Since coming to power, George W. Bush and his unelected cabinet have illegally invaded and occupied a foreign country; spat on the Geneva Conventions; detained without charge or trial thousands of people; run a network of secret prisons around the world; violated international laws prohibiting torture; and illegally spied on their own citizens. The United States has been strongly criticized for its human rights violations by Amnesty International, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and millions of principled people around the world. But not by Stephen Harper. How much longer do Canadians have to put up with the humiliation of having a prime minister who is at best a simpleton on world affairs, at worst an irresponsible and dangerous sycophant of the White House?

John Gilmore, Pender Island

Canada Not Committing to Poor

Dear Editor:

CIDA's recent shoddy performance at the Global Microcredit Summit in Halifax has led me to question whether this agency can be trusted at all. It announced \$40 million in funding for microcredit, but it turns out that they were only playing slight-of-hand tricks on us and the poor.

While dressed up in ribbons for show, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay announced only a re-funding of existing projects that mean no increase for microcredit. Taking into account the \$1 billion dollar increase to CIDA's budget, he has essentially announced that Canada intends to reduce its commitment to microcredit. It was a shameful way for Canada to behave while acting host to this important Summit, which included the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Muhammad Yunus.

Looking at CIDA's website, two things stick out for me. The first is that Canada is rightly committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the first of which is halving poverty by 2015. The second thing I note, under the 'Spotlight' heading, is a claim to accountability.

At the Global Microcredit Summit I saw neither a commitment to programming that was targeted to achieving the MDGs, nor to accountability. Indeed, in both cases the opposite has been proudly displayed.

If Canada is going to usefully and measurably contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, it is evident that CIDA needs to become truly accountable and stop making bogus announcements that do nothing but undermine Canada's credibility.

It is not clear whether it was incompetence or duplicity that led to the Microcredit Summit fiasco. In either case, maybe it is time the Auditor General, Sheila Fraser, steps in to do something about the mess at CIDA for the sake of the world's poor.

Alec Soucy, Halifax, Nova Scotia

LETTERS, please turn to page 6

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Weekends until December 22

Weekend Family Fun Swims—is your family going to Victoria for holiday shopping? Take a break and enjoy the waves, waterslide, toddler pool, whirlpool, family changerooms, steam and sauna • Saanich Commonwealth Place, 4636 Elk Lake Drive (right off Pat Bay Hwy at Royal Oak exit) • FRI: 7–9pm; SAT: 1–4pm, 6:30–8:30pm; SUN: 10–noon, 1–4pm, 6:30–8:30pm • Info: 24-hour Swim-line, 250-475-7620 • IN VICTORIA

Until Sat, December 30

Comox Valley Art Gallery 32nd Christmas Craft Fair—original designs, handmade works in pottery, jewellery, wood, glass, ornaments, specialty foods and more • CVAG Gift Shop, 580 Duncan Avenue • NOV: Mon to Sat, 10am–5pm; DEC: daily 10am–5pm, except Sunday 11am–4pm • Free admission • Info: 250-338-6211, www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com • IN COURTENAY

Sat & Sun, December 2 & 3

Tree Frog Organics Christmas Sale—Tree Frog Organics is hopping over to Pender Island again for their Christmas Sale (men's and women's organic and natural fibre clothing) • Community Hall • SAT: 9am–5pm; SUN: 9am–3pm • Info: 250-539-3551 • ON PENDER ISLAND

Sunday, December 3

Lighting of the Edith & George Pearson Care Tree—meet at The Care Tree (rain or shine) for the dedication and carol singing, music by the Pender Highlanders Pipe Band, remember to bring flashlights; money raised goes to Pender Islands Lions Club's support for Care Canada • Care Tree, Bridges Road • 4:00pm • ON PENDER ISLAND

Fri to Sun, Dec 8 to 17

31st Annual Wintercraft Show and Sale—work by over 100 Gulf Island artists; featuring 'Creative Christmas tree,' miniature tree creations on display; silent auction, daily door prize draws • Mahon Hall, Ganges • 10am–5pm • Info: Gulf Islands Community Arts Council, 250-537-0899 or gicac@saltspring.com • ON SALT SPRING ISLAND



Friday, December 8

The Breakmen Concert—acoustic roots, blues and bluegrass presenting original material with contagious energy, the Breakmen can have a venue erupting in dance within a song • Community Hall • 8pm • Tickets: \$12@door, in advance @ Talisman Books and Southridge Farms • Info: www.thebreakman.com, 250-629-3669 • ON PENDER ISLAND

Saturday, December 9

Book Reading/Signing & Customer Appreciation Day—Fred Booker reads from his new book 'Adventures in Debt Collection,' a series of connected stories 'that come freshly dispatched from the offices of Worldwide Finance Ltd., a fictional collection house whose agents chase defaultees across the terrain of our multicultural society'; refreshments • Galiano Island Books • Reading: 3:30pm • Info: 250-539-3340 • ON GALIANO ISLAND

Saturday, December 9

The Lions Santa Ship—an island tradition: visit with Santa and have fun with the balloon-animal making clowns • Hope Bay Dock • 12:15–2:15pm • ON PENDER ISLAND

Sat & Sun, Dec 9 & 10

'A Seasonal Celebration'—other Pender Island performers and musicians join the Pender Islands Choral Society and the Kids Choir for a holiday program • Community Hall • SAT: 7:30pm, SUN: 2pm • Admission by donation, proceeds towards music development & Health Care Clinic Building Fund; bring food bank gift also • ON PENDER ISLAND

Wednesday, December 13

Lantern Festival Workshops—an evening of four lantern-festival preparation workshops for the whole family; hall concession open for refreshments • FAERIE PARTY: for kids ages 4–10 interested in being a faerie of old in the lantern festival, 4–6pm, free, pre-register by Dec 11; LANTERN MAKING: make a lantern with an experienced teacher, 7–10pm, by donation, drop-in; POI MOVES: learn to dance with poi, 6:30–8pm, \$10, pre-register by Dec 11; MASK MAKING: make a mask for the procession, 7–10pm, by donation, drop-in • Community Hall • Registration: 250-629-6939 • ON PENDER ISLAND

Book Review ~ Trysh Ashby-Rolls

Old Bones

'Rudy Magee's buddies had both been grounded, so he was all by himself on the day of the big discovery.' So begins the mystery surrounding the found remains of an auto wreck some fifty years later in Christina Lake.

This is one of those lovely reads where you can loll in a hammock under a tree, cool drink in hand, and read until the book is done. It's neither too heavy nor too serious that it can't be set aside for lunch or afternoon snooze and picked up again later. The thread of intrigue and memory, mixed with unresolved quarrels, dark secrets and tangled lives binds together a group of unrelated strangers, connected only by their history with the dead driver of the wrecked vehicle.

Ron Chudley, the author of this tale of redemption and regret, knows how to tell a story. A New Zealander by birth who came to Canada in 1964, he has written largely for radio and television. Chudley's scripts include 'The Beachcombers', CBC Radio's Mystery, 'The Bush and the Salon' and CBC Stage. He has also written a number of scripts for The National Film Board, stage plays produced in regional theatre, and published one other mystery novel.

His characters in *Old Bones* are as easy to imagine as Old Relic and Nick Adonidas in 'The Beachcombers'. While 'Beachcombers' was a family drama, *Old Bones* is not. With a seductive twist of his pen Chudley leads us into the murkier corners of life in such rich



yet understated language that Grandmamma could read with her afternoon tea without so much as a 'tut tut.' Here's a sample: 'Within a short time he had his own little place in the West End and began to build a nice list of prosperous clients. He had money, freedom, a sexy wardrobe. For a year or so he was actually almost happy. Then he found mother.'

'Mother' was what one client, a rich stockbroker named Walter, called cocaine. If you've never met a male hooker, seen 'mother' or even Victoria Harbour from inside 'the ivy-laced towers of the venerable Empress Hotel' for that matter, you'll get more than a glimpse through the eyes of characters as diverse as Roy, Anita, Jack, Emily *et al* whose disparate existences seem as real as the places they inhabit—Salt Spring Island, Cobble Hill, James Bay or the meaner streets of Vancouver.

How do they connect with the dead driver? By colliding with each other in unpredictable ways, wrestling with their own moral dilemmas and the consequences of their past and current actions until at last, old agonies are exposed—and resolved, one by one. The ending is, to say the least, surprising and unexpected—as a mystery novel's should be.

If you love well-written books, especially ones set on the Westcoast—or you're visiting the Westcoast and want to take home a memoir—get this book.

Old Bones, Roy Chudley, Touch Wood Editions, 2005, \$12.95.

War Museum in Bedlam ~ John Wiznuk

I have been to Bedlam. It's a middling walk from Waterloo Station on the south bank of the river Thames in London, England. Bedlam was the street word for Bethlehem Hospital for the Insane, founded and endowed by George the Third of England; a man with his own mental health issues. The quick wit and elastic use of the language by Londoners soon changed the name to Bedlam and so it was known for hundreds of years. A place where all the horrors and abuses of unenlightened mental health care were acted out.

The building no longer holds the idiot, the autistic, the genetically incomplete, the schizophrenic, the emotionally destroyed. Long ago those sufferers were moved to other, and I hope, better places of refuge. It's funny though, as I walked in I half expected to be slapped in the face by the reek of urine as I have been in the two other mental institutions I have visited. But no, the place has cleaned up well and so it should for it now houses the Imperial War Museum.

I've read that war is madness on a global scale so the choice of location is appropriate. The sad truth for me is that I am in a way attached to wars and warfare, to the stories and artifacts of

death and destruction. So, I came here seeking the same kind of voyeuristic gratification that the respectable citizens of London did in past centuries, to piously view the madness and give thanks that it hasn't happened to me.

There are extensive grounds around the building, including a medieval priory and hospice put up before the present Georgian structure. It has a long, paved walkway leading to the steps and classical portico of the main entry. The first artifacts are found here, on the pavement leading to the front door: two huge naval cannons from the mid-20th century with a bore diameter of 16 inches and 40 to 50 feet in length. Beside them are several projectiles standing 5 feet tall weighing upwards of a ton each. A

BEDLAM, please turn to page 6

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BC Ferries' newest acquisition, the *MV Sonia*, has departed from Piraeus, Greece for her four-week voyage to Victoria. Under the command of Senior BC Ferries officers and crew, the 117-metre vessel will travel via the Canary Islands and the Panama Canal. The two-year-old vessel will be re-named when she arrives in mid-December.

Report says Canadian regulations governing pesticides too weak

The David Suzuki Foundation released 'The Food We Eat' in early October. The report provides compelling evidence that Canadian regulations governing the use of pesticides and the potential impact of pesticides on food and health are among the weakest in the industrialized world.

The report points out that, 'At least 60 active ingredients, used in 1,130 pesticide products available in Canada, have been banned in other western industrialized nations.'

Written by Pender Islander David Boyd, the report offers eight recommendations for protecting our citizens and the environment from unsustainable, unsafe food. These recommendations include: terminating the registration of pesticide products where the active ingredient has been banned in another OECD nation because of health or environmental concerns, reviewing all maximum residue limits for pesticides on food to ensure that Canadian standards are equal to or higher than the strongest protection enjoyed by citizens of another OECD nation and banning the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes (e.g. on lawns and playgrounds).

The full report can be read at the David Suzuki Foundation's website: www.davidsuzuki.org/WOL/Publications.asp.

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Mary Queen of Scots Once Slept Here - John Carlton

There are a few things to know about B&B's in Britain in general and Scotland in particular. The most important is that if you have not found one by 4pm, you may be sleeping in the back of the car, especially during school holidays, the dates of which are a closely guarded secret. Despite the medieval nature of some of the rooms, and the thousand-year-old bed that someone whose name you dimly remember from history class may have slept in, or been conceived in, or been murdered in, they are none the less warm, in the summer at least.

Some B&B's will have *en suite* plumbing. This means that there will be a bathroom with a door, a window, carpet yet, carpet on the floor, a WC, a wash-basin, and a plastic shower stall. All except the early industrial revolution wash basin will be close to new, despite the overall age of the plumbing to which it connects, which dates from early Victorian at best. This indicates that the market pressure behind these installations is recent, and there are bugs that are not yet worked out, such as the use of carpet on the floor.

Also, since nobody in the world makes plumbing fixtures anywhere near as well as the Americans, faucets that work should not, in all fairness, be expected. The standard new shower faucet is a white plastic moulding with two dials that function counter-intuitively, and that will alternately scald you and freeze you until you learn the secret of their operation. Almost immediately after you figure out how it all works, the hot water runs out.

Breakfast is inevitable, and may be the last meal you will need to eat all day. If your heart is not in good shape, it may be the last meal you will ever eat. After packaged cereal comes the fried feast. It consists of one egg, fried, very salty bacon, fried, half a tomato, fried, mushrooms, fried, two small sausages, fried, and a generous chunk of black pudding, fried, and a dollop of baked beans, canned and warmed.

You did have to ask, didn't you? Black pudding is a sausage made from cholesterol and congealed pigs' blood.

The closest thing to salad is toast, served in a toast rack, and made from thinly sliced white bread, chilled thoroughly after toasting. It is served with excellent butter, and the best marmalade in the world. It is worth remembering that in the UK vitamin C is considered a socially destructive drug, and to get anything at all to eat that is green, you have to be a sheep or a cow.

Tea is mandatory. This beverage is distributed throughout Great Britain in huge tanker trucks and delivered piping hot to enormous underground tanks built by the Romans and located below every eating establishment. At least, this is the only theory I can come up with that explains the quantity, taste, and uniformity of British tea.

Coffee is a specialty item, and is prepared only on request. Apparently, there is a man in southern England who has a large jar of Nescafé instant coffee, and when requested by the proprietor of a B&B will prepare a cup, and send it by regular mail to the establishment in question. The process is surprisingly fast, taking only a week or two. A better way to get a good coffee is to go to France.

No write-up of English accommodation can be complete without a score sheet of the best, and the worst. The gold medal goes, so far, to a little B&B in Earlstown in Scotland run by a friendly young couple named, in best English fashion, Stephen and Naomi. This establishment is a great compendium of local history, reasonable rates, shelves full of interesting books, one bathroom as big as a bedroom, and one bedroom as big as a bathroom.

The worst, although admittedly the cheapest, is a marginally padded bench seat at Heathrow airport, followed by the worst breakfast in the world, at Starbucks. ☺

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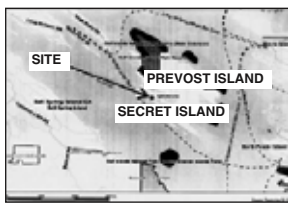
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The Lands File Number that has been established for this application is File # 1413882. Written comments concerning this application should be directed to the Section Head, Integrated Land Management Bureau at 142 - 2080 Labieux Rd., Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6J9. Comments will be received by ILMB until Feb 3, 2007. ILMB may not be able to consider comments received after this date. Please visit our website at <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/clad/index.html> under **Tenure Overview and Program Information** for more information.

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ACCOUNTABILITY from page 2

but indefinite Auditor General over the opposition's objections. At a minimum, this undermines the credibility of the office.

This is an unfortunate record for a government that promised to be the most open and accountable in Canada. There is broad agreement, cutting across the usual political and ideological lines, that the government should rethink its approach.

The people of British Columbia need these two legislative officers to open the doors of government for us. To do this, they both need significant increases in their budgets. And the Auditor General must be appointed not only with the support of the government but also with the support of both sides of the

legislature.

As the retiring Auditor General said: 'My final observation is that public business should always be public. When officials set out reasons why the public does not need to know...or why making information public is somehow against the public interest, rigorous public scrutiny is almost always even more important.'

Keith Reynolds is the author of 'How Does BC Rank on Open and Accountable Government,' published by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. He is a CCPA research associate, and a researcher with the Canadian Union of Public Employees. More info is at www.policyalternatives.ca.

BEDLAM from page 5

Freudian analyst could have a field day here. As someone who has constructed one or two things in his life, I am overwhelmed by works of this size; the technical achievement of micro-precision in a material such as hardened steel on this gigantic scale impresses me deeply. Humans are capable of so much.

Inside there is more. Armoured fighting machines, dissected

by the acetylene cutting torch to reveal the workings of the beast, hulk on the main floor. Military flying machines hang from the ceiling, three stories up, in attitudes of pursuit and flight. A datum point from the 20th century of industrial death-craft along a continuum of at least 4,000 years of 'civilised' behaviour. But is this really war or just the outward symbols of it, the machinery and representation of something deeper, darker that we all carry with us? For I believe that war is more than the steel and brass, the leather and wool of uniforms, more than the ships and bombs and rifle bullets.

There is an ephemeral aspect to war; how do you start a war, how do you persuade humans to knowingly kill one another, how do you maintain the enormous effort and expenditure of a country's resources to prosecute that war, when is a war over and what do you do then? If I ran a war museum these are the issues that would be addressed.

The 'how' is illustrated here in part, though an ability to read between the lines of the many and diverse exhibits of the Imperial War Museum is necessary. The rest? Well, perhaps those questions are out of place in this building in its present context. Perhaps those questions are just too big and multi-faceted to be condensed into an exhibit in a display that thousands will walk through and try to make sense of. The ancient writers of what we know as the Bible did a fair job of it when they enumerated the Seven Deadly Sins. Yes, maybe just that, splashed in bright red letters on a white wall, beginning with: Pride, Envy, Fear, Anger... ☺

LETTERS from page 4

Thanks

Dear Editor,
We would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Pender Island for attending the Memorial Services in Victoria for our sister, Kay Pollard.

We are sorry we were unable to have a little visit with each and every one who so kindly attended, but your kind words of condolences were deeply appreciated.

Clara Stevens and Laura Lowery & families, 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 School Board Office, Ganges on Wednesday, December 6 commencing at 1pm. To view the agenda for this meeting, please refer to
www.sd64.bc.ca/board_meetings.html
Public Welcome!

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Littoral: Tales from the Big Island - Trish Ashby-Rolls

High Paws for Campbell River Girl

An 11-year-old Campbell River girl is the highest Paws for a Cause pledge collector for a local SPCA this year. Justice Janveaux raised \$2,125.00 in two months.

'I did a garage sale,' she says. And every evening she canvassed door to door for an hour with her mother, Nicole Janveaux. 'I love animals,' says Justice.

No kidding. She and her family own a kitten, cat, ferret, three dogs, two guinea pigs and a lizard.

Black Ice & Hydroplaning

One way and another weather has been extreme already this fall. Black ice has already caused a minor accident on the Ladysmith's Lagoon Bridge.

'Tis the season of icy bridges, rain, snow, wind, pitch dark and poor visibility so expect the unexpected: focus on driving.' That's the message RCMP Sergeant Craig Massey of Vancouver Island Traffic services wants to get across.

He warns that all the precautions in the world—flashing lights on emergency vehicles, bright yellow jackets with reflective stripes, flashlights, cones and flares at the site of an accident—are useless unless drivers pay attention and slow down. Scan the road ahead. Make sure you actually look. And forget the distractions of coffee, cell phone, radio and entertainment gadgets.

One of the things to look for on Vancouver Island highways are new signs indicating hydroplaning danger. Wet weather

often causes water to pool on roadways. Hydroplaning can be avoided by slowing down.

People met recently at the ICBC claim centre in Courtenay to learn what causes hydroplaning, how to avoid hydroplaning and what ICBC and the Ministry of Transportation, as well as local police and businesses are doing to raise awareness of this important road safety issue.

Six Ladysmith Writers Publish Book

The Ladysmith Writers' Circle has just written and published a new book, titled *Lines on the 49th Parallel*. The book is an anthology of short stories and poems and includes humour, reflections, memories and social comment. Contributors include six local Ladysmith writers, some novice and some previously published.

The book is currently available at local bookstores from Nanaimo to Chemainus and on Salt Spring Island.

Video Cameras Give Clues to Higher Ed

The CBC gave video cameras to four First Nations students to film their daily lives in and out of school. What was most apparent in the resulting documentary was why so many Aboriginal kids fall through the cracks in high school—the curriculum fails to relate to their way of life.

Not so at Highlands Secondary School in the Comox Valley where for the past decade Jessie Andrew has spearheaded a team to address this problem. At Highlands, there are 70 First

Nations kids who congregate, learn and above all, support one another. Moreover, any kid can join. Asian, East Indian, Black, and even Caucasian students who feel like outsiders in the general school population. What's more, the majority of them are achieving good marks and going on to higher education.

Last week Andrew organized a Career Fair to which she invited representatives from universities to trade schools, illustrating the wide range of post-secondary opportunities for kids who once fell through the cracks. According to Leonard Cohen, it's through the cracks that the light gets in.

Writing In Her Own Voice

One bright light is a Nuu-chah-nulth woman from both the Tla-o-qui-ah and Checlesah nations of 'occupied Vancouver Island.'

Chiinuks is a graduate student in UVic's Indigenous Governance Program, and one of the contributors to *In Our Own Voices: Learning and Teaching Toward Decolonisation*, edited by Proma Tagore.

This book of essays brings together students, teachers, artists and activists in a discussion of what it means to experience classrooms and educational institutions from minority and marginalized perspectives. The authors and artists who contribute to *In Our Own Voices* have grown up outside mainstream Canada. They have face a double-whammy: parents of immigrant and indigenous children pressure their sons and daughters to 'succeed academically—wanting them to lead a life without the same hardships' that they did.

At the end of the book, Michelle La Flamme offers her lists of Uppity Tips for Students of Colour and their Allies. She addresses this tip to the latter: 'Ask yourself why you may think it 'uppity' or 'cheeky' to hear my perspective on the process of racialisation.' This is a thought-provoking and relevant anthology.

In Our Own Voices: Learning and Teaching Toward Decolonisation, edited by Proma Tagore. 2006. Published by Larkuma, Winnipeg, MB. ISBN-0-9733821-2-0 \$19.95.

BC public places smoking ban

The province of BC is banning smoking in all indoor public places, and phasing out junk food in all provincially-owned buildings. Seven other provinces and two territories already have similar legislation in place.

By 2008, smoking will be banned in all indoor public places and starting next September smoking will be banned on all school property, public and private, across BC.

Approximately 110 British Columbians die each year from diseases brought on by second-hand smoke. In 2004, smoking cost the BC economy an estimated \$2.7 billion. That same year, 13% of youth between 15 and 19 years of age reported smoking.

In another BC wellness initiative, by next spring new contracts with vendors in provincially-owned public buildings, including hospitals, will be for healthy food only.

SATURNA from page 3

Pig BBQ, Firechief Terry Danyliw and John Wiznuk called on to the stage Hugh Grasswick who is retiring from the fire department. Hugh has been an active member since 1993. He was presented with a full-size, stainless steel fire axe with a plaque. Hugh, in turn, told very funny stories of 'front line work with the Saturna Volunteer Firefighters'!

Saturna's renowned 'Call Girl,' Lill Cunningham was also honored for her many years of service as communications volunteer and Pig BBQ coordinator. Lill accepted a clock as a reward for her long years of service and replied with her usual witty remarks.

Kevin O'Hara, Darryl Davies, Cassie Hull, Jenn Nilsen, Bill Schermbrucker, Lester Bomback, Steve Dunsmuir and Jerry Pavlatos jumped on the stage to receive their Saturna Fire and Rescue T-Shirts for completing 6 months of recruit training.

Firechief Terry Danyliw commented how good it was to see a solid base of younger people along with the mean, lean middle-to-oldsters. Last weekend this same group completed Occupational First Aid and Patient Transportation Endorsements along with Barb Ropars, John Wiznuk, and David Reese Thomas.

Apple Donations

Carol Money has a lovely apple orchard on Saturna. The apple

tree varieties were well-chosen and have thrived in their location bearing lots of apples every year. This year, Carol donated the Liberty apple crop to the Mustard Seed Food Bank in Victoria and about 10 people volunteered to pick the bounty and send it over to be enjoyed in the city.

Huge Turn-out for Remembrance Day

More than 150 Saturna Islanders, that's half the Island's permanent population, crowded into the gymnasium at Saturna's Rec Centre to participate in the November 11th Remembrance Day Service. School children, veterans and members of the community participated at the memorial which was hosted by the Saturna Lions Club.

A memorial cairn, dedicated to all veterans who have served their country in times of war and peace and, especially, to those who died, was unveiled by WWII veteran and long-time Saturna resident Al Farrow.

A Lion's Club initiative, the cairn was built by Saturna Island stonemason Sonny Thomas and a crew of volunteer helpers. Sonny spent many hours in inclement weather, sometimes deep into the night, to make sure the memorial was ready on time.

Islanders enjoyed a reception and lunch, provided by the Saturna Women's Service Club, following the ceremonies.

Aging population *not* a demographic time bomb for health care - CCPA

Fears that health care costs will spiral out of control as BC's population ages are greatly exaggerated, according to a new study released today by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. The study finds that population aging is only a small contributor to pressures on the health care budget, and that the system can be maintained and enhanced without breaking the bank.

'There is no demographic time bomb waiting to go off in our health care system,' says Marc Lee, senior economist with the CCPA and author of *Is BC's Health Care System Sustainable? A Closer Look at the Costs of Aging and Technology*.

'If we are going to have a rational 'conversation' about health care in BC, we should start with the facts,' says Lee. 'British Columbians need to know that our health care system is financially sustainable.'

The study finds that:

- From 1995 to 2005, the impact of population aging on provincial health care spending was only 0.9% per year.
- To keep current service levels and accommodate future population increases, aging and inflation, health care expenditures must rise by just under 5% per year. This is very affordable in the context of reasonable economic growth.
- Even at that 5% rate of increase, provincial health care spending as a share of the provincial economy (GDP) will fall over the next 25 years.
- Health care spending as a share of GDP is currently at 7%.



Photo: Helen Elizabeth Schnare, galiano@gulfislands.com

Bred on Salt Spring and all related, Javato's Shih Tzus enjoy Drummond Park in Fulford on Salt Spring Island.

If the province maintains that level, not only will there be enough money to pay for existing services (even after population growth, aging and inflation), there will still be enough for modest expansion of services.

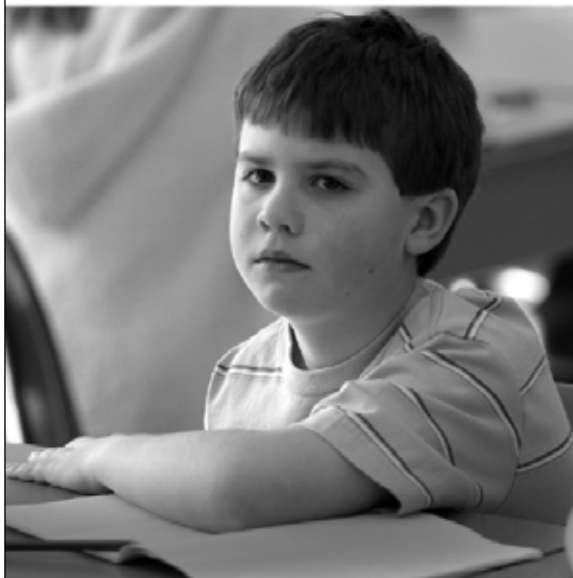
'Population aging will peak around 2031,' says Lee. 'We have

a long time to plan for changing demographics. But the toughest cost challenges will be from technology, including new surgical techniques, diagnostics, prescription drugs and end-of-life interventions. As a province, we'll have to decide how to weigh the benefits of new innovations against their costs. And those decisions are best made in the context of a public system.'

Lee rejects Finance Minister Carole Taylor's prediction that by 2017 health care costs will consume more than 70% of the provincial budget. 'It's very misleading. The Finance Minister assumes huge increases in health care spending and low-balls revenues. She's also measuring the wrong thing. What matters is how much we spend on health care compared to the size of our economy, not as a share of the provincial budget.'

Is BC's Health Care System Sustainable? A Closer Look at the Costs of Aging and Technology is available at www.policyalternatives.ca.

Why are so many kids still waiting...



for help with special needs?



for smaller classes?

Last spring the BC government promised big improvements for students. Unfortunately, the government didn't provide the funding.

And now teachers, school boards, and parents are reporting the problems:

- 3,000 classes with over 30 students
- librarians and specialist teachers cut because school boards didn't get funding to reduce class size
- students with special needs still not getting the help and attention they need.

Wait lists for special needs assessment are growing in many districts — and some children have even had their special needs designation removed.

All students lose out when classes are too large and the special needs of our students aren't met.

If BC is doing so well, why isn't the funding there to help these kids?

KIDS MATTER. TEACHERS CARE.

A message from BC teachers  bctf.ca

Brooks Point in no danger

At a November 25 open house at the Pender Community Hall, CRD regional park planner Don Watmough sought opinions from Penderites about future development of the Brooks Point Regional Park Reserve. The reserve, at the southern tip of South Pender Island, comprises the original four-hectare Allan Brooks property along with a lot at the end of Kloshe Road and now includes part of Gowlland Point and its navigation beacon. It opens on Boundary Pass and the San Juan Islands to the south, and provides views of Georgia Strait and Mount Baker to the east.

CRD Parks is presently in the planning process for the park reserve, a designation which they explain is intended to provide the 'highest degree of environmental protection.' The property is also covered by a strict covenant which forbids any structures whatsoever, even benches. The management plan advisory group includes representatives from the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Pender Island Conservancy Association, the Brooks family, the Islands Trust Fund, and the Friends of Brooks Point.

At the open house, the overwhelming emphasis was on preserving the property in its natural state. Despite this, questions have been raised about additional walking trails, the need for toilet facilities, benches, signage, fire protection, the replanting of native grasses, and gorse removal (there's very little). The increasing use of the site for weddings and similar gatherings was also discussed. Access to the Gowlland Point property along the beach from Gowlland Point Road is also an issue.

Watmough distributed response forms at the open house; they are also available online at www.crd.bc.ca/parks (please reply by December 15). A draft management plan will be presented for public review and further comment in the spring of 2007.

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