

# Gulf Islands Island Tides

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Gary Holman, Nicole Payer, Tom Watson and Alan Whitchelow celebrate on the deck of the Pender Island Golf & Country Club. The *Island Tides* team won the Chocolate Lily Cup at The Land Conservancy's golf tournament fundraiser for Brooks Point. See story, page 12.

## First national political convention on Vancouver Island

~ Nathan Grills

The Green Party of Canada's three-day national convention at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney wrapped up Sunday, August 19. There were nearly 300 delegates in attendance, who participated in discussion on 27 policy motions, 6 constitutional motions, 8 directive motions and 3 extraordinary motions.

The policy, constitutional and directive motions were subjected to an online vote prior to the convention. Extraordinary motions were first presented at the convention itself and so had not previously been voted on. All resolutions will be subjected to a final and conclusive vote by the membership after the convention.

The delegates agreed that all motions receiving more than two-thirds support would be green-lighted and pass through the convention without further debate. Motions to rescind a number of old policies, some of which were in conflict with newer policies or outside of federal domain, were green-lighted, as were motions to co-operate with the NDP and Liberal Parties.

### Cooperative Politics

The cooperative form of politics championed by Leader Elizabeth May and the Green Party was evident at this history-making convention—two sitting MPs not affiliated with the Greens were part of the proceedings. Former Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion and

independent Thunder Bay MP Bruce Hyer, formerly NDP, were present as guest speakers.

Stéphane Dion spoke about proportional representation, specifically his proposal for the Proportional-Preferential-Personalized-Vote, or P3 (see related article, right). Bruce Hyer's address was titled 'How The Greens Can Save Parliament.'

Given Hyer's environmental priorities, close association with Elizabeth May (he sits next to her in Parliament) and the subject of his speech, many of the delegates were hoping that he was going to join the Greens at the convention. No such announcement was made. However, he did publicly donate the maximum political contribution to electing more Green MPs and spoke extremely highly of Green Party policy.

### Seal Hunt Sparks Debate

Resolutions receiving less than two-thirds support went to workshop and small-group 'sidebars', and many were amended.

Two of the most debated motions related to the seal hunt. Motion G12-P18 would have removed the Green Party's current policy of moderate opposition to the commercial seal hunt; Motion G12-P19 would have replaced it with a policy that is supportive of the seal hunt. These motions received 60.7% and 52.7% support in online voting, but were

GREEN CONVENTION, please turn to page 2

## Stéphane Dion's proportional vote proposal

Patrick Brown

One of the highlights of the August Green Party convention in Sidney was the presentation by Stéphane Dion, former leader of the federal Liberal Party, of a new proposal for proportional voting in future Canadian federal elections.

Dion did note that it was unusual for one party to invite a former leader of another party to speak at a convention but, knowing Elizabeth May, this was 'no surprise' to him.

Canada's existing first-past-the-post system of voting for members of Parliament, he says, has a number of weaknesses, but his particular concern was that it weakens Canada's 'cohesion', because it 'artificially amplifies the regional concentrations of political party support at the federal level'. The major parties,

he said, appear less national, and our regions 'more politically opposed than they really are'.

With 50% of the vote in a particular province, he said, a particular party could end up taking all the seats from that province, while a party with 20% of the votes might not elect a single MP. This makes Ontario look more Liberal than it really is, Alberta more Conservative, and Quebec more Bloc. In fact, a party with a strong regional concentration elects more MPs than one with the same number of votes spread across Canada.

As a result, he felt, region of the country could be virtually shut out of Cabinet. Currently, Cabinet includes four out of the five

VOTING, please turn to page 3

## Call for open Trans-Pacific Partnership process

The Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) is a multilateral trade deal that would see countries around the Pacific Rim commit to many aspects of international commerce. Canada, Australia and New Zealand are currently involved in negotiations in developing the Agreement with Brunei, Chile, Singapore, Peru, Malaysia, United States, and Vietnam.

However, negotiations are being carried on behind closed doors. Representatives of the Green Parties of Australia, New Zealand and

Canada, meeting at the Canadian Green Party convention in Sidney, BC, expressed a range of misgivings about the apparent shape of the Agreement.

Their joint statement first expresses concerns about the 'fundamentally undemocratic and non-transparent nature of ongoing secret discussions'. The statement continues, '...the agreement has the potential to undermine the ability of our governments to perform effectively...the TPP provisions could

TRANS-PACIFIC, please turn to page 2



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# Island Tides

## AT POINT ATKINSON

### SEPTEMBER

Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.	Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.
<b>5</b> WE	0218	5.6	1.7	<b>13</b> TH	0228	12.5	3.8
	0852	12.8	3.9		0917	4.9	1.5
	1414	9.2	2.8		1611	13.8	4.2
	1957	13.5	4.1		2202	8.9	2.7
<b>6</b> TH	0259	5.6	1.7	<b>14</b> FR	0325	13.1	4.0
	0958	12.5	3.8		0959	4.9	1.5
	1458	9.8	3.0		1636	14.1	4.3
	2025	13.1	4.0		2236	7.9	2.4
<b>7</b> FR	0345	5.6	1.7	<b>15</b> SA	0417	13.5	4.1
	1112	12.5	3.8		1039	5.2	1.6
	1556	10.8	3.3		1702	14.4	4.4
	2057	12.8	3.9		2313	6.6	2.0
<b>8</b> SA	0436	5.6	1.7	<b>16</b> SU	0508	13.8	4.2
	1227	12.5	3.8		1118	5.6	1.7
	1721	11.2	3.4		1729	14.4	4.4
	2139	12.1	3.7		2352	5.6	1.7
<b>9</b> SU	0534	5.6	1.7	<b>17</b> MO	0600	14.1	4.3
	1335	12.8	3.9		1158	6.6	2.0
	1858	11.2	3.4		1758	14.8	4.5
	2240	11.8	3.6				
<b>10</b> MO	0636	5.6	1.7	<b>18</b> TU	0034	4.3	1.3
	1429	13.1	4.0		0655	14.1	4.3
	2007	10.8	3.3		1240	7.5	2.3
	2359	11.8	3.6		1830	14.8	4.5
<b>11</b> TU	0737	5.2	1.6	<b>19</b> WE	0118	3.6	1.1
	1511	13.5	4.1		0754	14.1	4.3
	2052	10.2	3.1		1326	8.5	2.6
					1906	14.8	4.5
<b>12</b> WE	0120	12.1	3.7	<b>20</b> TH	0205	3.3	1.0
	0830	4.9	1.5		0900	14.1	4.3
	1544	13.5	4.1		1419	9.5	2.9
	2128	9.5	2.9		1945	14.1	4.3

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### SEPTEMBER

Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.	Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.
<b>5</b> WE	0141	4.3	1.3	<b>13</b> TH	0128	8.9	2.7
	0843	8.9	2.7		0831	3.6	1.1
	1332	7.2	2.2		1554	9.8	3.0
	1918	9.8	3.0		2123	7.2	2.2
<b>6</b> TH	0224	3.9	1.2	<b>14</b> FR	0233	9.2	2.8
	0958	8.9	2.7		0912	3.6	1.1
	1419	7.9	2.4		1616	9.8	3.0
	1942	9.5	2.9		2152	6.2	1.9
<b>7</b> FR	0311	3.9	1.2	<b>15</b> SA	0334	9.5	2.9
	1123	9.2	2.8		0951	3.9	1.2
	1519	8.5	2.6		1637	10.2	3.1
	2009	9.5	2.9		2225	5.2	1.6
<b>8</b> SA	0402	3.9	1.2	<b>16</b> SU	0434	9.5	2.9
	1246	9.2	2.8		1029	4.6	1.4
	1646	8.9	2.7		1659	10.2	3.1
	2043	9.2	2.8		2303	4.3	1.3
<b>9</b> SU	0459	3.9	1.2	<b>17</b> MO	0534	9.8	3.0
	1348	9.5	2.9		1108	5.2	1.6
	1843	8.9	2.7		1723	10.5	3.2
	2138	8.9	2.7		2346	3.6	1.1
<b>10</b> MO	0559	3.6	1.1	<b>18</b> TU	0637	9.8	3.0
	1431	9.5	2.9		1150	6.2	1.9
	1953	8.5	2.6		1750	10.5	3.2
	2256	8.9	2.7				
<b>11</b> TU	0656	3.6	1.1	<b>19</b> WE	0032	2.6	0.8
	1503	9.8	3.0		0744	9.8	3.0
	2030	8.2	2.5		1236	7.2	2.2
					1820	10.5	3.2
<b>12</b> WE	0016	8.9	2.7	<b>20</b> TH	0122	2.3	0.7
	0747	3.6	1.1		0857	9.8	3.0
	1530	9.8	3.0		1331	7.9	2.4
	2057	7.5	2.3		1855	10.5	3.2

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Photo: Christa Grace-Warrick

### GREEN CONVENTION from page 1

overwhelmingly rejected at both workshop and the plenary meeting stages.

The Young Greens were active at the convention, putting forward a number of policy resolutions and networking amongst themselves and other Greens. Their policy motion G12-P14 calls for the implementation of an online forum as part of the House of Commons website that would facilitate the use of online petitions. In discussing this motion, 19-year-old Justin Reist, Communications Co-Chair of the Young Greens Council, said, 'It fits into the Young Greens' mandate of making politics more accessible.'

One emergency motion passed called for the Green Party to officially request that Queen Elizabeth launch a Royal Commission into the allegations of electoral fraud in the 2011 federal election (details, page 3). Another motion affirmed the Greens' opposition to pipeline and tanker expansion plans in BC; a third declared the Green Party's openness to political cooperation.

An international panel of Green parliamentarians from the UK, France, Finland and New Zealand was held on Sunday. They discussed methods for dispelling the single-issue party label that many voters still attribute to Green Parties and how to increase their parties' capacity to engage youth.

Saturday night's Gumboot Gala was hosted by comedian Arthur Black and included live entertainment as well as an impassioned speech by Elizabeth May (see also related article, page 11). The Gumboot Gala was attended by members of the community and convention-goers. It featured a successful fundraiser that raised, in less than 30 minutes, over \$40,000 for electing more Green MPs in Canada.

### TRANS-PACIFIC from page 1

hinder access to safe, affordable medicines, weaken local content rules for media, stifle high-tech innovation, and even restrict the ability of future governments to legislate for the good of public health and the environment.'

Some details of the TPP draft have been leaked, and the investment chapter appears to provide for foreign corporations to sue governments in a 'private international tribunal' if their parliaments or local governments pass laws that reduce their profits or adversely affect their businesses. Examples given include tobacco packaging requirements (as in Canada, newly adopted in Australia, and forthcoming in New Zealand); laws requiring labeling of genetically-modified food and drink; and retention of agricultural regulations, like Canada's dairy supply management system. The Australian government has indicated

Spirits were flying high and it felt hard to believe that the next federal election is not until 2015, given the amount of excitement in the room.

Mark MacKenzie, the Green Party's newly elected president, is looking forward to harnessing this energy in an attempt to elect more Green MPs: 'The next one is Calgary Centre. We are going to need people from around the country to help us call into that riding... It's going to be a very exciting by-election and that's our next target.' A by-election date has not yet been announced, but it must be announced by December 4.

When Greens from across the country worked together in Elizabeth May's riding of Saanich-Gulf Islands, they elected their first MP. Under Canada's current First-Past-The-Post voting system, such concentrated electoral efforts may be the most effective option for parties like the Greens.

Bringing in a proportional electoral system was one of the most commonly discussed and universally shared goals at this convention. However, with three separate motions just approved in support of cooperation, there may also be potential to accomplish Green values through cooperation with other progressive parties or independents.

In light of the actions of the Harper government, the Green membership has decided that, as Elizabeth May stated: 'We want to find a way to cooperate and defeat Harper in 2015... actually, I want to defeat Harper before 2015.'

*Nathan Grills is from Brandon, Manitoba. He is a student at the University of Victoria and a political activist who has volunteered on a number of campaigns for political parties and for advocacy groups, including Elizabeth May's campaign in Saanich-Gulf Islands and Nathan Cullen's leadership campaign. This article first appeared in online news source rabble.ca.*

that it will not agree to these clauses, but Canada and New Zealand have so far shown no opposition.

It has been suggested that the TPP contains clauses that would limit internet use by introducing harsh criminal penalties for non-commercial copyright infringements, and internet providers having to disclose subscribers' information without privacy safeguards. This has already been the subject of debate in Canada, and has been turned down by the European Union.

From the draft of the Intellectual Property Rights chapter of the TPP, it would appear that large corporations would have greater power to limit trade in goods claimed to be subject to copyright or patent. This might have particular effect when applied to pharmaceuticals; Australia and New Zealand already have state drug-buying agencies which have access to reliable, low-cost medicines.

The three Green Parties are united in their declaration that they will only support a fair, genuinely progressive trade agreement. They call upon current governments to open these negotiations to public input and comment.

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# Arctic promises—and protection—melting away - Elizabeth May, MP

In what has become an annual media photo-op, Prime Minister Stephen Harper made his seasonal trek to Canada's North in August.

The bravado of proclamations of 'use it or lose it' Arctic sovereignty and flexing of nationalistic muscle is wearing thin. The commitments for deepsea ports and icebreakers and new research stations have begun to run aground on the reality of broken promises.

First promised in 2005 and again in 2008, the much-ballyhooed new icebreakers—in fact, armed, troop-carrying icebreakers—have been delayed once again. The Chinese, with no Arctic coastline at all, now have icebreakers in Canada's waters while our Coast Guard's *Amundsen* is in dry dock.

The construction of the deepwater naval port in Nanisivik, promised in 2007, has yet to begin, despite promises it would begin two years ago. Also two years ago, the Prime Minister announced a major new satellite project, the Radarstat Constellation Mission. It now appears to be mired in budgetary delays.

Additionally, Stephen Harper has promised the creation of a new Canadian High Arctic Research Station (CHARS) to be built in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut. This is one of the more bizarre announcements. It was first pledged in the 2007 Speech from the Throne claiming the government would 'build a world-class Arctic research station that will be on the cutting edge of Arctic issues, including environmental science and resource development. This station will be built by Canadians, in Canada's Arctic, and it will be there to serve the world.'

It is bizarre because at the same time that the Harper Conservatives are pledging millions to build a new research facility from the ground up, they are shutting down a world-respected facility further north, closer to the North Pole. The Polar Environmental and Atmospheric Research Laboratory (PEARL), at Eureka on Ellesmere Island, recently had \$10 million invested in state of the art equipment to monitor ozone depletion and the build up of greenhouse gases. Closing it down is a scandal.

The language for CHARS' mandate suggests a coziness with resource development. The unbelievable waste in shutting down PEARL, already in operation and producing critical work, only to build a brand new facility with a vague mandate and claim to be the world's leading high Arctic research station is stunning. My theory is that killing climate science is the goal, and being able to throw out a big number being spent on Arctic research is about spin to claim that science is not being abandoned. Money will be spent on Arctic research, but not in areas that threaten the Harper agenda.

Notice how the promises of the last six years of Harper's northern agenda are cloaked in military goals. Our icebreakers

must be armed and capable of carrying troops. Why exactly?

The deepwater port is a naval port, not commercial and not even of use in the all-too-rapid growth of tourism to the Arctic. As Michael Byers pointed out in a recent *Globe and Mail* article, international cruises are now plying the once impassible waters of the Northwest Passage, without reliable navigational charts and with an inadequate level of search and rescue infrastructure, should our foreign visitors run into trouble.

Last month, the Prime Minister laid out some promises for which his follow through is a mere formality. He is promising that mining and oil and gas industries will stake out the Arctic and begin a pell-mell level of development.

With Bill C-38 and the removal of the vast majority of environmental reviews, with the loss of habitat protection in the *Fisheries Act* and so on, the Arctic is wide open for environmental assault.

Harper claimed \$38 billion worth of development, coming from two dozen projects that are barreling toward the fragile Arctic environment. These projects include drilling for oil and gas along the Northern coastline, as well as mining projects.

It is all too clear how Stephen Harper views the melting Arctic. Not for him the grim warnings of science—nor will he heed the news that fires, floods and droughts have increased globally as the jet stream slows down due to a warming Arctic. The melting of the Arctic is only cause for celebration. During his entire trip to the Arctic, the Prime Minister made no mention of the fact that the world was approaching an all-time record level of loss of Arctic ice.

The threat to our Arctic territories is the rapidly changing Arctic climate and the positive feedback loops that allow the melting ice to expose dark ocean water and cause the melting to accelerate. None of this is good news to anyone aware of the science of climate change.

The National Snow and Ice Data Centre has reported that Arctic sea ice has already dropped below the 2007 melt record—and there are still two to three weeks of melt to go. On August 26, the ice measured less than 4 million square kilometres, an all-time loss of Arctic sea ice. This is an increase by more than 40% in the melt of summer ice in the past decade alone.

Stephen Harper has it wrong. Arctic sovereignty is not a case of 'use it or lose it.' It is an imperative to 'protect it or lose it.' Harper's version of Arctic security will bring about Canada's and the world's increased insecurity. His is not an agenda of leadership. It is the 2012 version of Stanley Kubrick's 1964 dark classic *Dr Strangelove*. Stephen Harper is leading us toward destruction.

**'Arctic sea ice has already dropped below the 2007 melt record'**

## VOTING from page 1

Conservative MPs elected from Quebec, 'which hardly ensures these ministers will be outstanding.'

Dion spoke strongly in favour of each party including in its platform for the 2015 federal election a strong commitment to form a Royal Commission to consider Canada's voting systems. Otherwise, he said, there was a tendency for parties to support voting reform before an election, and lose enthusiasm for reform once in power.

Yet Dion is not keen on pure proportional representation. His complaint is that it encourages a proliferation of parties, with a tendency to concentrate their electoral efforts on particular regions. In Canada, he said, this would result in 'provincial micro-climates'.

Instead, he proposes larger multi-member ridings (up to 5 MPs), and what he calls the 'Proportional Preferential Personalized' vote (P3). The voter is faced with two choices: a preferential vote between the parties, and a single vote for a favourite candidate (for details, see Box, right).

Dion says that with this system, in a five-MP riding, the majority party is unlikely to elect more than three of the five members. The MPs in a riding would have to co-exist and co-operate, while at the same time competing to better represent their constituents. Parties would nominate a diversified group of candidates, leading to better representation of women and minorities.

## How It Works: The 'P3' Vote (Proportional-Preferential-Personalized)

The House of Commons has the same number (338) of members of parliament (MPs), but each riding is larger, with most ridings electing up to five MPs. Each party nominates a full slate of candidates.

The personalized part: each voter marks their party preference between those represented by nominated candidates, then marks a single preferred candidate of those nominated by that party.

The proportional part: the electoral officer first counts the votes between the parties, eliminating the party with the smallest number of votes, and counts their second-place votes, until each remaining party has enough votes to elect at least one MP.

Then the electoral officer chooses the highest-polling candidates from each party to fill the positions that their party has earned.

He anticipates that the result, nationwide, would be coalition governments of two or three national parties, which he termed an 'electoral sweet spot'.

From the voter's point of view, there would be no need for 'strategic' voting. Strong candidates could run in larger ridings, to encourage the party vote. Dion also anticipates that such a system would increase voter turnout.

## The Queen to enquire about voting irregularities?

On the final day of the Green Party Convention at Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney, delegates called for a Royal Inquiry into voting in the 2011 federal election. The motion passed by consensus was worded:

Request a Royal Inquiry into the 2011 Canadian Federal Election: Be it resolved: The Green Party of Canada request that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, commission a Royal Inquiry to investigate and resolve the election infractions and irregularities of the 2011 Canadian Federal Election.

## 'Making waves' in Nanaimo

Late in October, Council of Canadians members from coast to coast will gather in Nanaimo for a movement-building conference, called 'Making Waves: Sinking the Harper Agenda'. The conference will feature high profile keynote speakers, a day of interactive workshops and plenary panel discussions that will inform, inspire, and motivate participants to take action.

The Making Waves opening public forum will feature keynote speakers Council of Canadians Chairperson Maude Barlow, Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, journalist and author Linda McQuaig, and Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org, with a welcome from Snuneymuxw Elder and Chief Douglas White.

In its press release, Council of Canadians states that Making Waves is intended to bring indigenous and labour groups to fight Prime Minister Harper's austerity agenda and the mining and pipeline projects that threaten the environment.

The Public Forum is Friday, October 26, from 7-9:30pm at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre in Nanaimo (suggested donation \$10). Registration is required for the Conference on Saturday, at the Coast Bastion Inn. Admission is \$70 in advance, or \$90 on-site. The fixed income rate is \$40. Conference admission includes lunch and admission to the Friday public forum. All are welcome. Program and registration information is available at: [www.canadians.org/conference](http://www.canadians.org/conference).



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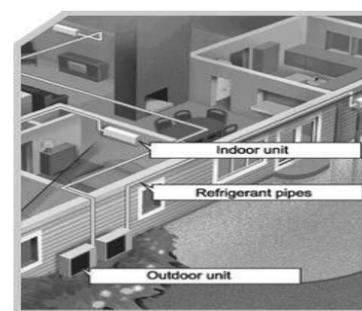
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Every time we receive a voluntary subscription to *Island Tides*, we say 'thank you' out loud. This summer, we mailed letters to past and current voluntary subscribers, to personally let them know how much we appreciate their support. The letters and contributions we received in response have been encouraging and heartwarming!

All this has made us think that we ought to reach out to those of you who have not yet been voluntary subscribers.

At *Island Tides*, we truly believe in the power of print and believe our readers do too. Given its quality, *Island Tides* ought to be a 'paid paper'. But, in linking Islanders far and wide, Canada Post's unaddressed mail delivery is the only cost-effective way to distribute *Island Tides*. (Just putting a stamp on your copy would cost five times as much; addressing them all would use up days of time!)

In fact, our every-mailbox-delivery has had an important, cumulative effect over the last quarter of a century. *Island Tides* has given many people a voice, changed attitudes, informed people in a way which allows them to think about this rapidly changing world, enabled them to take public action, given them hope, and kept the spirit of the Islands vibrant.

As you will know, Canada-wide the print newspaper business is tough these days, advertising is down, generally, and governments no longer advertise their programs, preferring to spend their money on TV ads at election times. Yet print is the most effective medium to get out the news.

From the beginning, it was *Island Tides'* policy never to print more than we could pay for. It seems to have worked as we are BC's largest circulation, longest running, independent newspaper. We want to keep that up!

*Island Tides*, with its high ratio of quality news, remote area circulation, and everyhousehold delivery has especially high costs. We are working hard to sell enough advertising to pay for the press, Canada Post, preparing the news, our equipment, and the services we need. We produce a lot on a very tight budget.

At the moment we've shrunk a bit—you may have noticed that due to tightness of funds, we are sometimes down to eight pages. Excuse our brevity. We still pack in the news, much more than newspapers several times our size. We are working hard to afford the pages for all our photos, in-depth reporting, and heartwarming news. But the more energy we need to put into advertising sales, the less time we can dedicate to bringing you interesting, important news, and intelligent interpretation.

That's where you, dear reader, come in! You can see why sending a voluntary subscription, and even an extra donation amount, means so much. *Island Tides* annual 'Voluntary Subscription' system—which is actually an islands-style, honour-box version of being a paid paper—is becoming an essential part of *Island Tides*. Our online readers, of course, are welcome to contribute too.

Finally, there is strength in numbers. If it feels right for you and the opportunity arises, let your friends and neighbours know you have become a voluntary subscriber and how much *Island Tides* values that. Many people intend to make that contribution but just don't get around to it; letting them know you have done so would remind them.

We also know that there are Islanders who cannot afford even our basic amount—please accept our gift of the news and know that we value your readership highly. ✍

## Readers' Letters

### Abusive Boaters in Bowser

Dear Editor:

I have noticed recently, since people from other countries have purchased some of Vancouver Island's shellfish companies, that there are very modern and fast boats on the water of Baynes Sound and Georgia Strait that do not follow the Canadian rules of the road. They drive abusively and do not slow down for rowboats or sailboats, as required by law. They seem to think and operate as if they are the top of the boating community when in reality they are at the bottom as they are breaking the law in our waters.

Most local Canadians operate their vessels with respect. Why is it that our Coast Guard or police have not ticketed these imported boat operators within the shellfish territory of Baynes Sound?

The Regional District of Nanaimo does not seem to have a clue what is going on in our waters, and they don't really care. 'It's not their territory', they say. No taxes from the shellfish industry come their way so they are not involved, but us locals are totally involved with this abusive action by new companies running our old local businesses. Should we really support them?

Len Walker, Bowser

### Sable Island Film Funding

Dear Editor:

I am a video journalist with Shaw TV in Victoria, BC, who is preparing to produce a documentary about the history and beauty of Sable Island, Nova Scotia. I have been given permission and am planning to shoot on Sable Island next August. The opportunity to produce a documentary on such a magical place fills my heart with so much gratitude. Shipwrecks, wild horses, isolation; it is one of the most fascinating places in the world. Sable Island is home to the only protected wild horses in Canada; they live there without any human interference.

Although protected by its waters, the island itself holds a fragile beauty. I want its beauty to be shared so people can appreciate it and understand the importance of preserving it. Although there have been numerous films about Sable Island in the past, there hasn't been a Canadian film for quite some time, and with Parks Canada taking over the island's operations, it is an ideal time to educate Canadians why this place is so important to us.

So far, I've received a lot of positive feedback from people, but I need to reach a larger audience about my project. The cost of the project is unfortunately larger than my own pockets, so I am seeking support from the public to help me accomplish my dream. In mid-September, I am fundraising with

www.kickstarter.com, an online fundraising platform for creative projects. I am producing this documentary, called *S(t)able Island*, independently. For more information or to help out, please visit [www.stableisland.com](http://www.stableisland.com).

Rae-Anne LaPlante, Victoria

### Saying 'No' To Smart Meters

Open Letter to BCHydro:

The technology market offers a choice between two kinds of smart meters. There is the relatively benign variety, which transmits its data over land lines. And then there is the other kind—the type of smart meter that BCHydro is imposing on British Columbians—which includes an embedded microwave-emitting, wireless communication transmitter ('the Microwave Device').

On May 31, 2011, the World Health Organization recognized that radiofrequency electromagnetic fields are a Class 2B possible human cancer risk. The emissions generated by the Microwave Device fall under this classification of emissions and risk.

Why are we being exposed to this risk and who is behind it? BCHydro is, for all its purposes, an agent of the government and its powers may be exercised only as an agent of the government. The imposition of a microwave transmitter in our homes by a government agent strikes an Orwellian tone; it violates the sanctity of the home and is inconsistent with the very nature of a free society. In a world full of toxic chemicals and radiation, the home is the last place of refuge, a zone of autonomous control and free choice. It is a private place where the state should not be imposing itself or its devices.

This is about freedom of choice. Given the existing concerns regarding the risk to health and safety by these Microwave Devices, we decline to have them at our homes and we prohibit you from entering our properties for the purpose of installing such devices.

You assert your contractual right to 'access' to your equipment. We concede that you may continue to access our properties for the purpose of reading our present analogue meters. If an analogue meter needs replacement, you may replace it with another analogue meter. Our problem is not with what you are 'accessing'; it is what you are seeking to leave behind. Your right of access does not go so far so as to entitle you to install a device that continuously generates toxic radiation.

Neither does the *Clean Energy Act (CEA)* give you that entitlement. In fact, that legislation does not require, authorize,

LETTERS, please turn to next page



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Book Review by Christa Grace-Warrick

# An oilspill disaster primer, and much more

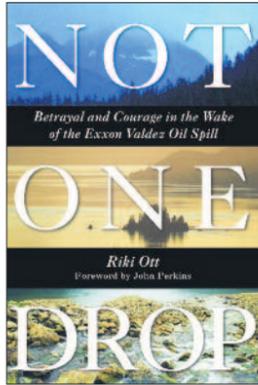
I first read Riki Ott's *Not One Drop* in 2008 when it came out. It is an engaging read, but the scope of this eyewitness account of the 1989 *Exxon Valdez* oil spill is so big that I was too daunted to review it. I felt I should give it another try on the spill's 20th anniversary in April 2009, but didn't. In April 2010, with the world dealing with the biggest spill of all time, I thought I must do it. But perhaps it would all be over soon and not topical anymore? No such luck!

Oilspill aftermath goes on for decades, if not an eternity—just like the disasters of the *Exxon Valdez*, the *Deepwater Horizon*, the Kalamazoo River, and...

Albeit each disaster had different causes but the outcomes are all too alike—for people, for environment, and in the interminable wrangles with oil companies that follow.

Reading *Not One Drop*, the behaviour of the oil companies and their relationship to government is all too clear. The political and courtroom drama—and the environmental tragedy—are never-ending.

Ott's particular skill is to wind political discussion into day-to-day encounters; making comprehensible dense legal and political action, inside and outside the courtroom. Her subtitle is *Betrayal and Courage in the Wake of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill*; you will weep and you will cheer as you read.



'Not one drop,' was Exxon's promise to the people of Prince William Sound before the spill. After the spill, its promise was that it would make the destroyed communities 'whole' again. How this played out will outrage you.

Riki Ott was a fisher ma'am in Prince William Sound at the time of the spill in 1989. It was a sound full of well-organized, prosperous fishers who had become increasingly concerned about the practices of the oil port at Valdez, the terminus of the Trans Alaska Pipeline which brings crude from the arctic Prudhoe Bay oilfields. As it happens, Ott had a graduate degree in marine toxicology, a family history of activism, and quickly found herself a leader in a hideous process.

Says Ott, Chelsea Green Publishing challenged her to turn 'a nice collection of fact' into a human story. Ott certainly did that. Islanders will warm to the juxtaposition of bake sales, inspired action, hikes in the wildlands, political savvy and plain commonsense, that wind their way through the pages. And some will recognize tenacity; the ability to persevere over decades against cunning heartlessness and overwhelming opposition. It is a struggle so drawn out that we see children grow up and embark on their adult lives and we see the anatomy of the fishing town of Cordova through thick and thin, very thin.

the scene after a cruise ship carrying 250 passengers collided with two boats during a fireworks show in Vancouver's English Bay.

I wish to offer my congratulations to the S&R specialists for their quick and effective response. Their longstanding commitment to keeping the people of Vancouver's harbour safe is cause for celebration and admiration. Unfortunately, the federal government made a decision to close this base in 2013, for minimal cost savings.

The incident in English Bay highlights the necessity to keep the base open. Thankfully, the collision did not result in any serious injuries, but Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) responders arrived quickly, ready to respond to any crisis. Kitsilano S&R specialists provide an essential emergency response service in some of the nation's busiest waterways. If the government decides to go ahead with the base closure, the nearest response team will be stationed 17 nautical miles away in Richmond—which means longer response times, especially in rough weather, and greater chance of disaster.

At my recent community meeting on the issue of the closure, citizens as well as marine safety professionals emphasized the importance of the base to Vancouver's safety. To this end, I introduced motion M-396 in the House of Commons. It calls on the government to recognize the importance of the Kitsilano CCG base to the area's emergency preparedness, and to retain its current operational level.

This is not a partisan issue—it is about public safety. The government must not wait for disaster to strike to acknowledge the need for skilled S&R responders at the Kitsilano base. They should move immediately to reverse their decision, which otherwise will result in preventable deaths merely to save a few dollars.

Joyce Murray, MP - Vancouver Quadra

## LETTERS from previous page

or even mention the Microwave Devices or their functional capabilities. You admit that the benign land-line variety of smart meter would fulfill the communication and transmission functionality requirements as prescribed by the CEA, but you continue to impose the toxic Microwave Device on BC residents against our explicit objection. You abuse your power by continuing with installations, despite the fact that the interpretation of the *Clean Energy Act* is a matter currently before the British Columbia Court of Appeal.

We say 'No' to your entry onto our lands for the purpose of installing Microwave Devices. You have responded by threatening to cut off our power, but British Columbians will not accede to the strong arm of the state as exercised through the unilateral and coercive actions of BCHydro. In our view, neither will the courts.

Signed: Coalition to Stop Smart Meters, Citizens for Safe Technology, and StopSmartMeters.ca

## Over The Top Scarecrow?

Dear Editor:

Exactly, what was the intended message, and was this the appropriate venue? Having the freedom to be politically selective and publicly voice individual opinions—priceless.

Having the opportunity to view and celebrate our local agricultural and creative abundance at Pender Island's Fall Fair—priceless.

Making a decision to include a contestant display of a political effigy of our Prime Minister as an oily scarecrow—questionable.

Allowing said effigy to be displayed with its zipper down—shameful.

Jill Caston, Pender Island

## Safety Not Partisan Issue

Dear Editor:

On August 4, the Kitsilano Search and Rescue (S&R) base once again proved its effectiveness at dealing with marine emergencies as Canadian Coast Guard specialists were first on



Photo: David Rippner  
Mae Moore and Leslie McBain's 'Very Scary Crow' won the People's Choice Award at Pender Islands' 50th Fall Fair.



Photo: Janet True-Love Jones

Mayne Island Youth Fitness held its 3rd Annual Soccer Camp on August 21-23. The camp, organized by Anita McCamley and facilitated by L.I.S.A Head Coach Andrew Latham, Hope Latham, and Anita, was sold out with 40 youth participants. Next up is the September soccer program and Track & Field Sports Day on September 29. Next year's Soccer Camp is already scheduled for August 20-22, 2013.

Chelsea Green Publishing in Vermont should have the book on the *New York Times* bestseller list, as a 'how to' cope book. Affected people in the United States, and perhaps worldwide, are going to need a jumpstart on what to do in what is a dirty game. Nowadays, Ott is on a mission to give deliver just that.

*Not One Drop* is a story of community recovery, too. When Ott went to the Gulf of Mexico spill, from bitter experience, she told communities to expect no help from government or big companies. 'No, no, no, we'll be okay,' they replied. Within two months, they agreed with her and said, 'Tell us what to do.'

Through her 23-year endeavour we see the development of Riki Ott as a skilled and powerful advocate for her community and for all communities in danger from oil spills.

Now that we are in the hotseat here on the coast, run don't walk to your nearest bookstore and buy *Not One Drop*.

And there's an offer if you would like to do a group study. Ott, who now organizes communities before oil spills, will give you an 800-copy pallet of surplus *Sound Truths and Corporate Myth\$* if you pay the shipping.

*Sound Truth and Corporate Myth\$* is the sequel to *Not One Drop*; it's a 560-page tome of irrefutable scientific studies and anecdotal evidence that bring into focus the appalling human health risks of an oil spill, in particular the effects on the unprotected fisherfolk who went in to clean-up the *Exxon Valdez* spill—because there was no fishing to be done.

Let's hope and pray it never happens to us and our children. ☺

## It's Russell Nursery's 20th Anniversary Sale!

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## Saturday Nights in September

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## September 6 thru 15

**Appointments & Town Halls with MP Elizabeth May—Sidney**  
**Sep 6:** Town Hall 7-8:30pm (St Andrews Church); **Saturna Sep 7:** Meet your MP 11am-5pm (Café); Town Hall 6-7:30pm (Community Hall); **Saanich Sep 9:** Town Hall, 6-7:30pm (UVic Strong Bldg, C103); **Pender Sep 10:** Meet your MP 2-6pm; Town Hall 7-8:30pm (Community Hall); **Mayne Sep 11:** Meet your MP 12-5pm; Town Hall 7-8:30pm (Community Ctr); **Central Saanich Sep 14:** Town Hall 6:30-8pm (Saanich Fairground, 1528 Stelly's XRoad); **Salt Spring Sep 15:** Town Hall 7-8:30pm (GISS) • **SALT SPRING, SOUTHERN ISLANDS, SAANICH**

## Friday-Sunday, September 7-9

**Salt Spring PRIDE—Sept 7:** Meet & Greet at Shipstones, 5pm; Panel Discussion, Being LGBTQ on Salt Spring, 7pm, Lions Club, 130 Bonnet Ave, \$10; **Sept 8:** Pride Parade 1pm, meet at Mahon Hall at noon; Out on the Street - McPhillips Avenue after the Parade; Ze Cabaret & Dance Party, 7:30pm, Fulford Hall, \$25 (19+); **Sept 9:** Unitarian Pride Service, 11am, 379 Lower Ganges Road; Potluck Picnic, 1pm onward, Ruckle Park Site 3; Outdoor Music, 3pm onward, Salt Spring Vineyard, 151 Lee Road • Info: www.glossi.org • **SALT SPRING**

## Saturday, September 8

**The BILLS are back!**—new CD release tour performance, presented by the Mayne Island Music Society • Doors open 7pm, show 8pm • Ag Hall • Tickets: \$20 Adults, \$10 Students @ Home Hardware, Farmgate Store, Happy Tides & the door • Info: www.mayneislandmusic.ca, www.thebills.ca • **MAYNE**

## Saturday, September 8

**Books, Bites and Bordeaux**—a spectacular evening of food, wine and fun: Pender Chamber Singers will perform, huge silent auction, signed books by local authors, amazing live auction items! A Library Fundraiser • Community Hall • 6:30pm • Tickets: \$25 @ Southridge, Talisman & the Library • **PENDER**

## Saturday, September 15

**Gallery Opening: Paintings by local artist Nancy Ruhl**—Talisman Books & Gallery, Driftwood Centre • 1-3pm • Everyone welcome • Info: 250.629.6944 • **PENDER**

## Saturday, September 15

**'Death By Joy: An Escorted Journey' film screening**—84-minute documentary by Pender residents Andrea & Jim Cribb; a candid story of one woman's choice to find joy in dying and her unforgettable discoveries along the way; 'haunting, difficult, but ultimately rewarding & healing' • 7:30pm • Community Hall • **PENDER**

## Sunday, September 16

**'Grease My Hooves: Politics in Canada' Official Book Launch**—author Andy Sibbald invites adult book lovers to the launch of his book; participants will read from his book; signed copies available for purchase • 1-3pm • Vancouver Island Regional Library Harbourfront Branch • Info: 250.753.7824, www.lunaticpublishing.com • **NANAIMO**

## Thursday, September 27

**Downton Abbey Revisited**—a fascinating talk by Frank Wilson about the lives lived upstairs and downstairs at Wortley, England, ancestral seat of the Earl of Wharncliffe and his family; tea and tidbits will be served. A Library fundraiser • Anglican Church Hall • 3pm • Suggested minimum donation \$10 • **PENDER**

## Friday & Saturday, September 28 & 29

**Nanaimo Global Film Festival**—over 30 documentaries on environmental, economic & social justice; proudly screening eight regional films this year • Vancouver Island University • Films all day Saturday! • Festival Pass \$25 @ The Green Store, the V.I.U.S.U. & Van-Isle  
 Video • Info: www.nanaimofilmfest.org • **NANAIMO**

## Saturday-Monday, October 6-8

**16th Annual Gabriola Thanksgiving Studio Tour**—more than 60 artists will open their doors to visitors from around the world; Gabriola invites art lovers to grab a user-friendly brochure and make a day of it • 10am-4pm • Free • Info: www.gabriolaartscouncil.org • **GABRIOLA**

## Friday thru Sunday, October 19 thru 21

**Creative Threads Conspiracy**—three-day retreat of workshops for all levels of fibre artists with nine teachers and 13 classes: knitting, quilting, weaving, felting, natural dyes; **Fri:** studio tour & 'Trunk Show'; **Sat/Sun:** classes all day; catered meals • Each class \$10/hour • Info: 250.335.0198, www.creativethreadsconspiracy.com • **DENMAN**

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# ROUND THE ISLANDS

## Happy & Healthy on Mayne

Mayne Island will soon have its new emergency room, and several Islanders are the lucky winners of the recently completed fundraising raffle.

Congratulations to Allen Achilles for winning the first prize catered barbecue dinner and the \$1,000 barbecue itself. Carol Munro won the Watkins natural home products second prize, and Shona Becker, with the third prize, has an inclusive stay at the Oceanwood Resort. Carol and Shona both also received gift certificates for Mayne Island restaurants and businesses. Last but certainly not least, is Mary Hansen with a one-night stay and two days as judge at the Langley BBQ cookoff.

'Everybody was thrilled with the prizes,' said fundraising committee member Millie Leathers. 'The raffle was well received and we really appreciate the support from the community.'

The \$10,000 raised by the raffle frees up funds from the budget that were formerly for the Health Centre's educational program. The raffle money will now be used for the educational program, and the program funds will be used for the equipment and shelving required for the expanded emergency room. Construction is expected to begin in September, and should not interrupt any of the Health Centre's current services.

## Blue Communities Project

The Blue Communities Project is an initiative sponsored by The Council of Canadians asking municipal governments to ban the sale of bottled water at city facilities and events. The Comox Valley Water Watch Coalition presented the project proposal to all three municipal governments in the Comox Valley about a month ago. Cumberland council adopted the proposal immediately. A response is awaited from Courtenay and Comox.

Marigold Natural Pharmacy in Courtenay has become an advocate for the Blue Communities Project, and has created a petition requesting that the municipal councils make the Blue Communities commitment.

According to pharmacist Rudy Sanchez, owner-operator of Marigold, 'PET bottles leach endocrine disrupting chemicals into the water. These chemical toxins accumulate in the fatty tissues of the body and disrupt hormone signals that control body functions. The accumulation of endocrine disruptors in the body can have an impact on personal health, especially men's and women's reproductive systems. The accumulation of these chemical toxins can affect developmental processes of the children for multiple generations.'

'Unfortunately the disruptive effects are not just for the individual consuming the water. 90% of the water bottles are not recycled. They end up in the landfill where they leach these chemicals into the land, eventually contaminating ground water. The result is widespread exposure to chemicals that can trigger chronic health issues.'

Sanchez is convinced that the widespread sale of water in plastic bottles has a negative impact on public health. He invites people to drop by his store to sign the petition. 'Bottled water is problematic on many different levels,' says Sanchez. 'Water is a community resource not a commodity. It needs to be protected as a public trust.'

## Marine Charts in Ganges

Black Sheep Books on Salt Spring Island is pleased to announce that they are now an authorized distributor of Canadian Hydrographic Service charts. Visitors, locals, and boaters coming into Ganges Harbour can now purchase fascinating and useful charts at Barnaby Fell's store in Grace Point Square. Barnaby told *Island Tides* that it was a lengthy process with plenty of paperwork, but worthwhile, as marine charts are not always readily available for purchase.

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## Texada Island Marathon



Photo: Sandy McCormick

2ND & 1ST PLACE: ROSS WATERS & KEITH WAKELIN

Runners age 14 to 74 came out August 26 for Texada's second annual *Run the Rock* marathon and half-marathon races.

In the 42.2-kilometre full marathon, Keith Wakelin, 53, of Merville, was the first male across the finish line for the second year in a row, with a time of 3 hours and 8 minutes—ten minutes faster than his 2011 run. Seventeen-year-old Ross Waters of Campbell River, the youngest marathoner at the event, was the second male finisher with a time of 3:13. The only full marathon runner from Powell River, Greg Tait, 45, came in third at 3:31.

Roslyn Smith, 63, of Comox, was the first female finisher with a time of 3:54. The second female across the line was veteran runner Janet Green, 58, of Courtenay, who was competing in her 266th marathon. Her time was 4:16. Kristy Jones of Ridgefield, Washington, was third with a time of 4:18.

In the 21.1-kilometer half-marathon, Wayne Crowe, 56, of Comox was the first male finisher with a time of 1:23. The second male to finish was Jono Lloyd of North Vancouver. His time was 1:24. In third spot was Nicholas Toupin of Campbell River, who clocked in at 1:30.

Lisa Morrow, 44, of Powell River was the first female across the line with a time of 1:40. The second and third female finishers were Natasha Grant of Vancouver at 2:00 and Shawna Graham of Powell River at 2:03.

Competing in the half-marathon for the first time were father and son from Powell River, Stephen Ball, 49, and his son Taku Ball, 14. Taku, the youngest competitor in the event and an enthusiastic new runner, finished with a time of 1:47, a minute faster than his dad. The oldest runner was Diane Palmason, 74, of Comox, who finished with a time of 2:13.

A total of 58 runners came from as far away as Texas, Washington State, Saskatchewan and Alberta. BC runners from Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland also came to test themselves against 'The Rock.'

Rob McWilliam, who was also race director in 2011, said this year's event was a 'transition year. Hopefully, runners will start to program *Run the Rock* into their training schedules, as they now know the event wasn't a one-time wonder.' He said that many runners left Texada Island promising to spread the word about *Run The Rock* and the fantastic community support they experienced during their visit.

Complete standings are at [www.avidfitness.ca](http://www.avidfitness.ca).

RTI, please turn to next page

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## Stunts and protests as Enbridge comment ends

The deadline for public comment on the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project was August 31. Communities around BC have been expressing opposition to this and the Kinder Morgan tar sands pipeline expansion proposals.

### Eulachon Oil, Not Enbridge Oil

On Monday August 27, the people of the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw stood together in front of the Bighouse in Gwa'yi (Kingcome Inlet) to raise their voices against Enbridge.

In an August 23 press release, they stated, '[We] are tired of Enbridge threatening our lands and water with its proposed Northern Gateway Pipeline...Enbridge thinks that it can invade our territories with its pipeline and its tankers, threatening our animals, fish and waters for the sake of the dollar bill. We have to let Enbridge know that we will not sit by idly. We will fight for our lands, our territories, our way of life. We will not sell out to promises of big money and jobs, and we will continue to fight until all talk of building this pipeline has ceased and our territories go unharmed.'

'To our brothers and sisters in the Yinka Dene Alliance and to any other Nation or persons fighting against this pipeline, this is our pledge. We have now made your fight against this threat our fight as well.'

### Standing With First Nations

Monthly vigils in Victoria have been organized by an adhoc group of concerned residents. Organizer Debby Yaffe told us they were at the Cenotaph at Belleville and Government Streets at 5pm on August 14, 'standing in peaceful support of First Nations communities against the Enbridge and Kinder Morgan pipeline projects'.

### Run Across BC for Clean Energy

On August 21, Kim Slater completed a 1177-km run across BC to foster dialogue on the topic of clean energy and alternatives to the Northern Gateway Pipeline. As she neared Prince Rupert, she was greeted by close to 30 supporters on the highway that joined her for the last 5km. A celebration dinner hosted at MLA Gary Coons' home followed, featuring salmon and halibut donated by members of the community and expertly prepared by Squamish-based Chef James King. Slater and supporters were welcomed in the traditional manner by Hereditary

Tsimshian Chief Joseph Brooks, who presented her with Devil's Club, a traditional token for protection.

The purpose of Slater's journey, which began July 8, was to connect with individuals and communities across BC to explore ways to transition from fossil fuel dependence and make communities more resilient. One of the most promising models offered was Transition Town, a framework that emphasizes local food and energy production, diversifying local economies and fostering community dialogue and leadership.

See [www.bandtogetherbc.com](http://www.bandtogetherbc.com) for a soon-to-be-released video essay providing an in-depth narrative of Kim's journey.

### Uniting The Salish Sea

Sven Biggs, Campaign Director for Tanker Free BC, wrote to tell us about a display of unity and strength in opposition to Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline proposal out of Burnaby. On September 1, the Protect the Salish Sea paddle was a gathering of canoes that included representatives from First Nations all around the Salish Sea. They paddled from Ambleside Beach to Cates Park, where the canoes were welcomed ashore in a traditional ceremony.

The following afternoon, Tanker Free BC, the Wilderness Committee and W2 co-hosted the Save the Salish Sea Concert at Waterfront Park in North Vancouver. Both Native and non-native performers were featured in a celebration of the growing movement to protect the BC coast.

### Communities To Protect Our Coast

This energetic Parksville-Qualicum Beach group coalesced in April as Cycle to Protect our Coast (CPOC). In May, a score of cyclists, in their distinctive fluorescent green cycling shirts, pedaled to the Legislature, picking up support as they went.

They cycled south from Campbell River through Comox, Courtenay, Parksville, Qualicum Beach, Nanaimo, and Duncan, crossed on the Mill Bay ferry to Brentwood Bay and headed south through Saanich to Victoria. The group gained so much visibility and support along the way that members have changed its name to Communities to Protect Our Coast.

Those vivid green cycling shirts, pictured above and embossed with 'Protect Our Coast' on the back and 'When you love something, stand up for it!' on the front had a good deal to



Bill Vinton and Sheri Farinha model the 'Protect Our Coast' shirts. For your \$20 shirt, email [sfarina@shaw.ca](mailto:sfarinha@shaw.ca).

do with the group's popularity. Appearing in a group at any meeting stirs up a good deal of interest. At Vancouver Island University on August 3, during Dr Riki Ott's talk about oil spills, they presented Ott with a shirt—she stripped off her own shirt and donned the green jersey at the podium.

By the way, you can watch Ott's oilspill presentation ('Riki Ott tells it like it is,' August 23 *Island Tides*) online at [www.worldcommunity.ca/archives/724](http://www.worldcommunity.ca/archives/724) and on the Shaw TV Youtube channel. Also read more about Riki Ott's work in the book review on page 5, this edition.

Communities to Protect Our Coast popped up again outside the Green Party Convention in Sidney; Judy Kemp and Sheri Farinha sold T-shirts on the lawn while collecting signatures for a petition.

### Tanker Free BC

All around the province, British Columbians are logging on to [www.notankers.ca](http://www.notankers.ca) and signing the Dogwood Initiative-

**PROTESTS, please turn to page 8**

### RTI from previous page

#### Island Studies Conference

An opportunity for learning about islands is coming up next May on Gabriola Island.

The Island Studies Conference is currently accepting proposals from scholars, intellectuals, leaders, community members, activists, and community organizations who are passionate about island communities and sustainability, or the study of islands and islanders.

Organizer Gloria Filax says, 'We are open to a wide range of participation and presentations, from poster sessions, papers, panels, performances, displays, readers theatre, et cetera.' Proposals, in the form of a 300-word abstract, are due November 30. Also invited are those wanting to learn from other island experiences and overcome challenges associated with islands, and wishing to network with like-minded and island-focused individuals.

Private enterprise, government, community groups, and others are encouraged to join this conference/forum/dialogue on the complex range of environmental, sociocultural, and economic challenges that are the daily reality for island communities on West Coast Canada, USA, and elsewhere. For more details, see [www.islandstudiesconference2013.org](http://www.islandstudiesconference2013.org).

### Penders' Transportation Survey

The Pender Islands Transportation Survey results are now available, with a 13.4% response rate. This compares favourably to a 2.86% response rate on a similar survey done on Salt Spring Island two years ago.

Evidently, the car is still king, on Pender at least. Motor vehicles are the primary mode of transport for most Pender

residents, although many use several forms of transportation on the islands. The made-on-Pender Car Stops are the fourth most common mode of transportation.

Most Penderites said they want to walk more, but feel constrained by lack of adequate facilities for walking and fear for their safety, suggesting that the establishment of appropriate infrastructure would have a profound effect on people's activity. Some people felt that walking, and especially cycling, on Island roads are dangerous and should not be recommended. Others commented that cycling is safer than it is perceived to be. One person said 'perception of risk is what stops many people. We need to take concrete steps to improve safety and ridership will increase.'

The most common recommendation (41%) to address safety was for dedicated pedestrian and bike lanes to parallel major routes, especially from the ferry terminal to the Community Hall, the Driftwood and Magic Lake Estates. Methods suggested to achieve on-road pedestrian/bike paths ranged from simple widening of the road shoulders, to marked walking/bike lanes, to roadside paths on the other side of drainage ditches. A number of respondents suggested roadside paths like the ones on Hornby Island.

There was strong opposition to the idea of installing speed bumps to control traffic speed. Reasons cited for this are that they are dangerous in the dark, and the suggested locations are on hills where a speed bump could effectively create a 'launching pad' for fast-moving vehicles. People did express great concern about the road in front of the Nu-toYu and Library, and suggestions to address this busy location included a crosswalk, or a path through the woods to the Community Hall.

Mountain bikes were a bit of a hot topic, as many

respondents disagreed with mountain biking in the national parks, such as Roe Lake. On the flip side, only 3% of survey respondents said they mountain bike off-road. With Parks Canada's recent purchase of the Turner property, a contiguous section of public land now connects Irene Bay Road to Shingle Bay. MAP member Peter Paré says that while they are not encouraging bikes in a national park, a path through it, perhaps fenced, 'could save people about 15km of driving.'

Overall, the survey offers a base of information on which to develop future planning. 'The survey results complement the MAP Transportation Plan,' said Peter, 'in that both identify the priority as work on the main thoroughfare.' A minority of respondents said it's a waste of time to do anything because 'roads are made for cars', but it was clear that the vast majority want to walk and cycle more. And, 'most obstacles are remedial,' said Peter.

The Transportation Survey results are on the MAP and CRD websites. They were also sent to the Penders' Local Trust Committees (LTC), and MAP will present the results and the Transportation Plan at the September 20 LTC meeting.

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**Pender Islands' Fall Fair, August 25**

Photo: David Rippner



**Mayne Island Fall Fair, August 18**



Photos: Tom Hogley



Photo: Henny Schnare

**Galiano Island Wine Festival, August 11**



Photos: Jen Holmes

**Moby's Beer Fest, Ganges, August 25**



Photo: Don Mottershead

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• Sept 7 Saturna	• Meet your MP • 11 - 5pm	Saturna Café
	• Town Hall • 6-7:30pm	Saturna Hall
• Sept 10 Pender	• Meet your MP • 2pm-6pm	Pender Hall
	• Town Hall • 7 - 8:30pm	Pender Hall
• Sept 11 Mayne	• Meet your MP • 12 - 5pm	Mayne Hall
	• Town Hall • 7-8:30pm	Mayne Hall
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**PROTESTS from page 7**

sponsored petition to the Governments of Canada and British Columbia. It reads:

"We the signatories draw your attention to proposals by Enbridge, Kinder Morgan and CN Rail to expand crude oil tanker traffic through BC's coast to ship oil to Asia, which would put BC's abundant salmon rivers and coast at risk of oil spills. A single Exxon Valdez-like spill could jeopardize thousands of families and livelihoods, entire cultures, and a spectacular diversity of life. That's why 70 First Nation communities banned these types of projects via the *Coastal First Nations* and *Save the Fraser* declarations, which an array of citizens are recognizing as an opportunity to unite in protection of our shared coast and advance reconciliation between First Nations and the rest of BC and Canada.

"Your petitioners recognize these declarations and the authority exercised therein, and call upon Parliament and the Legislature to use whatever means are available to stop the expansion of crude oil tanker traffic through BC's coastal waters."

**Green Party Convention Resolution**

Initiated by Vancouver Councillor Adriane Carr, this motion was crafted during the Green Party Convention in Sidney and passed by a consensus of delegates.

*Campaign to Stop Increased Crude Oil and Bitumen Exports on the West Coast:* 'Be it resolved that the Green Party of Canada conduct a campaign, cooperating where appropriate with the Green Party of British Columbia, the Green Party of Vancouver, First Nations and others involved in similar campaigns, to oppose new or expanded crude oil or bitumen export projects via the West Coast. This includes pipelines and tankers, all of which threaten the environment, local economies, First Nations' territories and global climate; and,

'Further be it resolved that the Green Party of Canada urge other federal parties to work cooperatively at their various political levels with Green Parties to successfully stop these pipeline projects and to build a renewable-energy-based economy in Canada in order to slow climate change, protect our environment, and establish greater long-term energy security.'

A few Sundays ago, a couple of grandmothers and grandfathers gathered for the afternoon ferry, seeing off their grandkids and the parents who had come to take them home in anticipation of schooldays. Kids' busy city lives contrast with languid Island days...trips to the seashore, being on boats, going to the ecological camp, making your own lunch, learning to whittle with a really sharp knife, sailing under the watchful eye of a proud grandfather—truly learning the ropes of an important set of skills under the loving eyes of the previous generation.

My two visiting grandkids are eight and eleven—ages when they are so eager, so enthused about whatever is going on: catching chickens, collecting and cutting-up cucumbers, watching the bats in the long evenings, picking lettuce for their sandwich, lighting the stoves, sitting on the front porch of the store eating icecream and watching the Saturna Island Community swirl around them. Their delight, enthusiasm, and observations of the simplest things re-engage me. I hope that our chosen life which our daughter lived with us, and our loving connection to the grandkids, give them a rich experience to draw from.

## Upcoming Wedding



Photo: Judy Tipple

Local girl Katie Jones was recently feted by the women of Saturna Island at a wedding shower in honour of her upcoming September 8 marriage to Ryan Dentry. Katie grew up on Saturna Island and has worked and supported herself while gaining a university education with the encouragement and help of her family. Ryan has spent summers working on Saturna. The young couple is well-liked and respected for their capabilities. Katie and Ryan are

intending to create a life here on the Island. Ingrid Gaines organized the fun and loving celebration and Katie's two bridesmaids, her sister Brianne and friend, Natalie Schlogal, joined the festivities.

## Soft Breezes & Sailboats

Saturday, August 25, the famous Saturna Regatta was held on a gorgeous, slightly breezy, sunny day. Many locals, summer folk, other Islanders and people who have heard about the philosophy of the Saturna Regatta come to participate. While the sailing course can be complex and demanding, the emphasis is on crews amusing the rest of the fleet with crafty and entertaining tall tales in order to snag the highly regarded cups.

The starting lineup was at the red buoy in front of the Saturna Pub, then the course progressed around Fane Island at the mouth of Hope Bay on Pender Island, over to picnicking aboard in Irish Bay at Samuel Island, down Plumper Sound to Breezy Bay and back to the pub buoy. This year, the Committee Boat, whose task it is to oversee the starting line, the finish line and monitor the race, was a beauty. *Starweather*, a 55-foot motor yacht from Bellingham (pictured here), belonging to sometimes-Saturna-resident Nick Kaiser, created a proper imposing presence.



Photo: Richard Blagborne

While participation was down a bit as some regular participants were locked into other engagements, the field was talented, brash and skilled. Local boats were a bold collection of beloved craft chosen with care by their skippers.

*Dragon Lady*, a 37-foot Huntingford with owners Ron and JoAnne Monk crewing with Scherbruckers; and *Hermanos*, a Hunter 26 owned by two talented old farts and sailed with good friends, were great participants. The very handsome *Elusive*, a new 50-foot sloop, sailed home to Saturna to participate. *Strike*, an 18-foot trimaran was skippered by Richard Woods, a local multihull designer. Nicky Arnoldus—experienced competitive sailor, who usually gets up an all-woman crew to sail 50-foot *Meriah*—at the last minute sailed

the eight-mile course alone in a 12-foot Laser! Fleet Captain Richard Blagborne, in *Marie Rose*, crewed with the youngest participating member, granddaughter Sumara, age 14.

About two years ago, a group of younger people came to live and work on Saturna. They are boating folk, and they and the community good-humouredly refer to them as 'the pirates,' due to their preference for black dress, piercings, and tattoos, but unlike the storybook pirates they have added greatly to the community, participating in social events and working hard when hired. They showed up in full regalia to participate in the race. *Ruffian*, a Columbia 36 owned by Neil McCurcher, *Tucano*, a 25-foot catamaran owned by Cameron Hok, and *Harp*, a Cal 25 owned by Les Bell and Kiera also ran good races.

Much appreciated were participants from other Islands: *Gem* from Mayne Island, a Columbia 36, and *Coming Home*, an elderly ketch from Galiano captained by Kiyo Okuda.

After the race is completed, all crews and captains repair to the Saturna Pub for the all important 'Post Race Cocktails, Excuses and Unbelievable Claims'

meeting. Under the Saturna Island Racing regulations, each skipper takes the opportunity to explain why, regardless of finishing position, s/he and the crew actually won the race. Performances that add to the pleasure of the crews and/or the fleet are highly regarded. An amalgamation of points are gained from finishing the race in some sort of order, for coming up with great lunches in the timed-out part of the race at Irish Bay (these ran the gamut from exotic wines and cheeses to a boat serving two 'Wagon Wheels'), songs and great stories, lies and bribery and successful demonstration of abilities in a clinch.

*Tucano*, who came in seventh, actually won two cups—one on the basis of a rap song presented to the meeting by Skipper Cameron and two female crew members. *Gem* from Mayne Island was noted for laudable bribery; the skipper of each crew received a bag of coffee from the Galiano Coffee Roasting Company, in the hopes of bolstering his boat's point standing! *Hermanos* crewman Michael Hayes, long time Saturna and Salt Spring teacher, teacher's union rep, and old member of the Salt Spring Hysterical Society, picked up points for his humorous musical rendition of a sea shanty about the *Queen of Nanaimo*.

It was a wonderful get-together for the local boating community. There in the wind and the waves, were a broad range of boats that Islanders love and have chosen for their own. Boats off moorings doing what they are built to do; sailing for fun, companionship and the sheer joy of being out on the water. *Marie Rose*, *Elusive* and *Strike* were neck-and-neck at times, and everyone got a chance with an enthusiastic audience to brag, and in true nautical tradition create the story of their boat's great sailing adventure. ☺

## LETTERS from page 5

### Winning Entry for Joe Walsh 'Analog Man' Concert Tickets

Dear Editor:

For many years I've been one of those, 'Backyard people and they work all day.' A few years ago I began to feel uneasy:

'Well there's a change in the wind  
You know the signs don't lie  
Such a strange feeling and I don't know why  
Its takin'... such a long time ...'

It took me a few years to wrap my head around the idea but, on June 30, I retired after 30 years as a school administrator. Now I'm sitting up on Mount Belcher ('couldn't get much higher') thinking:

'Lucky I'm sane after all I've been through  
(Everybody say I'm cool) (He's cool)  
I can't complain but sometimes I still do  
Life's been good to me so far.'  
I'm not saying that I'm something special

But you might know my name to some degree  
Sometimes I can't believe that I'm still standing  
And it feels pretty good to be me.'

Yep, it's all been good, except that I've found myself  
'lost in the fog 'cause while  
everything's digital I'm still analog  
when something goes wrong  
I don't have a clue  
some 10-year-old smart ass has to show me what to do.'  
'Out to pasture?' I don't think so ... 'Think it's safe to say  
Time to open fire.'

And what better way to do that, than to take my wife and best friend of thirty-two years (she's 'an analog girl who loves me for what I am') to a Joe Walsh concert?

'Got a good woman and she makes me happy  
Most of the time I make her happy too  
We decided we should live together  
So we both said 'I do.'

All things considered I'm '...just lucky,' but I'd be luckier still if you considered me for the tickets!

Martin Blakesley, Salt Spring Island ☺

## Island Tides

UNITING ISLANDS BIG AND SMALL

### Did something in this edition:

- inform you?
- pique your interest?
- amuse you?
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- inspire you to take action?
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Keep those lovely phone calls, cards, letters & emails coming!

## Enbridge Map Deletes 1,000 sq. Km...



# September Garden Calendar - Brian Crumblehulme

*Every garden has the potential for perfection because it will never be finished, because the elements that make it a garden ... are in constant flux and you can never step into the same garden twice. - Frank Ronan*

Sitting at the table after a good lunch, it seems extraordinary to think that psychologists have described yet another syndrome: nature deficit.

For most of summer and early fall, Mary and I eat most of our meals outside in the garden. The covered front porch, crowded by a table and two chairs, is used for lunch on any reasonable day. The centerpiece of the flower garden is a rose and kiwi clad pergola over a table large enough for eight. Why, you might ask, all this trouble when an umbrella and set of stackable chairs will do very well?

Of course, anything can be used in a pinch. A paper towel on the grass works for a picnic, but that is not the point. The outdoor lunch and dinner tables are located precisely to optimize the view, and, looking back from the garden, the furniture is made to look as though it belongs there. This may sound a bit presumptuous and may not suit everyone's taste, but we live here and the ritual of embracing the garden and the outdoors in our day-to-day lives is a conscious decision.

Life on the islands in the Salish Sea has a very high aesthetic value. The view of the sea, the next island, the forest edge, or the neighbouring farm can be a exquisite landscape for a comfortable life. Which is another way of saying that September is a perfect time to examine the landscape we inhabit, and vow to spend more time soaking up its complex meanings. By choice or happenstance, the outside and the inside worlds we occupy are so much more than a painted backdrop, they profoundly affect our lives.

I'm not sure we can presume to say that what we have created in our home or garden is a work of art, but it sure is a personal statement. Show me your living room/kitchen/garden/backyard, and I'll deduce your life. After a glass of wine is a good time to really take a look at the shape, texture and arrangement of your surroundings. What do you see first? Where does your line of vision take you? What appeals

## ~ Ratatouille! ~

Ratatouille is one of my favourite summer dishes, less a recipe than a principle that can be adapted any which way. At one end of the culinary spectrum it turns into salsa, at another it becomes a gourmet spread.

Gather all your extra summer vegetables: the ubiquitous zucchini, eggplant, peppers of every kind, cherry tomatoes, garlic and onions. Toss all of the above in a little canola oil and arrange on the barbecue. Grill for about 5 minutes a side and remove to a large bowl.

In the kitchen: skin the garlic and onion and chop coarsely. Cut all the other ingredients into bite-size pieces, season with salt and pepper and mix all together. Now, you have a choice:

\* if you are really hungry, pile your mixture onto a plate, slather with chopped basil and serve with whatever cheese, bread and a beer.

\* or-pile the mix into a large skillet with a little olive oil, add a couple tablespoons of tomato paste, a little white wine or water, and stew it. Stir gently until you achieve a hot jammy consistency. Spread this onto slices of toasted French bread or serve with a nice piece of grilled ling cod.

\* for the fashion conscious-grill the veggies until slightly crisp and burnt at the edges and toss with your favourite olive oil as above, serve with fresh homemade wafers, dishes of chopped basil and cilantro, a display of cheese and olives, and a selection of fruit flavoured martinis.

\* for dinner-add coarsely chopped basil, a large pinch of saffron, a splash of olive oil and a dash of balsamic vinegar. Toss in a skillet until, hot and serve with a barbecued thyme chicken and a bottle of Pinot Grigio.

\* The Islands Pizzazz-buy or make some flaky pastry and roll it out. (You can do this with pizza dough but it does make it heavier.) Take 250 grams of Saltspring Chèvre, cream in 2 egg yolks and a cup of chopped or ground almonds. You want a rich creamy paste.

Add a little heavy cream, if need be. Spread the paste over the pastry, leaving a narrow edge. Spread your ratatouille over the paste, not too thick. Top with fresh feta, chopped rosemary, black pepper and pine nuts, and bake in a hot oven for 30-35 minutes until the edges turn gold. That calls for a good red wine...one of my new favourites, a Spanish Rioja.

to you most? And what do you avoid? These are not rhetorical questions, because the way we see and what we value is why many of us live here, and therein lies the challenge. Unlike many urban settlers, we live in the bush. I won't call it wilderness because it has been settled and tampered with for more than a hundred years, and it is that imaginary line between the wild and the tame that gardeners attempt to reconcile.

In our case, regardless that the property line is fifty meters away, the birds, deer and everything that moves, does so right up to the front door, and often inside too. Living very close to nature is great, so too is an immediate landscape of cabbages, cedars or the sea. We need to be conscious of this relationship and exercise that quintessentially human talent, to make plans to accommodate and tread with the lightest of steps.

Later I will toss about ideas to develop this process further; meanwhile, allowing the imagination to ramble like a vine in spring is a satisfying activity and the warm mellow end of summer is the perfect season for it.

On a more intimate level, one gallon pots filled with compost and sown with a salad

mix, bush peas or beans and left in a sunny spot in the garden or deck will supply a host of meals in 6-8 weeks. Flowers and most fruit achieve perfection for a very short time only, and that calls for a daily tour of the garden in search of the elusive perfect specimen. Also, harvesting flowers and vegetables as soon as they are ready encourages plants to produce more.

Many vegetables are late this year but we are still getting a good crop of tomatoes. Whenever we have a few too many to eat, I remove the stalk and pith, drop them in a food processor for a couple of bursts, and freeze them raw in ice cream or yogurt containers. Frozen tomatoes make an ideal winter soup base or vegetarian stock. I just shave off as much as I need and return the rest to the freezer.

We also dry lots of herbs; oregano, mint, tarragon and the like. After trying everything from stackable electric dryers to brown paper bags, I have finally hit on the most efficient: the attic. Attic spaces are always quite hot in summer and if you have enough insulation, cold in the winter. They should also be well ventilated. Answer: spread clean sheets over the insulation and scatter herbs as you will. Four bushels of oregano dried in four days. This was also a good year for our seedless grapes, so when they were fully ripe I secured a six-foot mesh screen between the rafters, spread a lace tablecloth and scattered grapes. The result: perfect Gulf Island raisins. ☺

## The Elusive Sharp-Tailed Snake

Dave Manning

Although I've been a naturalist all my life, I didn't care much for snakes-until a few years ago. While out walking one day on Pender Island, I saw a small snake. I poked at it with a stick and found it to be quite dead. Its topside was reddish brown and its underside had distinct black and white barring. I continued on.

When I arrived back home, my wife suggested that I take the snake to an upcoming conservancy meeting on snakes. The next day I found the snake where I left it, placed it in a plastic bag and put it in our freezer.

At the meeting I showed the snake to the speaker, biologist Christian Engelstoff. A big grin appeared on his face. It was a Sharp-tailed Snake (*Contia tenuis*). It was the perfect show and tell item for his presentation.

I was to learn Sharp-tailed Snakes are endangered in Canada and have been found in only a few locations on Southern Vancouver Island, some Gulf Islands, and, recently, in the Pemberton area. One of four snakes found on our coast (the other three being garter snakes), adult Sharp-tailed Snakes reach only about 30 centimetres in length, look a bit like a large earthworm and gets its name from its thorn-like tail tip. Unlike other snakes, it lays eggs. It's non-venomous and harmless to humans. They are most active in March to June and then again in September and October. They are

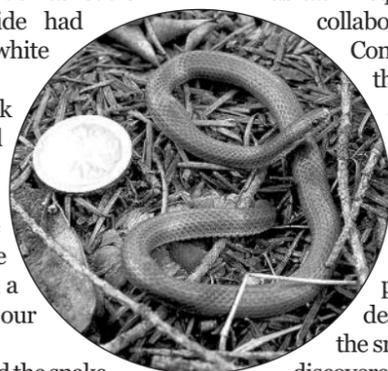
rarely found above ground.

My home island of Pender is a hotspot for the snake. Christian enlisted me to coordinate the Sharp-tailed Snake Landowner Contact Program, an initiative of Victoria-based

Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT). In collaboration with Pender Island Conservancy Association (PICA), this outreach project has visited at least 120 property owners on Pender alone. We have also worked with landowners on other Southern Gulf Islands. During our visits, we share good stewardship practices as well as simple non-destructive methods to look for the snake. The snake has now been

discovered at many Pender locations, including in the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve. Before Christian, another biologist, David Spalding of South Pender Island, began researching the snake in 1990 on some Gulf Islands. Although he discovered the snake in other locations, it took him 17 years before he finally found one on his own property.

Eventually I was thrilled to find my first live Sharp-tailed Snake on a high sunny bluff overlooking the ocean. Even though I'm still a bit squeamish about other snakes, my enthusiasm and love for the Sharp-tailed Snake is full-on. If you are interested in knowing more about the Sharp-tailed Snake or the Landowner Contact Program in general, contact me, 250.629.3638, or PICA, www.penderconservancy.org. ☺





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# Elizabeth May's voice for sanity

Patrick Brown

Speaking to the crowd at the Mary Winspear Centre during the national Green Party Convention in Sidney, August 18, party leader Elizabeth May was passionate and concerned. It was not a political speech; more an off-the-cuff chat with 300 friends. She ranged with wit and candour over the environment, the economy, and democracy.

May is heir to a long tradition of twentieth-century humanism. She credits her mother, and Bertrand Russell, with getting her started, and her credentials as an environmentalist include stints as writer, lawyer, bureaucrat, NGO leader, politician, and now national party leader.

Her keynote speech was the centerpiece of a highly successful convention for Canada's Greens.

First, she reminded her audience that the idea that there was a choice between the environment and the economy was a fallacy; and the idea that we should seek a 'balance' between the two was equally wrong. The economy, she said, was a human construct. The relevant quotation, she said, is that 'the economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of the environment'.

Her leadership of the opposition to Stephen Harper's 'omnibus budget bill', C-38, in the House of Commons has been widely reported. She expressed her disgust at the government for refusing to accept a single word in amendment of the bill, and contempt also for Conservative MPs who all voted against every amendment.

Canadian democracy, she said, has also suffered from two prorogations of Parliament, and a new trend towards having Parliamentary Committees in camera (in secret, with no records, and no minutes). 'The Parliamentary Budget Officer can't find out the effects of cuts in the budget.'

And where, she asked, is the Royal Commission on defrauding thousands of Canadians of the right to vote? 'Canadian democracy,' she said, 'is melting as fast as the Arctic ice.'

She reserved her greatest scorn for politicians who refuse to tackle the problems of climate change, which she linked to 'economically destructive' and 'life threatening' weather events, particularly this year in the US. Describing government as operating in a 'fog of cognitive dissonance' she charged that 'political cowardice borders on the immoral' and suggested that candidates for political office would benefit politically from adopting pro-climate policies.

'Glaciers,' she said, 'are moving way faster than politicians.'

Despite polls that showed that Canadians were aware of the reality of climate change, she was clearly chagrined at the nation's failure to act on our convictions. She launched one last jibe at the current political arena: 'Had our early ancestors adopted free market triumphalism, we'd be extinct.'

This was a prelude to her declaration of faith in human beings, and their ability to adapt and survive. May, voice breaking, avowed her faith in humanity, 'I love us ... we're compassionate, co-operative, empathetic ... we're not predators ... we take up arms not to make war, but to hug each other.' She urged her audience to 'celebrate the creativity of the human spirit ... that longs to take care of each other.'

'In place of folly, we have wisdom,' she said. 'To be willing to have hope is to be courageous.'

Finally, she described the Green Party as 'a voice for sanity in a world that has gone mad.' On their feet, her audience applauded long and loud in agreement.



Photo: Zachary Curtis

Dan Bigham dumps the duckies for the Penducky Derby Library Fundraiser, August 26.

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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, 112 Rainbow Road, Salt Spring Island, Wednesday, September 12, 2012 commencing at 1pm. To view the agenda for this meeting: http://sd64.bc.ca/district/school-board-meetings/. Public Welcome!

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Photo: Toby Snelgrove

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## Golf tournament raises funds for park

Sara Miles

The TLC Chocolate Lily Charity Golf Tournament held at the Pender Island Golf & Country Club on Saturday, August 18, was very successful and raised \$7,000 towards the campaign to protect Brooks Point on South Pender Island.

About 20 golfers gathered for the shotgun-start, nine-hole afternoon game. Playing for prizes, fun and fame, the game was an exciting blend of competition and camaraderie.

*Island Tides* was proud to be the Silver Sponsor for the tournament, and happily surprised when it was announced that its team (see photo, page 1) won with one under par! TLC board members Tom Watson and Gary Holman played with part-time Pender Island resident Alan Whitcelow, and Nicole Payer, proprietor of Hope Bay Hair Salon. Each player won a TLC Holiday Vacation for two, courtesy of The Land Conservancy.

Nicole said she wanted to play in the tournament because she loves to walk around Brooks Point Park in every season, and she hopes to 'save that part of the Island for everyone to really experience nature at its best.' Brooks Point is renowned for its pristine shoreline that features unique chocolate lily and camas meadows.

Accent Inns generously stepped up to be the event's Gold Sponsor. Their team, made up of Janet Ellis, Brian Ellis, Diane MacDonald and Mel MacDonald, won second place in the tournament! Accent Inns founder and chairman, Terry Farmer, and his wife Leslie, were also there, enjoying the fun and games. Accent Inns President Mandy Farmer was featured in a short film presented by TLC about the importance of saving places like Brooks Point.

TLC's Development and Large Gifts Officer, Kathleen Arnason, offered a unique insight into the importance of protecting Brooks Point, when she told the story of someone who always 'feels better' when she

visits Brooks Point. It really would be a shame to see it subdivided into private property with a house built on it!

Many generous individuals lent support to this campaign. The Hole In One Sponsors were Saunders Subaru and The Land Conservancy. The Hole Sponsorships came from Poets Cove Resort & Spa, Pender Island Pharmacy, Vision 2000 Travel, Talisman Books & Gallery, Purdy's Chocolates, Mr John Hall, and Green Angels Choppers.

Many beautiful items were donated for the silent auction, including wine from Godfrey-Brownell Vineyards. The delicious appetizers, cocktails and buffet dinner were coordinated by Dana Blume at Birdie's Bistro. Walter Kohli, General Manager of Poets Cove Resort & Spa, was very supportive, and also provided accommodation for TLC staff (Kathleen, Member-care Manager Wendy Innes and Communications Manager Heather Skydt).

Back to the golf—other prizes went to: Ruth Saunders (Ladies Longest Drive), Brian Lougheed (Men's Longest Drive), Janet Ellis, Ben Kangasniemi and Alan Whitcelow (all three Closest to Pin). Simon Joslin won the Marshmallow Drive, Bill Turner was the Best Sport, and Alan Waddell won the 'Person who should have won the hole in one'. Best Former Premier went to Mike Harcourt, and his son Justin won Kathy's Pick.

Although she didn't know much about golf when she started organizing the tournament, Kathleen says Al Waddell of Pender Golf Club was 'wonderful and helped me along the way.' Raising funds is certainly an important aspect of events like this, but as Kathleen says, 'part of it is about coming together as a community of people who care about protecting special places in nature for people to come to.' The golf tournament was a unique way to achieve these goals. 'We're happy to have been able to come out and do it a different way.'

**'it is about coming together as a community of people who care about protecting special places in nature'**