

# Salish Sea Island Tides

Giving The Coast A Community Voice For 25 Years



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Photo: Terrill Welch

Orcas off the shore of Galiano Island, viewed from the Mayne Queen.

## Robyn Allan withdraws from NEB Kinder

### Morgan hearings - Patrick Brown

Economist and former president and CEO of the Insurance Corporation of BC, Robyn Allan has been involved from the beginning in the National Energy Board's Public Hearing process concerning the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion proposed by Kinder Morgan.

But on May 19 she formally withdrew from the process. 'Continued participation endorses a broken system and enables the pretence of due process where none exists,' she wrote in her letter to NEB.

She goes on: 'The review is not conducted on a level playing field. The Panel is not an impartial referee. The game is rigged; its outcome pre-determined by a captured regulator. The NEB's integrity has been compromised... The NEB has unconscionably betrayed Canadians through a restricted scope of issues, violated the rules of procedural fairness and natural justice, and biased its decision-making in favour of Kinder Morgan.'

Allan goes on to back up her attack on the NEB with seven pages of details. Finally, she writes: 'The fight to protect the Canadian public interest must include those issues that fully represent the Canadian public interest, not limit them—as the panel has done—to a definition serving industry. We are being conned by the very agency entrusted to protect us. This must stop. The health and welfare of our economic, social and environmental systems are at stake.'

### Allan Is Not The First To Withdraw

Allan's withdrawal follows former BC Hydro CEO Marc Eliesen's exit from the process in October 2014. Eliesen said the Board was 'dismissive of intervenors' and their actions reflected a 'lack of respect for hearing participants'.

'Continued involvement with this process is a waste of time and effort, and represents a disservice to the public interest because it endorses a fraudulent process,' he wrote.

### Non-confidence: Mayors and MLAs

The mayors of Vancouver, Burnaby, New Westminster, City of North Vancouver, Victoria, Squamish, and Bowen Island have recorded 'non confidence' in the NEB-run process.

The process has also been slammed by a number of MLAs. NDP MLA Spencer Chandra Herbert introduced a motion in the BC Legislature in February calling for the provincial government's withdrawal from the process. The government is a registered intervenor in the hearings.

Green Party MLA Andrew Weaver, who is also registered as an intervenor, backed the motion. He called for a made-in-BC hearing process when Kinder Morgan insisted on secrecy for its spill response plans.

## Galiano and Penelakut Islands: Foraging for the Future - Suzanne Fournier

This spring has seen an exciting collaboration between the communities of two Gulf Islands that are geographically close and drawing ever closer together in a spirit of deepening understanding. More than 100 people from both islands have taken part in events sharing the goal of immersing young people in their outdoor environment while allowing them to learn about nature in a fun and creative way. The sharing of cultural and environmental knowledge culminated in a full day of activities on Penelakut Island on April 21, followed by a feast of wild treats.

Students from the Galiano Community School travelled to the Galiano Conservancy Association's Learning Centre to meet with their counterparts from the Penelakut school, along with a host of educators and elders. Fresh salmon, provided by longtime Galiano islander Ben Mabblerley, was roasted in a traditional Coast Salish pit oven, supervised by

Penelakut islander Augie Sylvester. The educational aspects included a plant walk, geo-caching, and an indigenous tea-bar using wild plants. A unique feature of the educational exchanges has been 'digital foraging', which is described as 'a wild-food and plant-focused inter-generational digital storytelling program involving local artists, elders, and youth.'

Organized by the Galiano-based Access to Media Society (AMES), the digital foraging project involved supplying young students with iPads to record their personal stories and what they had learned from educators, which were later shared in a screening with the wider community. The Galiano Conservancy Association brought in renowned ethnobotanist Dr Nancy Turner, along with Amanda Bird, Levi Wilson, Augie Sylvester, Karen Charlie of Penelakut, and Galiano's knowledgeable herbalist Dora Fitzgerald.

FORAGING, please turn to page 3



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

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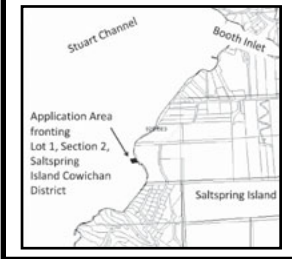
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**LAND ACT:  
NOTICE OF INTENTION  
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DISPOSITION OF  
CROWN LAND**

Take notice that **Diana Benedek** has applied to Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO), West Coast Region for a **Specific Permission – Private Moorage** situated on Provincial Crown land located at **Salt Spring Island/vicinity of Stuart Channel**.  
The Lands File Number that has been established for this application is **File #1414268**.  
Written comments concerning this application should be directed to the Section Head, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations at 142-2080 Labieux Rd, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6J9, or emailed to: **Authorizing Agency.Nanaimo@gov.bc.ca**.  
Comments will be received by MFLNRO until **July 3, 2015**.  
MFLNRO will not be able to consider comments received after this date.  
Please visit our website: <http://arfd.gov.bc.ca/ApplicationPosting/index.jsp> for more information.  
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Photo: Derek Holzapfel

A triptych of sea stars captured during a dive. Left to right: leather star, striped star, blood star.

## Harper's new climate targets; same emperor, same clothes

Elizabeth May

The world is gearing up for the December 2015 climate negotiations in Paris. The annual Conferences of the Parties (COP) within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change have been struggling to regain momentum (and credibility) ever since the train-wreck of a meeting in Copenhagen, December 2009. That COP, the 15th since the 1992 climate treaty entered into force, nearly derailed the entire multi-lateral process to negotiate a meaningful global commitment to sharply reduce carbon pollution.

Paris will be COP21. After decades of procrastination and missed deadlines, delays and industry sabotage, the Paris negotiations represent a real deadline. It is no longer possible to imagine a second chance to get this right. The levels of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere have reached concentrations that make avoiding the worst and most catastrophic climate future a matter of urgency.

The negotiations have made an effort to learn from past mistakes. The Copenhagen Accord, a stage managed US production achieved outside of the UN process, allowed nations to leave the climate negotiations with a promise to announce their domestic targets later. All nations agreed in the Copenhagen text to take collective action to avoid global average temperatures from rising more than 2°C than what they were prior to the Industrial Revolution, and preferably to hold the increase to below 1.5°C.

But as the pledges were analyzed, the scientists quickly realized that even if every country met its Copenhagen target, global average temperature would soar right past 2 degrees—to 4 degrees or higher. While 2°C does not sound like much in a nation with winter temperatures in much of the country below -30°C and summer temperatures swinging to above 30°C, it is important to remember

that global average temperatures do not budge much at all. In fact, the difference between the global average temperature today and in the last ice age is only 5°C. A 2-degree shift in global average temperature is huge.

In Lima at COP20, the negotiators decided the targets must be tabled well in advance of the December 2015 conference. All countries, including Canada, agreed that planned emission and adaptation targets should be submitted to the UN by March 31, 2015. The goal of achieving a binding comprehensive treaty by early December 2015 requires substantial advance analysis.

Canada missed submitting targets by the March 31 deadline, but did announce them late on Friday, May 15, just before the Victoria Day long weekend. The upcoming G7 summit will be in Germany and Angela Merkel plans to make climate a focus. Apparently, Stephen Harper realized he could not get through a G7 with no target. So Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq has announced the weakest target in the G7.

Canada announced a commitment to a 30% reduction against 2005 levels by 2030. We used to have the same target as the US—adopted in Copenhagen. The US is on track to hit its 2020 target of 17% below 2005 levels. Harper, having chosen the same goal as Obama, never put a plan in place to hit the target. By 2020, Canada is likely to have virtually the same emissions as we did in 2005—despite substantial efforts by provincial governments. Even the GHG reductions achieved by Ontario shutting down all coal-fired power plants are erased as the oil sands expand.

The new US target is 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2025. The real leader is the EU with a target to reduce 40% below 1990 levels by 2030. (Note the base year shifts. Cuts below 1990 levels are deeper and more meaningful).

## Milkweed is a monarch's best defence - David Suzuki

The monarch butterfly is a wonderful creature with an amazing story. In late summer, monarchs in southern Canada and the US northeast take flight, travelling over 5,000 kilometres to alpine forests in central Mexico. The overwintering butterflies cling to fir trees there in masses so dense that branches bow under their weight.

The monarch's multigenerational journey northward is every bit as remarkable as the epic southern migration. Three or four successive generations fly to breeding grounds, lay eggs, and perish. The resulting caterpillars transform into butterflies and then take on the next relay. Monarchs arriving in Canada in late summer are often fourth or fifth generation descendants of butterflies that flew south the previous year.

What may be the monarch's most striking quirk is its caterpillars' reliance on milkweed as its sole food source, a phenomenon called 'monophagy'. Milkweed plants contain small traces of cardenolides, bitter chemicals monarchs store in their bodies to discourage predators, which associate the butterflies' distinctive colouration with bad taste. But relying on a single type of plant for survival is a risky strategy that has put monarchs in grave danger.

In the mid-1990s, the eastern monarch population was more than one billion. In winter 2013, the population had dropped by more than 95% to 35 million, with a modest increase to 56.5 million this past winter. As University of Guelph postdoctoral research fellow Tyler Flockhart notes, a single severe storm could extinguish the entire

monarch population. A 2002 snowstorm wiped out 80 million butterflies. A similar trend has been occurring west of the Rockies, where the western population overwinters in California and migrates as far north as central BC.

Much of the monarch butterfly decline has been pinned on virtual eradication of its critical food source throughout much of its migration path by profligate use of a glyphosate-based weed killer called Roundup, which corn and soybean crops have been genetically modified to tolerate. Blanketing fields with the herbicide kills plants like milkweed. As a result, several US Midwest states—the heart of monarch breeding territory—have lost most of their native milkweed, causing monarch reproductive rates to drop by more than 80%.

A recent study suggests glyphosate is merely the first of a one-two toxic punch from industrial agricultural operations. The second is neonicotinoids, the controversial nicotine-based insecticides that have been identified as a chief culprit in the decline of honeybees, along with a host of birds, bees, and butterflies. It appears that even at one part per billion, these chemicals can affect monarch caterpillar development, delivering a potential knockout blow for the imperilled insects.

The good news is that many jurisdictions are catching up with the science. Ontario's government has proposed regulations to reduce neonic use by 80% over the next couple of years. In early April, the US Environmental Protection Agency issued a moratorium on new applications to use neonicotinoids. I hope this marks the turning of the

Along with the announced target, Aglukkaq announced a few measures to be taken at the federal level. However, there will still be no regulation of carbon dioxide from the oil sands. The federal government will only regulate methane from the oil sands. This is not irrelevant, but it is not the major source of GHG pollution. The feds will also regulate the production of chemicals and nitrogen in fertilizer, as well as natural gas fired electricity.

Looking at the totality of announced federal action no credible reviewers believe this new target—weak as it is—can be realized. In fact, it appears that Harper is now prepared to abandon his previous opposition to what he once attacked as 'hot air' credits. Leaks from the federal background papers confirm Harper anticipates buying credits from reductions achieved in developing countries. While such credits are open to fraud, if properly designed they could be of benefit in assisting poorer nations with multiple goals. For example, supplying solar cookers to villages where women spend most of their day scouring for firewood and then suffer ill health from poor air quality while cooking over wood burning stoves inside their homes, assists in improving health, reducing poverty, assisting women, and reducing GHG. But when Minister Aglukkaq was asked at her press conference about whether the federal plan included buying credits, she ran from the podium.

We need a much more aggressive target for GHG reductions and we need a plan to achieve those targets. We need to constantly make the case that such a plan will create good Canadian jobs and boost our economy. Fortunately, there's an election between now and when the Paris negotiations take place. We must ensure that climate becomes a key election issue. ☺

toxic tide, but time is running out.

What can you do to help? While government agencies in Mexico, the US, and Canada are scrambling to hatch plans to save monarchs, the scientific community has been clear: a lot of milkweed must be planted over the next few years. One great opportunity is the many thousands of kilometres of linear corridors—rail, road, and hydro rights-of-way—that run throughout the migratory landscape and can be modified to grow milkweed and other pollinator-friendly plants.

Yards, school grounds, and parks are also perfect for butterfly gardens and milkweed patches, and planting milkweed in your backyard or balcony garden is a great way to help. Be sure to call your local garden centre or nursery to ensure they stock native milkweed plants this spring.

Find out more about milkweed and information about how to bring monarchs back from the brink at [david Suzuki.org/gotmilkweed](http://david Suzuki.org/gotmilkweed), the David Suzuki Foundation's Got Milkweed campaign website. You can also donate to support Foundation volunteers planting milkweed in the Greater Toronto Area.

Planting milkweed may seem small, but the combined actions of thousands of concerned Canadians stitching together parks and yards with schools and rights-of-way into a glorious tapestry of butterfly corridors could usher in a new, hopeful era for monarch butterflies.

*Written with contributions from David Suzuki Foundation Communications Specialist Jode Roberts. ☺*



Short Notice Canada 150 Fund Tied To Election?

The \$150-million ‘Canada 150 Fund’ was announced on May 15. Local, regional and provincial groups now have as little as three weeks to apply for funding for renovations to community infrastructure such as halls, ice rinks and trails.

The fund is projected to renovate up to 1,800 facilities. It will be managed by six regional development agencies. The development agency for Western Canada has announced a deadline of June 17 and has stated that successful applicants should be informed within 90-days of the deadline.

Concern has risen regarding the timing of the initiative; funding is expected to be awarded in September.

Mount Polley Mine Applies To Reopen

Mount Polley Mine, site of a massive tailings pond breach in August, 2014, has applied for permission to restart operations. While the original tailings pond dam is under repair, mine owners, Imperial Metals, proposes to divert tailings into a pit (the Springer Pit) which was part of the original mine. This pit does not appear to have an outlet, and under the permit applied for, its use is limited to one year.

The public comment period on the application to restart the mine ended on May 2, 2015. Imperial Metals said that the mine could be back in full operation within months, employing about half of Mount Polley’s 370 employees. The application is currently being reviewed by representatives from government agencies, First Nations, local governments, the community of Likely, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Environment Canada.

New Cable Ferry Named

Perhaps the longest of its kind in the world, Denman’s cable ferry is scheduled to be operating by the end of the summer. On May 8, it was named ‘Baynes Sound Connector’ in a ceremony at Seaspan’s North Vancouver Shipyards. It was christened by BC Ferries Captain Esther Allen.

After launching, it will be towed to Buckley Bay, where the three cables, laid across Baynes Sound in April, will be run through the ferry. Two of the cables will guide the ferry between new terminals at Buckley Bay and Denman Island; the third is the drive cable, along which the ferry will run.

The new ferry is 78.5 metres long, and will carry up to 50 vehicles and 150 passengers. The ferry route across Baynes Sound is 1,900 metres, and the ferry will travel at speeds up to 8.5 knots.

Crew training will take place in June and July. Following certification by Transport Canada and Lloyd’s Register, the ferry will be in service.

Chilliwack Offered \$800,000 by Kinder Morgan

Kinder Morgan’s proposed route for the Trans Mountain Expansion project’s twinned pipeline runs through Chilliwack. The City of Chilliwack is registered as commenter in the National Energy Board ‘public hearings’ on the TMX project.

Kinder Morgan has offered the City of Chilliwack \$800,000, which could be used for any city project (related or unrelated to the pipeline), as long as the NEB approves the pipeline.

However, Chilliwack has deferred its decision on whether to accept the money until *after* the NEB makes its decision on the pipeline project.

Elizabeth May Speaks About Bill C-51

Government Bill C-51, the *Anti-Terrorism Act*, as of press time has had three readings in the House of Commons (under time allocation). Before it was passed to the Senate, Elizabeth May (Saanich-Gulf Islands) said: ‘Let me pause for a moment on the Minister of Justice’s claim that Bill C-51 includes judicial oversight. It clearly does not. Many witnesses testified to this extent and to this point.

‘Judges are involved in the section that I related to the minister. Clearly, a judge is involved. A judge is allowed to grant a warrant to a CSIS agent to break domestic law or to violate the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, but that is not judicial

oversight. It means there would be secret hearings at which only government would be represented. There would be no special advocates to ensure that the public interest is protected. Moreover, there would be no opportunity for the judge to ensure that the warrant that he or she would issue would be executed properly or appropriately. As well, there would be no ongoing oversight of any kind over CSIS’ activities, now that they have been empowered by the House but not yet by the Senate to engage in disruption activities, nor would there be any oversight over security operations, in particular between the RCMP, CSIS, CSEC, and Canada Border Services Agency.

‘This is where the risk lies. These different security agencies would operate without knowledge of what the others are doing, thereby making us less safe.’

Where Will LNG Ships Be Bunkered?

Historically, the bunkering (fuelling from an oil barge, pumping through a hose) of deep-sea ships has been restricted to three locations in Vancouver Harbour: alongside docks in the inner harbour between First and Second Narrows, east of Second Narrows, and in the Fraser River.

However, because of the increased number of longer ships, bunkering of ships longer than 275 metres is now permitted by Port Metro Vancouver (PMV) at English Bay anchorages (with recent rearrangements, there are now 19 anchorages). A tug must be in attendance whenever bunkering is carried out.

Eoin Finn, speaking for the Save our Sound (Howe Sound) group, has questioned whether the new arrangements are intended to allow the bunkering of LNG tankers, which cannot take on bunker fuel (heavy diesel fuel) at their Woodfibre berth.

Port Metro Vancouver says LNG tankers were not considered in the regulation change and Jennifer Siddon of Woodfibre LNG says that LNG tankers should not need to bunker at Vancouver because LNG tankers run mostly on methane (from LNG) and do not need to take on bunker fuel often; bunker fuel is employed mainly as a backup.

Vacation Rig Travel Incentives?

Car and boat trailer? Motorhome? Is the whole rig over 20ft-long? Travelling between Tsawwassen–Swartz Bay, or Tsawwassen–Duke Point, in either direction? Between June 17 and September 13, this summer?

BC Ferries wants to encourage you to travel after 4pm on Wednesdays or Saturdays, or before 9am on Sunday mornings. They are offering a two-thirds discount on the over-length charges. Usually, the fare would be \$6.35/ft for every foot over 20. The special discount fare is \$2/ft. The discount rate is for private passenger vehicles only; not buses or commercial travel.

For a rig that is 35ft long, the saving is \$65.25 each way. That’s an incentive.

CRTC Local Funding Formula Needed

Unifor is calling on the federal Cabinet to direct the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission to develop a new funding formula for local television programming, including ethnic programming. Unifor National president Jerry Dias said that Rogers’ recent job cuts, which laid off approximately 100 people and cut into local programming and news gathering, are a direct consequence of decisions by the CRTC that have failed to reflect the importance of local programming. The cuts also dropped the nationally broadcasted OMNI News in Italian, Mandarin and Cantonese, and cancelled ‘V-Mix’ and ‘Bollywood Boulevard’, two English language programs for South Asian audiences across Canada.

Unifor Media Director Howard Law said funding for local programming requires regulations to ensure a level playing field for all broadcasters. Unifor has recommended that vertically integrated broadcasters such as Rogers be required to move profits from the cable side of their operations to the broadcast side, something Unifor will recommend at upcoming hearings.

International Nurses Day

May 12 was International Nurses Day, a global initiative supporting efforts to improve patient care, stop funding cuts to health care, and raise nurses’ workplace and living standards, which are falling in many countries. The Canadian Federation

NEWS SHORTS, please turn to page 9

FORAGING from page 1

Every year, the Galiano Food Program sponsors a highly-successful Nettlefest. Participants were able to draw on a cache of recipes to prepare the just-foraged stinging nettles, including Nettlekopita, nettle and garlic bread, nettle and white bean soup and nettle crostini. Alison Colwell of the Galiano Food Program helped school kids and their mentors prepare the feast while giving them tips for future food-gathering and cooking from the land.

Children from both schools have also been learning to appreciate nature in sessions of hands-on habitat restoration, including some at the Learning Centre land, which was once an active sawmilling and logging site. In another visit to Penelakut Island, the Galiano Conservancy was able to restore to the Coast Salish Penelakut people a once-common plant, the ‘soapberry’ or *shepherdia canadensis*. The berries of the plant were traditionally crushed and whipped with water to produce an ice cream-like foam sweetened with salmonberries or thimbleberries.

Galiano’s Deblekha Guin, the AMES executive director and the parent of a 10-year-old student, marveled at the enthusiasm and focus with which children from both schools eagerly adopted iPads as a tool to look at nature.

Guin and Penelakut teacher Tina Walker said they were impressed at ‘the level of attention in that very active (grades six and seven) age group’ as the students creatively used iPads to record environmental and cultural facts. In a May 14 session, the kids were taught how to use an animation program to present information about healing plants.

‘It is ironic in a way that the lessons from the old storytelling techniques and plant walks are being told through this new technology,’ says Guin. She adds that she sees technology in this case ‘as a vehicle, not the destination’ but notes that the allure of iPads was key in helping the kids learn facts about plants that could help address their own health issues ranging from diabetes and asthma to the minor cuts and bruises that come with active play.

‘I was amazed by how the kids would follow (elder and educator) Karen Charlie around, listening carefully to what she said about each plant and its healing properties,’ says Guin. ‘Now when the kids are playing in the forest you hear ‘Medicine Woman’ as being among their cast of characters.’

It took a host of organizations to make the series of educational events a success, including the Galiano and Penelakut schools, Penelakut Health, the Galiano Conservancy, and the Galiano Food Program. ☞

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**MEETING**  
School District #64 (Gulf Islands). Regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees will be held on Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at the School Board Office. Meeting commencing at 1pm. Agenda: http://sd64.bc.ca/district/schoolboard meetings. Public Welcome!

NEXT DEADLINE: June 3



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## Readers' Letters

### ‘Parked’ LNG Tanker Risk

Dear Editor:  
I think Patrick Brown’s quote from SIGTTO (*Island Tides*, May 14, Woodfibre LNG), ‘in some circumstances... it may be impossible to devise a realistic contingency plan because of the nature of the problem’ is one of the finest pieces of bureaucratic euphemism I’ve ever read. Translated into plain English it would appear to mean ‘if this happens, bend over and kiss your ass goodbye’.

I recall reading a good many years ago that if a fully loaded LNG tanker were to explode in Vancouver Harbour it would devastate the city up to 41st Avenue. Yet at Woodfibre the proposal is to leave two such fully loaded tankers permanently moored within 2,500 metres of heavily populated areas!

It seems pretty clear that this Woodfibre LNG proposal is yet another scheme to further enrich a handful of people while putting untold numbers of others at mortal risk. It must not be allowed to happen.

David Bouvier, Gabriola Island

### Cap’n’Trade or Carbon Tax

Dear Editor:  
Thanks for the Elizabeth May article on the 2015 budget (actually a ‘big thick brochure for the next election’ which omits the ‘bottom line’ that allows people to compare spending, department by department, from year to year).

As Elizabeth points out, surely the most shocking omission in this budget is any reference to the climate crisis. As members of the transnational climate action group, Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL), we are doing our best to help fellow citizens see that acting to prevent runaway climate change could help save our economy as well.

We are excited that Quebec and Ontario have recently committed to pricing carbon. This positive step does, however, have a downside: the cap and trade pricing system they chose is not our best option. Canada’s largest trading partner, the US, has decided against this method. And the European Union’s cap and trade system, the largest yet attempted, has been riddled with problems.

A better approach is fee and dividend, which is supported by economists, like George Shultz, and climate scientists, like James Hansen. A price is placed on carbon-based fuels at the source and increased steadily each year, with all the money returned to Canadians in the form of equal dividend cheques.

Fee and dividend is similar to BC’s internationally-acclaimed carbon tax. The next step for BC is to harmonize our tax with a national system, making it more effective and providing greater economic benefits.

It’s time to call on MPs and candidates to implement carbon fee and dividend at a national level. We need a carbon price that is fair and transparent. Find out more at citizensclimatelobby.ca.

Jan Slakov, Dorothy Cutting and other BC CCL members

### Press Dinner Address

Dear Editor:  
It bothers me that the press have paid more attention to Elizabeth May’s off-the-cuff remark than the content of the political speeches she has made in Parliament. And that they will continue to remind her of that remark everytime she is interviewed along with the inevitable carefully clipped and out-of-context video footage.

What she said does not alter my commitment to her vision or the Green Party.

Elva Kellington, Salt Spring Island

*Eds Note: This episode is a good lesson to the media to go back to originl sources. A number of people have. On Youtube 85,000 people have viewed May’s entire nine-minute speech at the Parliamentary Press Gallery dinner—a ‘send-up’ venue.*

*We encourage readers to watch the entire speech on Youtube: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpOE59SinHE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpOE59SinHE).*

*In our opinion, MP May had nothing for which to apologize. It reminds us of this quote: ‘Keep your sense of humour, my friend; if you don’t have a sense of humour it just isn’t funny anymore.’ —Wavy Gravy*

### Boycott Recognized Change Mechanism

Dear Editor:  
There can be no greater testament to the effectiveness of ‘boycotts’ than the Harper government’s outrageous overreaction towards escalating boycotts of Israeli products.

By equating such peaceful sanctions with ‘hate crimes’ and ‘anti-Semetic violence’ however, and by threatening Canadians with legal action and imprisonment for promoting the embargo, our Prime Minister has merely added fuel to the fire.

How two-faced that Stephen Harper should profess to honour Nelson Mandela—a world renowned statesman who generously acknowledged the crucial role that sanctions played in overthrowing the apartheid regime in his nation—only to criminalize boycotts in Canada.

Informed citizens understand that consumer choices play an enormous role in shaping the kind of world we live in, and socially conscious individuals have successfully used that power for decades to protect seals, whales and endangered species, and to oppose child labour, blood diamonds, deforestation, nuclear testing and apartheid.

Ethical consumer choices, rooted in compassion and enlightened self-interest, are both a human right and a moral imperative, and any government that conflates promoting American oranges over Israeli oranges with ‘hate propaganda’, only succeeds in mocking itself.

Mike Ward, Duncan

### Shawnigan Lake Soil Dump

Dear Honourable Mary Polak,  
I am writing this letter today because you are dumping contaminated soil in our lake. I really don’t agree with you because firstly, it’s highly contaminated, and the containers don’t last forever. They last from 35 to 40 years and if they break it would take 49 days to hit the Shawnigan creek and then 3 days until Shawnigan lake.

Secondly, a lot of people come to Shawnigan for the lake, which repeatedly brings money to the community. It will also affect the next generation. Houses on lakes will be pointless without a clean lake to swim in, drink from, and shower with.

Furthermore, we are already ruining the environment, why ruin it even more? In North America there are many contaminated lakes. If you ruin this one, Canada will have one less healthy lake.

Lastly, think about what we would not be able to do if you dump the contaminated soil in our lake. 12,000 people will no longer be able to drink and shower with the lake. We will sadly also have to forget about swimming, along with other activities. In conclusion I think that this is an extremely unwise decision, and if you continue, we will continuously struggle to try and fix this.

Michael de Vries, Grade 7, Shawnigan Discovery Elementary

### Where’s The Dough?

Dear Editor:  
Another May long weekend to enjoy family and friends, camping and parties, gardening and puttering. The promise of summer is around the corner and even now we enjoy the long languishing light as we approach the longest day of the year. Ahhhh... that’s the life!

Not so for too many people around the globe. As we approach the Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2015, Canada can play a key role in ensuring that the Global Financing Facility, which will be housed at the World Bank, is both effective at leveraging funds and ensuring that those funds reach those who need them most. In the coming months, while Canada negotiates the structure and priorities of the GFF we must urge the Government to commit to accountability, equity, and innovative and sustainable financing.

Connie Lebeau, Victoria

## New ‘Climate Leadership Team’ Introduced

BC Premier Christy Clark introduced the team which will ‘provide the government with expert advice and recommendations’ concerning climate change and possible solutions.

The goal of the team, to be fulfilled by November of 2015, is to provide recommendations and advice on the following: how to ‘maintain BC’s climate leadership’; updates to the current Climate Action Plan and new programs and policies to meet BC’s greenhouse gas reduction targets while ‘maintaining strong economic growth and successfully implementing the BC Jobs Plan, including the liquefied natural gas strategy’; actions to achieve GHG reductions required across the industrial sector, transportation sector, and built environment; how to further the province’s relationships with First Nations while constructively finding climate solutions; and how to further the

province’s collaboration with local governments within the context of mutually-beneficial climate actions.

The first draft of the plan is to be produced by July 2015, with a 30-day period for public consultation. Recommendations will be presented by October with a second draft developed by December. The final plan is set to be released by March of 2016.

The Sierra Club BC welcomed the creation of the team, though they also said, ‘[This] announcement—to meet greenhouse gas reduction targets while implementing the liquefied natural gas strategy—puts the new Climate Leadership Team in the position of doing the impossible. The math is simple: BC cannot meet its climate targets while increasing the fracking and export of liquefied natural gas. Proceeding with three LNG plants would increase BC’s greenhouse gas emissions by 50%.’



# GE Free purchasing policy requested at Courtenay Council

Local non-profit GE Free Comox Valley is calling for Courtenay City Council to take an active role in building a healthier community by creating a GE Free Purchasing Policy.

‘This policy would require that any purchases the city makes, from trees, grass, or flowers to food for city events, be free of genetically engineered material, whenever possible,’ explained Arzeena Hamir, of Amara Farms in Merville.

She noted that the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities recently passed a pro-GE Free resolution, and the City of Duncan adopted a GE Free Purchasing policy that was used as a model last year.

Comox Valley Economic Development (CVED) strongly supports investments from the organic sector, and is touting their success. Most Organic Certification Standards prohibit the use of any genetically engineered or modified products. On their website, the CVED says ‘We are encouraging processors and producers of niche products such as... organics to locate here.’

Of the seven producers highlighted in the CVED Agrifoods Investment brochure, three are organic.

Susan Holvenstot, also a GE Free CV member, says there may ‘always be some controversy on the health and science sides of this issue, but a growing number of consumers and local businesses want healthier and GE Free products. The economics are clear. GE Free is good for the Comox Valley.’

The group began a petition promoting a GE Free Comox Valley which member Linda Cheusaid has collected over 700 signatures since its start in March.

Courtenay Council has identified a local purchasing policy as one of its strategic priorities and, according to the group, a GE Free Purchasing Policy fits hand in glove with the policy, and will be easy to implement.

GE Free Comox Valley, a small non-profit group, collaborates with local growers, farmers, chefs, food retailers, community groups, citizens and businesses, to educate about genetically engineered products. They can be contacted at 250-331-0681 or [gewatch@live.com](mailto:gewatch@live.com).

## First Nations’ LNG and pipeline agreements

### Steelhead LNG To Provide ‘Generation Fund’ To Huu-ay-aht First Nation

A ‘Generation Fund’ is being provided to the Huu-ay-aht First Nation by Steelhead LNG throughout the course of the feasibility stage of the proposed liquified-natural gas project located at Sarita Bay, 75km southwest of Port Alberni on Vancouver Island. The fund will support community health and wellness programs such as child protective services, a fresh food program, and the establishment of a new walking trail. As the LNG project progresses, the fund will grow, and will also provide funding for 12 red seal trades training seats to Huu-ay-aht citizens, to maximize potential employment at the LNG facility.

Huu-ay-aht citizens voted in favour of continuing to explore the proposed LNG project at the Huu-ay-aht First Nation People’s Assembly in November 2014. ‘Through Treaty, we now have the freedom as a Nation to decide how best to manage our lands and derive economic benefits from them,’ said Jeff Cook, Chief Councillor of the Huu-ay-aht First Nation.

### Lake Babine First Nation Signs Pipeline Benefits Agreement

The Lake Babine First Nation signed an agreement with the Province of British Columbia guaranteeing economic benefits from TransCanada’s proposed Prince Rupert Gas Transmission natural gas pipeline project. If the proposed project proceeds, Lake Babine Nation will receive approximately \$3.56 million in one-time payments from the province as milestones are reached: \$324,000 when the agreement takes effect, \$1.62 million as construction begins, and \$1.62 million when the pipeline is operating. Lake Babine Nation is also entitled to a share of \$10 million a year in ongoing benefits for First Nations along the pipeline route.

### \$38 Billion LNG Terminal Opposed By Lax Kw’alaams

The Lax Kw’alaams First Nation, in a series of three open voting meetings in Port Simpson, Prince Rupert, and Vancouver, almost unanimously rejected an offer of over one billion dollars (over 40 years) for their agreement to an LNG plant located on Lelu Island with a terminal reached by a long pipeline over salmon spawning habitat. The offer, from Pacific Northwest LNG, mostly owned by Malaysia’s state-owned Petronas, would have paid every member of the First Nation gradually increasing amounts. The provincial government was prepared to add to the offer by granting land around Prince Rupert valued at \$108 million.

The issue for the 3,373 members of the Lax Kw’alaams was their way of life, and the sea, rivers, and salmon on which it is based. The proposed site was at the mouth of the Skeena River. The Pacific Northwest LNG proposal included gas pipelines, a liquifaction plant, a one-kilometre suspension bridge over sensitive salmon habitat, and a ship loading facility. Total investment was anticipated to be \$38 billion.



Photo: Jaime MacLean

An intrepid treefrog reporter hangs out in a peony.

## Challenge for the world’s first genetically modified food animal approval

A federal court lawsuit seeking to overturn the approval of the world’s first genetically modified (GM) food animal will finally proceed to hearing after waiting nearly a year for the federal government to file the documents on which its decisions were based.

Ecojustice lawyers representing Living Oceans Society and the Ecology Action Centre have subsequently filed evidence in this case against the federal government’s approval of genetically modified salmon. This step means the case will now move forward.

The court case was initiated in late 2013 but was delayed because the federal government did not provide its documents until 2015. This evidence included a draft risk assessment conducted by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, which was heavily redacted before being handed over to the court. ‘This risk assessment process has been anything but transparent,’ said Karen Wristen, Executive Director of Living Oceans Society. ‘The government’s assessment of this GM organism was done in secret and even now that the matter is before the courts we are struggling to access information about that decision.’

Environment Canada approved the development and manufacture of GM salmon by AquaBounty in Prince Edward Island in late 2013. The technology splices the genetic material of Chinook salmon and ocean pout (an eel-like marine fish) with Atlantic salmon DNA, in order to create a species of salmon that purportedly grows more rapidly when farmed. Living Oceans Society and the Ecology Action Centre are concerned that this approval happened prematurely, without adequate assessment of the risks to wild salmon, and without public and aboriginal consultation.

‘Wild Atlantic salmon is an endangered species, which has high ecological, cultural and economic value for Canadians,’ said the Ecology Action Centre’s Mark Bultler. ‘For this reason, we believe that aboriginal leaders and Canadian citizens must be

consulted on development of a technology that could have irreversible impacts.’

A date for the hearing has not yet been set. If approved for human consumption in Canada and/or the US, GM salmon will be the first ever GM animal to be sold for human consumption.

The legal challenge maintains that the approval of the GM salmon is in contravention of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (CEPA).

The groups contend that in assessing the toxicity of this organism, the government failed to consider all legally required information, and also failed to notify the public of its decision to waive the requirement to consider information about the invasiveness of the organism as required by law. They hope that their court case will help stop the development of this technology in Canada until all legal requirements under CEPA have been met.

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Photo: Toby Snelgrove, SNELGROVEimages.com

## Cap 'n Trade

So Cap 'n Trade is with us now, a good or bad suggestion? We must admit that any step is in the right direction. These last few years of PC rule have done much to enhance The forces that made climate change a recent circumstance: But that's to be expected from a government whose reliance Is on oil and the economy, ignoring global science.

Now with letters to the newspapers amounting to a flood, Opinions from our citizens reflect a different mood; It seems to me, in Canada there's climate change reaction And governments in provinces must now assume the action. So hats off to the provinces for funding what's expected, To mitigate that climate change the feds have long neglected.

So what of this new Budget then—it's careful balancement Is not concerned in any way with the environment. But the environmental summit now is not too far away, Let's get our act together then—Canada should have its say. Though Stephen Harper could still pull a fast one— And not show up at all—as at the last one!

Barry Cotton

## MLA Report

Claire Trevena, MLA North Island

Two important pieces of legislation were recently discussed: debate took place on Bill 20, *Election Amendment Act* and Bill 11, *Education Statutes Amendment Act* entered committee stage.

Media focus on Bill 20 has largely been about privacy and clauses that expand political parties' ability to find out who voted, although obviously not for whom they voted. While this is of concern, we have proposed an amendment that should tighten that up and protect individuals from prying.

But I believe what is of greater concern is that the bill allows no limit on pre-election spending. This is very dangerous to our democracy, allowing big spenders to buy as much air time as they want and pushing those who have little money literally out of the picture. This proposed *Act* would allow those parties that have money to, in effect, try to buy the election through advertising. I also raised concerns about the BCLiberal's decision not to extend voter registration to 16 and 17-year-olds, even though this was the Chief Electoral Officer's top priority in his report which sparked the bill.

The Legislature also discussed the education bill for several days because of our concern that it will put more control of education into the hands of the Minister, restricting the autonomy of locally elected schoolboards. We voted against the bill. This was the same week that we asked questions about the increasing number of schoolboards that simply cannot afford to run free school buses because of cuts in funding.

Another critical part of our social infrastructure—our public healthcare—was under scrutiny as well as we went through the budget estimates of the Ministry of Health. I was able to ask a couple of questions. I wanted to know whether, when our new hospital in Campbell River opens, there will be enough staff to keep the operating theatres and other facilities operating to their full capability.

This is of particular concern since Island Health has put out a request for proposals from private practices to provide day surgeries for the public system. I also asked about the commitment to public health—the recommendation is that 6% of the budget be spent on public health but the amount committed is less than half that.

I have reintroduced the *Provincial Shipbuilding Act* which I hope the government will support. The bill would give preference to BC shipyards to build, refit and maintain ferries and other vessels used for public transit and for public service (such as police boats). We built many ferries in BC in the past and, if shipyards were able to work in consortiums, we could do so again. Instead we have seen and continue to see millions of dollars in construction jobs be spent in Europe.

I also spent some time in the estimates debate with the Minister of Justice, trying to unravel a problem faced by a select—and unfortunate—few. If you happen to have a similar name and/or birthdate as a convicted sex offender you are likely to need a criminal record check to verify that you are who you say you are. If you work with children or vulnerable people, you have to pay to get your fingerprints checked. This seems to discriminate in two ways—firstly the reverse onus in that you have to prove you are not someone else (which is counter to 'innocent until proven guilty') and secondly the fact that you have to pay for it. The Minister seems to see no problem with this and, in a (IMO) rather crass approach, argued that her government was making life easier for people. ☹

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## New Gulf Islands' Campground

The May Long Weekend saw the opening of a new walk-in or paddle-in camping spot in Gulf Islands National Park Reserve. Idyllic Shingle Bay Beach was once a homestead, so several of the ten campsites are under fruit trees.

The site got an early inauguration on May 13, when the Pender's Spring Leaves homeschooling program came for a camp-over.

Colourful tents off-set the intense green of the fruit trees and grass, while eager youngsters, watched by parents, scampered over the beach.



## Galiano Fishing Derby

On May 2, fishers from around the Salish Sea converged on the newly renovated Montague Harbour Marina for the 2015 King Fisher Salmon Classic fishing derby. Around ninety fishers on fifty boats fished for chinook salmon as part of the charity fundraising derby for the Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF), hosted by Ryan McQuillan and Kris Krüg of Galiano's King Fisher Apparel (who brought up the derby rear with the 2nd smallest fish recorded).

Sunshine, whales, great BBQ, bonfires and winter chinook salmon weighing in the mid-high teens—what more could a group of fisherpeople want? Big prize money, a bunch of money raised for charity and a fun, laid-back island vibe? The derby had all that stuff too, and despite fishers having to hide out from strong winds on the water, it was near-perfect weather.

Winners (pictured here) were: Mark (Skip) S, 17.4 lbs, \$2000; Greg Ettles, 16.6 lbs, \$500;



Cole Morton 16.1 lbs, \$250. The derby also made a \$2,750 donation to the PSF for salmon conservation projects around the Salish Sea.

Friday and Saturday nights featured yummy BBQs by chef, and new Galiano Island resident, Graham Barber. For information on the 2015 Fall Fishing Derby or the 2016 King Fisher Galiano Island Salmon Classic, follow King Fisher Apparel on at [www.facebook.com/KingFisherApparel](http://www.facebook.com/KingFisherApparel).

## Rare Forest on Lasqueti Island Permanently Protected

The mature coastal Douglas-fir forest on the John Osland Nature Reserve on Lasqueti Island is now officially protected by the Islands Trust Fund and its partners, the Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy (LINC) and the Nanaimo & Area Land Trust (NALT). The nature reserve is named after John Osland, a steward of his Lasqueti Island property for over 60 years. When there was a timber boom in the 1950s, he protected his property from logging, wanting future generations to experience the pleasure and peace he felt walking through his forest.

In 2010 Osland passed away and donated his property to the Islands Trust Fund as a nature reserve. The new covenant on the nature reserve provides an extra layer of protection for Osland's land and legacy.

'Even though the land is permanently protected as a nature reserve, we often bring on local groups as covenant holders,' said Jennifer Eliason, Manager of the Islands Trust Fund. 'Our partnership with LINC and NALT fosters community stewardship.'

The 63.5 hectare John Osland Nature Reserve protects not only a mature forest of Douglas-fir, cedar and pine trees, but also a thriving re-established wetland and pond that provides habitat for birds and amphibians. The nature reserve is an important wildlife corridor, acting as a bridge between undeveloped Crown land to the south and the nearby protected areas of Mount Trematon Nature Reserve and the Lasqueti Island Ecological Reserve.

## Voting System Reform - Jordan Ellis

On May 6, Fair Vote Canada—Nanaimo, premiered their 'Community Forum for Voting Change'. Wendy Bergerud, and Michael Wheatley of FVC—Victoria were the main presenters.

Wendy, a member of BC Citizens Assembly for Electoral Reform in 2003–2005 gave an expert overview of the need for electoral system change and the positive outcomes that would result if instituted and a brief analysis of the Alberta election.

Michael, with his similar background, presented a mock vote demonstrating the fairer distribution of votes for a proportional representation system versus the present 'winner take all', in which, typically, over 50% of votes are wasted.

Two Nanaimo—Ladysmith electoral district candidates, Paul Manly (Green) and Sheila Malcolmson (NDP) also spoke and participated in the Q&A panel. Tim Tessier (Liberal) was absent due to a family emergency. Mark McDonald (Conservative) declined to attend.

The enthusiastic audience responded with comments like: 'Excellent, much needed information,' 'I now understand better why our governments treat us so disdainfully,' and 'Many other countries have successful proportional representation governments. Canada needs to get into the 21st century.'

Fair Vote Canada is a multi-partisan, non-profit, national grassroots organization dedicated to promoting a fairer, more responsible and more accountable electoral system. More at [FairVoteCanada.ca](http://FairVoteCanada.ca).

## Oceans Need More Than A Day

World Oceans Week takes place from June 1 to 8, with the last day of the week holding the title of World Oceans Day. The day was declared in 2010 by the United Nations at the urging of

Canada. The goal is to educate people about the importance of protecting our waterways and watersheds and to encourage everyone to take action to preserve and protect these habitats.

Events are taking place across the world. Nearby locations include Mayne and Denman Islands, Tofino, Victoria, and Vancouver. To learn more, visit [www.WorldOceansDay.ca](http://www.WorldOceansDay.ca).

## Hornby Festival

Tickets go on sale on June 1 for this year's Hornby Festival, which takes place between July 30 and August 8. There will be a series of concerts in musical genres ranging from classical, jazz, world and traditional. Venues are Hornby Hall and, for outside concerts, Olsen Farm. To learn more, go to [www.hornbyfestival.bc.ca](http://www.hornbyfestival.bc.ca).

## Mother's Day Plant Sale - James Evans

The Silver Maynes Society for the Eternally Young on Mayne Island held its annual Mother's Day weekend Plant Sale on May 9, on the Agricultural Fairgrounds at Miners Bay. The plants were donated for the most part from Mayne Island gardens and were familiar with local growing conditions. Inside the century-old Agricultural Hall, the Silver Maynes held a sale of baked goods from Mayne Island kitchens, along with a Mother's Day Tea. Guests could have tea or coffee served to them in bone-china cups with a plate of pastries. T-shirts sponsored by the Silver Maynes, that proclaimed love for Mayne Island, were also on sale. The event is an important fundraiser for the Silver Maynes and they have become a traditional feature of Mother's Day weekend.



## Islands Trust Stewardship Awards Nominees

Eight individuals and nine groups have been nominated for the Islands Trust Community Stewardship Awards:

**Groups nominated are:**

**Denman Opposes Coal** has been nominated for advocating against the Raven Coal Mine Project;

**Gabriola Land and Trails Trust** for protecting lands and trails for ten years;

**Gabriola Rescue of Wildlife Society** for protecting wildlife and promoting awareness of wildlife habitat for 23 years;

**Island Futures Society**, for the Gabriola Environmentally Responsible Trans-Isle Express (GERTIE), the volunteer-run bus service;

**Keats Island Fire Equipment Group**, for building community capacity in emergency response;

**Saturna Island Marine Research and Education Society**, for marine research and education;

**Protect Grace Islet Group**, Salt Spring Island, for advocating for the protection of cultural heritage;

**Watercliff Farm, Gabriola Island**, for promoting sustainable agriculture; and

**Mayne Island Agricultural Society**, for promoting agriculture and the fall fair for 53 years.

**Individuals nominated are:**

Lasqueti's **Andrew Fall** for facilitating community engagement; Hornby's **Grant Scott** for helping rebuild the purple martin population; Gabriola's **Leigh Ann Milman** for leading land protection for 20 years; Salt Spring's **Marguerite Lee** for supporting farming for 40 years; Lasqueti's **Richard Bauer** for volunteering for 40-years; Gabriola's **Susan Yates** for contributing to literary arts and environmental stewardship for 30 years; Mayne's **Michael Dunn** for fostering ecological and community sustainability for 20 years; and North Pender's **Jan Kirkby** for supporting ecosystem conservation for 25 years.

## SSI Community Bat Program - Peter Ommundsen

The Salt Spring Community Bat Program is part of a province-wide initiative to monitor bat



populations, encourage bat stewardship, and provide advice on bat-friendly building exclusion.

If you have bats roosting on your Salt Spring property, such as in an attic, barn, outbuilding, or tree, or if you know other locations of bat roosts, or find a dead bat, please contact the Salt Spring Island Conservancy (250-538-0318, [info@saltspringconservancy.ca](mailto:info@saltspringconservancy.ca)). This will enable collection of a DNA sample from bat droppings to help conserve bat populations on the island.

The bat program is funded by the Habitat Protection Trust Foundation and supported by the BC Conservation Foundation. ☺


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### Greenhouse Gardening Starts Here!

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# Doing the Unlikely - Peter Nix

On my carbon-busting tour of Europe, I attended Catholic mass in the ‘miracle’ village of Guadalupe, Spain, where a black Virgin Mary helped win a battle. As a non-Spanish speaking atheist, my attendance was unlikely... perhaps a miracle?

And as I sat in that medieval church, the congregation sings, in Spanish, ‘blowing in the wind’ by Bob Dylan who was famous for his ‘times-they-are-a-changing’ song. Woah, that seemed unlikely.

To a science guy, miracles are just statistically unlikely events—but, certain to happen. As a scientist, I know we need unlikely events, and soon, to achieve a sustainable future because greenhouse gas concentrations and catastrophic storms are increasing.

Whatever you call it, we need a series of renewable energy events before ecological systems, and economies, collapse.

That’s why my wife and I took a cargo freighter to Antwerp, Belgium, instead of flying. We are low-carbon travellers. But arriving at Antwerp harbour, we saw only a few small wind turbines pushing up hesitantly between mammoth oil tanks, like frail flowers.

My own 192 solar panel installation on Vancouver Island—the biggest residential energy ‘utility’ in BC—seems small and fragile, like those turbines, compared with the enormous fossil fuel economy.

But wait. Arriving in Spain—yes, by low-carbon bus—I see massive solar installations of 200,000 panels. European countries are becoming carbon neutral, which just a few years ago would have been considered unlikely.

Unlikely business changes are also happening. Royal Dutch Shell CEO Ben van Beurden has linked climate change with morality: ‘how to balance one’s moral obligation, energy access for all... versus climate change.’ And Shell and BP oil companies have urged their own investors to assess the risk of climate change.

Politically, the NDP win in Alberta shows that the unlikely is possible. So in the coming federal election, support politicians that will act on global warming.

The International Monetary Fund Director says ‘the climate threat... is perilously close to a climate change tipping point’. Seems to me that you and I need to do what we previously thought ‘unlikely’.

Support a sustainable economy. Invest in renewable energy. Join the campaign to convince investors to sell fossil fuel stocks—the fastest growing divestment campaign in history. Buy an electric car—BC has \$5,000 rebates—then use renewable energy to replace gasoline.

As I travel, using as little gas as possible, I see a Europe full

of clashes between old and new civilizations: bronze versus iron ages; Visigoths versus Romans; Pagans versus Christians; and now, short-term oil profits versus a sustainable future for our kids.

Catholic bishops agree that the struggle to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy is a clash of civilizations. Not known for their revolutionary zeal, this church calls for ‘an end to the fossil fuel era’.

And yes, the church sings that change is ‘blowing in the wind’. But many of us sit on the sidelines.

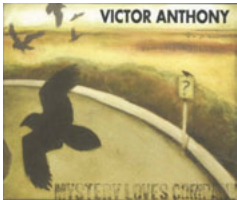
So let’s not quibble about the difference between miracles and statistics. Let’s just do... the unlikely. ☞



Carbon-buster Peter Nix builds his solar farm in North Cowichan

## Music Review by Patrick Brown

### Mystery Loves Company



Victor Anthony’s songs are country style, gentle and simple. His new CD is classical—not like Mozart or Beethoven—but classical in the sense that it is true to its roots, and easy to listen to. Each song comes with a tune and a story; words you can understand.

Victor does most of the singing; his vocal style celebrates mid-America. But if you listen, you’ll find traditional themes of travel, love, and tragedy, and simple messages with a tinge of sadness.

The instrumentation sounds simple, but it’s not. Therein lies the art, aided and abetted by half a dozen of Victor’s friends, nearly all of whom live on Gabriola Island.

Victor didn’t write all the songs, either. But the whole recording comes from a place before music got complicated.

Actually, not so mysterious; I wanted to sing along—I only wish that the words to the songs had been included in the package. They’ll be around a while. ☞

**Did you appreciate this article? Help Island Tides pay for publishing it! Mail or phone in your \$30 annual subscription today: 250-216-2267. Don't delay—be part of the Island Tides team. Thank You!**

## \$15 minimum wage will help families, reduce inequality; no evidence that sky will fall, says report

In the wake of the BC government’s low 20% increase to the minimum wage, a new report suggests that such small changes fail to adequately reduce poverty and inequality, and are unnecessarily timid.

David Green, a professor and former chair of the Vancouver School of Economics at UBC and an International Fellow at the Institute for Fiscal Studies in London, conducted a thorough review of academic research on the economic impacts of minimum wages, and concluded that bold increases to the minimum wage make good economic sense.

‘My goal was to assess what would actually happen if we went ahead and raised the wage to \$15,’ says Green. ‘In a nutshell, workers and their families would benefit a great deal, and any claims that we’d see massive job losses in low-wage sectors of the economy are just not credible.’

### Adults And Teenagers

The large job loss impacts predicted by some opponents of minimum wages misrepresent the existing economic research. In fact, estimates showing job loss effects of minimum wage increases apply only to teenagers. Estimated effects for young adult and adult workers are effectively zero.

For example, in 2011, when the minimum wage increased from \$8 to \$10.25 over a year, the Fraser Institute claimed the increase would result in a staggering loss of over 52,000 jobs. In reality, employment for 15-

24-year olds declined by 1.6%, one tenth of the Fraser Institute’s projections. Their projections were based on old estimates and erroneously applied estimates for teenagers to young adults.

An increase to \$15 would likely result in a modest decline in the employment rate. However, the likely impact is less than a 1% reduction in the overall provincial employment rate. Overall, those making less than \$15 would still benefit from a substantial increase in their total wages.

Focusing on teenage workers plays up an inaccurate stereotype about who earns very low wages in BC and leads to exaggerated claims about job losses. Only 2% of those currently making between \$10.25 and \$12 are teenagers, and only 5% of those making between \$12 and \$15 are teenagers.

The evidence for Canada suggests that higher minimum wages lead to lower turnover rates, meaning workers are more likely to have higher-paying and more stable jobs. This may be because a higher minimum wage reduces the incentive for firms to operate on a low-wage, high-turnover model.

At the current minimum wage, a full-time worker remains below the poverty line. The minimum wage can be an important tool for reducing poverty and income inequality—so long as it is high enough to lift workers out of poverty.

‘The Case for Increasing the Minimum Wage: What does the academic literature tell us?’ is published by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives’ BC Office. See more at: [www.policyalternatives.ca](http://www.policyalternatives.ca). ☞

## BC Ferries naming contest

BC Ferries is running a contest to name its three new Intermediate Class ferries which will service Route 9 Tsawwassen–Southern Gulf Islands, and Route 17 Comox–Powell River. The names will have two-parts; one for the class of vessel—the same for all three vessels—and a descriptive name for each of the three ferries.

An example of this protocol is: first part of the name ‘Coastal’ and second descriptive part of the name: ‘Celebration’, ‘Inspiration’ and ‘Renaissance.’

Name submissions must:

- reflect BC Ferries and the coastal communities it serves,
- appeal to both residents and visitors,
- be gender neutral,
- not be geographically specific or reference an individual or event,
- not contain symbols or accent marks, and
- not contain words currently used within a BC Ferries vessel name or vessel class name (such as Queen, Spirit, Island)

To enter name ideas into the contest, visit [bcferries.com](http://bcferries.com). The contest is open from May 19 to June 9 and customers have a chance to win over \$500 in ferry travel if the name they enter is chosen. ☞

**Look at the amount of news! Help us keep doing this; readers’ \$30 annual voluntary subscriptions make all the difference! Have you sent in yours?**



### Help us name our new ferries.

We're proud to be introducing three new Intermediate Class Ferries to our fleet. They will become part of our shared culture and history, serving British Columbians and visitors for decades to come.

Celebrate the beauty of coastal British Columbia and our marine heritage by submitting your best vessel names.

You could win over \$500 in ferry travel. Contest ends June 9.

To enter, visit [bcferries.com](http://bcferries.com).





Last week I went to Salt Spring Island to visit a friend on the school boat. I've been missing a whole line of action out there on the water. Though after graduating from Saturna Elementary, all three of our daughters rode the school boat day-in-day-out, I haven't checked in for years with this whole busy flow of kids and adults.

Gulf Islands Water Taxi's *Graduate* pulls into Saturna dock at 7:27am Monday to Thursday, at about the same time the mailboat arrives to deliver Saturna's newspapers and mail into the hands of Canada Post contractor Clint Davidson—who used to ride the school watertaxi himself.

New deckhand, Jason Funk, steps off the back of the boat, line in hand. He lets off the departing passengers and takes a new bunch on. Twenty kids from Salt Spring get off with three teachers who were heading to the Saturna Ecological Education Centre for the day.

Boarding the boat were our two middleschool kids going to Pender school, our two highschool teens going to Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) in Ganges on Salt Spring Island, Saturna School Trustee Susanne Middleditch also going to Ganges for a schoolboard meeting—and me, a local on a \$25 inter-island trip opportunity to Salt Spring for friendship and commerce. Students get first priority on the boats, teachers and school district officials are next, and then the public.

As he pushes off the wharf, Jason signals the all-clear to captain Alfred Reynolds. He leaps back on and the boat is away, slowly passed the ferry landing and government wharf, the two six-cylinder Volvo diesel engines picking up speed to 16 knots going down Navy Channel. The water was splendid and the boat just shot along.

At Port Washington on Pender Island, our middle-school kids got off and a cascade of about 40 GISS students rolled on and some Penderers going to Salt Spring Middle School. The boat was packed.

Alfred reminded me that, in September 1980, Bob George and Jack Hughes started trading the yearly School Board N°64 contract back and forth between their companies. By the end of the '80s the board was awarding three-year contracts and Jack Hughes of Gulf Islands Water Taxi (GIWT), the present owner, ended up with the longterm contract that the company has held ever since.

The *Graduate* holds 50 passengers and the *Scholarship* 48. The contract is based on running time of each boat with a fuel price clause. In the morning the *Graduate* and the *Scholarship* leave Ganges Harbour on Salt Spring at about 6:30am. The *Scholarship* heads to Sturdies Bay on Galiano, stopping at Miner's Bay on Mayne Island for highschool and middle-school kids. In the afternoon the boats start the trip back, leaving Ganges at 4:30pm.

Gulf Islands Water Taxi also runs the *Ashley* out of Canoe Cove for the ambulance service for the Gulf Islands. They do

general water taxi work, contract work for the Pilotage Authority from Plumper Sound to Cowichan Bay running BC pilots out to the freighters, mostly with the *Ganges Hawk*. GIWT has also contracted minor foot-passenger ferry routes when the Thetis Island–Penelakut–Chemainus ferry is down or when the 2003 dock fire on Saturna destroyed the government wharf next to the ferry dock.

The kids were so quiet compared to the good old days, I remarked to Alfred. About 2/3rds were plugged-in and a third were talking and laughing. The kids have their own rules about who gets to sit where—social pecking orders—and Captain Alfred has his. The deal is you can eat and drink but your garbage has to hit the trash can or the privilege can be withdrawn. Generally, stay seated. Rowdy behaviour is not tolerated. Anything that causes Alfred to turn his head back and look better turn out well—quickly. Common courtesy and manners upon pain of death or worse, says Alfred. Alfred notes that the kids are better behaved than in the '80s. They're all addicted to their devices! Pretty good kids, is his observation.

Captain Alfred Reynolds has lived his entire working life upon the sea. He has the qualifications to run a 350-ton boat with his master's ticket. The *Graduate* is only about 40-tons. He must renew his seafarer's licence every five years with proof of a certain amount of sea-time and his medical licence every two years.

Alfred has worked for Gulf Islands Water Taxi from 1980 to 1993, made guest appearances in the intervening time, and was back full time in September 2013.

As a child from North Vancouver, Alfred was first in the Gulf Islands in the early 1950s on the *Lady Rose* coming to visit his Aunt and Uncle on Pender Island. He started out as deckhand on a fishing boat out of Vancouver in 1958, missing the first month of school as the salmon were running so well up the Fraser River. He discovered he liked the water and has been on it ever since. He claims to have had a great fear of getting into some office building and staying there the whole day—he never wanted to be stationary.


His favourite job was whale-watching out of Tofino and Uclulet on the *Lady Selkirk*. 'You never knew what the weather would be, what you would find that was lively and you got to meet interesting people. A good alternative to retirement,' reports Alfred.

Deckhand Jason Funk graduated from GISS and went to Victoria to live and was unhappy working dead-end jobs at the mall selling stuff. His dad and grandpa both worked on boats. At 19, he returned to Salt Spring and his father suggested he get on with Gulf Islands Water Taxi and he lucked out. He attended courses at Western Maritime Institute on Marine Emergency and is now getting his qualifications for charts and navigation, radio, first aid and survival craft. He is 'totally enjoying the job!' He said that it is fascinating out on the water between islands. 'I thought I would be bored after the first 50 runs!'

The return trip from Salt Spring is packed again and we follow the morning route in reverse. At Saturna, Alfred picks up our weekly Salt Spring doctor, Manya Sadowski, and those twenty Salt Spring middle-school students heading for homeport.

We jump off, saying our goodbyes, grateful for the friendliness of Alfred and Jason and conscious of the dedication to our safety that extends to the well-kept boat. The *Graduate* slides away—I am almost home and I had a great day, successfully travelling as a foot passenger inter-Islands.

See ad, this page, for details of a great many inter-island trips in the Tour des Isles—go visit your neighbours. ☞

 Did you appreciate this article? Help *Island Tides* pay for publishing it! Mail or phone in your \$30 annual subscription today: 250-216-2267. Don't delay—be part of the *Island Tides* team. Thank You!

## June Islands Trust Council

The Islands Trust Council will hold its next quarterly business meeting June 23-25 on Galiano Island. On Wednesday, June 24, the public is invited to ask questions and make suggestions about the work of the Islands Trust Council starting at 1:30pm. The agenda package for the meeting will be posted on the Islands Trust website by June 15.

A highlight of Trust Council will be a decision on recipients of this year's Community Stewardship Awards. (See 'Round The Islands', page 7, to read about nominees and their work.)

In a one-hour session, trustees will hear an update from Michael Corrigan, President and Chief Executive Officer of BC Ferries and Deborah Marshall, Director of Media Relations. Trustees will also have an opportunity to ask questions.

Trustees will meet with San Juan County Council members to discuss common issues and interests that affect islands in the Salish Sea.

On Tuesday, trustees will participate in a facilitated session, as part of their continuing work to develop a Strategic Plan for the 2014-2018 term.

Persons or organizations wishing to reserve time to make a formal delegation to the Islands Trust Council must receive an appointment through the Executive Committee. Send the topic, speaker's name and contact information to Jas Chonk (jchonk@islandstrust.bc.ca) by Wednesday, June 3. ☞

### NEWS SHORTS from page 3

of Nurses Unions (CFNU), representing close to 200,000 nurses, took part in the day of action by organizing events and rallies. In Victoria, hundreds of nurses rallied in front of the legislature to call for more nurses and safer patient care.

#### Petition to Release 'World's Loneliest Orca'

A petition has been launched by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to release Lolita, an orca in captivity at the Miami Seaquarium, back to the ocean. The group, along with Animal Legal Defense Fund, Orca Network, and two concerned individuals, is also launching a lawsuit against the aquarium. Their goal is to have Lolita released to a 'sea pen' in her native waters for rehabilitation, so that she can be as near to her family pod as possible and back in a natural setting. Lolita has been at the Miami Seaquarium in North America's smallest orca tank for almost fifty years and has not seen another orca in thirty-five years.

For more information, go to [www.peta.org/action/action-alerts/endangered-species-act-orca-lolita/](http://www.peta.org/action/action-alerts/endangered-species-act-orca-lolita/).


#### Burnaby Tank Farm Could Pose Serious Fire Hazard

The future potential fire hazard posed by Kinder Morgan's tank farm expansion proposal could expose the environment and the public to 'serious risk'. This is the major conclusion of a report authored by Burnaby's Deputy Fire Chief, Chris Bowcock. The tank farm is situated on the south slope of Burnaby Mountain, surrounded by trees and above extensive residential development.


As part of the Trans Mountain Expansion Project, Kinder Morgan intends to double the capacity of the tank farm. One tank will be replaced and 14 new tanks added, making a total of 26. The capacity would then be approximately 5.6 million barrels of crude oil, mainly diluted bitumen.

Bowcock's report discusses numerous possible scenarios, including earthquakes, leaks of flammable crude or diluent, tank explosions, and oil fires extending to the forests of Burnaby Mountain (Simon Fraser University is at the top).

Kinder Morgan says the tank farm has been operating safely for 60 years. The NEB's terms of reference limit the hearings to consideration of a fire in the new tanks, not the old ones. ☞

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**Galiano Island Local Trust Committee**

**Notice of Special Meeting**

The Galiano Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) will hold an **Open House & Community Information Meeting (CIM)** regarding the Cottage Review Project and Secondary Suites Project. The Open House will allow community members to drop-in and review presented material and to speak directly with staff and the Galiano Island local trustees. The CIM will include a presentation by Islands Trust staff and a formal question and answer session.

**Date: Saturday, June 13, 2015**

**Time: 12:30 p.m. - Open House  
1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - CIM**

**Place: 992 Burrill Road, Lions Hall**

**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Visit the Projects and Initiatives page on the Galiano website for more info:

[www.islandstrust.bc.ca/galiano](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/galiano)

Email: [information@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:information@islandstrust.bc.ca) Telephone: 250-405-5151

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Capital Regional District

CRD

Notice of Assent Voting Opportunity

Magic Lake Estates Wastewater Referendum

Take notice that below is a synopsis of proposed Bylaw No. 4008 for which qualified Resident Electors and Non-Resident Property Electors of the Magic Lake Estates Sewage Local Service Area located on North Pender Island within the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area will be asked to vote on the following question on **Saturday, June 27, 2015**: *Are you in favour of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board adopting Bylaw No. 4008, “Magic Lake Estates Wastewater System Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1, 2015” authorizing the Capital Regional District to borrow an amount up to but not to exceed SIX MILLION FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$6,050,000) for the purpose of administering, planning, designing, acquiring and constructing the capital renewal and upgrade of the Magic Lake Estates Wastewater System. YES or NO?*

**Synopsis of Bylaw No. 4008**

The intent of Bylaw No. 4008, Magic Lake Estates Wastewater System Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1, 2015, is to authorize the Capital Regional District to borrow an amount up to but not to exceed \$6,050,000, subject to receiving funding from other sources, for the purpose of funding the capital renewal and upgrade of the Magic Lake Estates wastewater system, which will involve the design and construction of facilities for the collection, conveyance, treatment and disposal of wastewater, as well as other related works, facilities, real property and equipment purchases, and will include planning, studies, project administration and communications, and staff time. The Magic Lake Estates sewage local service area is located on North Pender Island, in the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area of the Capital Regional District.

The above synopsis is not an interpretation of Bylaw No. 4008. A copy of the complete bylaw and this notice may be viewed from May 28, 2015 to June 27, 2015, Monday to Friday, at:

- CRD Building Inspection, 4605 Bedwell Harbour Road, Pender Island, BC, 8:30 am-noon
- CRD Headquarters, 625 Fisgard Street, 1st Floor Foyer, Victoria, BC, 8:30 am-4:30 pm

The bylaw and other information may also be viewed on the website: [www.crd.bc.ca/magiclake-vote](http://www.crd.bc.ca/magiclake-vote)

**Taxation Impact**

The 20-year loan authorization period may ultimately result in an additional estimated parcel tax of \$761, based on borrowing up to \$6,050,000 for the project. This rate is for illustrative purposes only and the actual parcel tax will be based on the amount borrowed and the interest rate at time of borrowing. The interest rate may also change each time the loan is refinanced (approximately every 10 years).

**Voting Opportunities**

The **General Voting Day** voting place will be open from **8:00 am to 8:00 pm on Saturday, June 27, 2015** at:

- St. Peter’s Church, Meeting Room, 4703 Canal Road, Pender Island, BC

**Advance Voting Opportunities** will be available from **8:00 am to 8:00 pm on Wednesday, June 17, 2015 and Wednesday, June 24, 2015** at:

- St. Peter’s Church, Meeting Room, 4703 Canal Road, Pender Island, BC

**Mail Ballot Voting** is available to qualified Resident Electors or Non-Resident Property Electors who:

- have a physical disability, illness or injury that affects their ability to vote at another voting opportunity, or
- expect to be absent from the regional district on general voting day (Saturday, June 27, 2015) and at the times of all advance voting opportunities (Wednesday, June 17 and June 24, 2015).

**To Register To Vote By Mail**, eligible electors who meet the criteria must submit a completed mail ballot application form in advance of general voting day, June 27, 2015. Application forms are available on the CRD website noted above. Completed application forms may be submitted via email, mail, in person or via fax at the following contact information listed below:  
Capital Regional District, Legislative & Information Services  
5th floor, 625 Fisgard Street, PO Box 1000, Victoria, BC, V8W 2S6  
Phone: 250.360.3642, Toll free: 1.800.663.4425 local 3642, Fax: 250.360.3130, Email: [legserv@crd.bc.ca](mailto:legserv@crd.bc.ca)

If you are not on the Provincial Resident Elector List or the CRD Non-Resident Property List of Electors, you may register at the time of filling in your ballot. If you wish to confirm that your name is on the List of Electors, please call the number listed above.

After receiving a mail ballot application, the CRD will send out the applicable mail ballot package commencing on or about May 28, 2015. If we receive your application at a date that does not permit mailing, you should arrange to pick up a package from the CRD, Legislative & Information Services, at the address listed above. To be counted for the assent voting, your mail ballot must be received by the Chief Election Officer no later than 8 pm on Saturday, June 27, 2015 at the CRD address listed above. It is the obligation of the person applying to vote by mail ballot to ensure that the mail ballot is received by the Chief Election Officer within this time limit.

**Elector Qualifications**

**Resident Elector** - You are entitled to vote as a Resident Elector if you are 18 years or older on voting day (June 27, 2015), are a Canadian Citizen, have resided in British Columbia for the past six months and within the boundaries of the Magic Lake Estates sewage local service area for the past 30 days. If registering on voting day, you must provide two documents proving identity and residency (one must have a signature). Please note the CRD is using the Provincial Voters List for Resident Electors.

**Non-Resident Property Elector** - If you are 18 years or older on voting day (June 27, 2015), are a Canadian Citizen, have resided in British Columbia for the past six months, have owned and held registered title to property within the boundaries of the Magic Lake Estates sewage local service area for the past 30 days, and do not qualify as a Resident Elector, you may vote as a Non-Resident Property Elector provided that you:

a) have registered on or before May 29, 2015, or

b) apply at the time of voting. The following information is required at the time of application:

- a recent title search, state of title certificate, or property tax notice, showing the names of all of the registered owners,
- 2 pieces of identification proving identity and residency (one must have a signature), and
- in the case of more than one owner of the property, a completed consent form signed by the majority of the owners designating you as the person entitled to vote for the property (original signatures only; facsimiles of signatures not acceptable). A copy of the consent form may be downloaded from: [www.crd.bc.ca/magiclake-vote](http://www.crd.bc.ca/magiclake-vote)

The following are acceptable classes of documents for proof of identity:

- BC driver’s licence
- BC ID card issued by the Motor Vehicle Branch
- BC CareCard or Gold CareCard
- Request for Continued Assistance form SDES8
- Social Insurance Card (Canada)
- Citizenship Card (Canada)
- Real property tax notice (municipal or rural)
- Credit card or debit card issued by a savings institution
- Utility bill

**Please Note:**

1. Only one Non-Resident Property Elector may vote per property, regardless of how many owners there may be. Further, you may vote for only one property, no matter how many properties you own within the service area.
2. You may register on voting day if you meet the qualifications set out above. If you are already registered as a Non-Resident Property Elector, (ie. your name appears on the List of Registered Electors annotated with a “P”), and provided that you still meet all of the requirements of the Local Government Act in order to be registered under this category, you are not required to re-register in order to vote.
3. No corporation is entitled to be registered as an elector or have a representative registered as an elector, and no corporation is entitled to vote. Individuals who are on title with corporations are not entitled to register or vote. Individuals who own an undivided interest in land on which the balance is held by a corporation are not entitled to vote.

For questions regarding voting and voter registration call the Capital Regional District at 250.360.3642 or Toll Free 1.800.663.4425 local 3642, or Tom Moore at 250.472.0059.

Dated this 28th day of May, 2015  
Thomas F. Moore  
Chief Election Officer

*This notice is being published in this newspaper as a convenience only and not in accordance with the legal requirements pursuant to the Local Government Act.*

www.islandtides.com





## The Magic of Mushrooms - Brian Crumblehulme

The difference between the field mushrooms of my childhood and today's cultivated mushrooms—the cultivated ones are easy to get and very nice but they lack magic.

—Elizabeth David, An Omelette and a Glass of Wine

Mushrooms are the golden apples of the subterranean world; a world we may not always see, but in its own way the fungi beneath our feet are as vital and ripe with myth as the forest above. The extensive underground fungal network, or mycelium, has been known for generations. Break open an old log or pile of leaves and you will see masses of white filaments occasionally attached to a fruiting mushroom. What we are really looking at are tens of thousands of microscopically thin strands called hyphae, all bundled together and sometimes from different species.

Fungi live in symbiosis with plants and trees. The green plants share carbohydrates in the form of sugar, while the fungi contribute to the pot-luck with their extraordinary supplies of water and minerals. Without fungi many plants and trees would die. In recent years some fascinating research has shown just how vital and fragile this relationship really is. In an area where green plants and trees grow, the roots intertwine with the mycelia to form a matrix, known as a mycorrhiza, and like a tango, these two systems become very intimate and grow into each other. Kill one and the mate may also die. In any healthy forest or garden, the mycorrhiza will cover acres; in Washington's Olympic Peninsula complex mycorrhiza extend to thousands of acres, growing at a rate of several centimeters a day in all directions.

When the sun shines, green plants and trees make sugar. Fungal mycelia are equally efficient at soaking up water and minerals that they can move rapidly along the fine hyphael threads. Solutions of phosphorus, necessary for plant growth, watered onto logs or wood chips containing fungi, can be detected in adjacent plant leaves within four hours and on the top of a large tree nearby come sunrise next morning. What is almost eerie, is that the same tracer phosphorus will show up in trees fifty or a hundred feet away within a few days: the fungal highway does not sleep. In short, fungi help to decompose dead plant and animal material, concentrate the sugars and minerals and move them over large distances. This process is called translocation. A study by Bjorn Lindahl in Upsalla Sweden documented a 25% translocation of inoculated phosphorus to trees a hundred feet away in thirty days in what he describes as a 'short cut' in nutrient cycling.

I recall, from my college days in the early sixties, that plants will respond to reduced light by growing faster. They put on extra growth to reach the light they need. Now, another really neat observation demonstrated is that when stressed, the fungal mycelia associated with plants and small trees will increase the rate of translocation to a stressed plant's roots thereby providing additional nutrition to support the symbiotic relationship. Small plants and tree seedlings under a shady canopy of large trees are kept alive by nutrients taken from adjacent trees and translocated by the fungi. This is in addition to those nutrients provided by the fungi itself. Later, if a large tree falls or is removed, the younger saplings and undergrowth sustained by the fungi are primed to grow and occupy the space quickly.

Fungi are able to absorb essential minerals far faster than most plants, and the long mycelial hyphae are also able to concentrate as well as transport these minerals. The American mycologist, Paul Stamets, discovered that a mycelium will absorb many other things beside minerals and water. It will, for example, soak up toxins, oil and pesticides. Fungal mycelia serve to clean up the garden and forest. Stamets is engaged in research work in mycelial remediation of contaminated land and ecological restoration programs where spills and contaminants are treated by covering the ground with straw or wood chips inoculated with fungi.

It is not surprising then, that fungi/mushrooms are a very rich food and source of the B-vitamins as well as at least eight

essential minerals. 'Fruit of the earth', mushrooms are edible and mysterious, initiating legions of religious and cultural practices. According to Stamets, the ancient Greek Eleusian Mysteries were religious ceremonies conducted around the consumption of hallucinogenic mushrooms and included such luminaries as Aristotle, Plato and Sophocles. So, I guess if you like magic mushrooms, you are in good company.

For taste, health and extraordinary visions, mushrooms have been gathered since time began. Indeed, the earliest records for cultivation appear around 600AD in China where the culture has continued. *Ganoderma lucidum* (the name says it all), the 'mushroom of immortality', has been gathered from the wild in Japan and China for at least 2,000 years. So, gathering or cultivating mushrooms can be both tasty and lucrative—with a caveat. Less than one percent of mushrooms are naturally very toxic and can make you quite sick if you eat them. This is roughly the same ratio as for ingesting certain green plants and some animals.

But there is another concern. As Stamets learned, and many research projects have confirmed, fungal mycelia are very efficient at absorbing and concentrating minerals and toxins, both wild and synthetic. There is no simple answer to the question 'why?', but given their propensity for accumulating minerals, it is reasonable to conjecture that some toxins are preferentially stored as well. Bitter tasting toxins are used by many plants to discourage animals from eating them. And that applies to mushrooms too. You need to be sure not just of the species of mushroom, but also where it was grown before you add it to the pasta sauce. If it has not been chemically treated, a commercially grown crop is probably quite safe, but one growing happily near an oil spill or the neighbour's paint dump may be better admired than sauteed.

### Recipes

Most of the older mushroom recipes do not specify the type—I guess it all depended on what you could find. My oldest and still a favourite, is Roman. In his 2nd century notebook, Gaius Apicius recorded loads of recipes for mushrooms.

#### Roman Candied Mushrooms

Mix equal parts red wine with a strong meat stock, add black pepper, honey, chopped lovage and a little starch to thicken. Boil gently until smooth, add olive oil if necessary. Take select mushrooms, clean them and cook quickly in the sauce.

Serve hot with cinnamon and sauce poured over the top. These are like spiced candied apples!

#### Russian Mushrooms

Russians love wild mushrooms (grebi) and sellers can be seen at every market in every village in every kind of weather.

Fry a cup of chopped onions in butter until transparent. Add chopped mushrooms, salt, pepper, paprika and marjoram; cook for 10 minutes stirring frequently until the mixture starts to thicken.

Dollop on some thick sour cream, stir until hot and serve with champanskoi (sweet Champagne).

#### Middle Eastern Mushrooms

The London chef Yotam Ottolenghi has some great contemporary variations on traditional dishes. This example is taken from North Africa/Middle East.

Buy, or better still make, some flatbread with yogurt and cilantro mixed into the dough. Or use cous cous.

Then: cook a little barley in salted water for a ½ hour. Drain. Make a sauce with olive oil, thyme, garlic, salt and pepper, white wine and Greek yogurt. Get some fresh mushrooms, chop them and mix into the sauce.

Grill the flatbread, heap the mushroom ragout over, spritz with lemon and serve with a good Shiraz. ☞

## What's On?

### VANCOUVER ISLAND & ALL THE GULF ISLANDS

#### Until Sunday, May 31

**Bike To Work Week**—It's not too late to register. Log in your kilometers of active transportation at [biketowork.ca](http://biketowork.ca) • For more info, contact: [janslavkov@shaw.ca](mailto:janslavkov@shaw.ca), 250.537.5251 • **SALT SPRING**

#### Friday, May 29

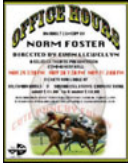


**"Perspectives: An Art Show"**—Felt Artist Monica Bennett, Abstract Painter Crystal Deshamais and Photographic Artist Sandy Shreve present their latest works, including responses to each other's art • Sea Star

Winery, 6621 Harbour Hills Drive • Opening Reception, Friday 29th 4-8pm, refreshments served • Saturday May 30, Sunday May 31, 11-4pm • **PENDER**

#### Fri, Sat & Sun, May 29, 30 & 31

**Office Hours**—Solstice Theatre presents a cast of 15, directed by Evan Llewellyn, in Canadian playwright Norman Foster's hilarious comedy • Pender Community Hall • Friday & Saturday 7:30pm, Sunday 2pm • Tickets: available at Talisman and Southridge, \$15, Under-16 \$10 • Info: David Ohnona 250-539-4080 • **PENDER**



#### Saturday, June 6

**Mayne Island Music Society Presents Fans and Motor Supply Co**—All original Southern Soul, Rock & Rhythm and Folk; release of new CD; Evening performance under the stars • Ag Hall Grounds • 7:00pm • Tickets: \$20; available at Happy Tides, Farm Gate, Home Hardware • **MAYNE**

#### Saturday and Sunday, June 6 and 7



**Quadra Island Studio Tour**—The 13th annual tour features 35 artists at 22 studios plus the Quadra Community Centre • Tickets \$5 at Info Centre, Inspirations, Works of H'Art, Campbell River Art Gallery • Info: 250.285.3101, [www.quadraislandarts.com](http://www.quadraislandarts.com) • **QUADRA**

#### Saturday, June 6 to July 1

**Red Tree Gallery Art Show**—'Photography' by Eve Pollard and 'Folk Art Sculptures' by Guest Artist: MD Hennessey • Meet the guest artist on Sat, June 6; between 4-6pm enjoy appies, art & music in the courtyard at Hope Bay • Gallery open everyday, 10 am-4 pm • Info: 250.629.6800, [www.redtreegallery.ca](http://www.redtreegallery.ca) • **PENDER**



#### Friday, June 12 to Wednesday, June 24

**Eclectic Visions**—Salt Spring Photography Club's Annual Gallery Show; unique and totally eclectic images from 34 of our 90+ photographers • Gallery8, 3104-115 Fulford Ganges Road Grace Point Square • Opening reception Friday 12th from 5pm to 8pm • Daily 10am to 5pm • Info: [www.ssphotog.ca](http://www.ssphotog.ca), 250.653.4034 • **SALT SPRING**



#### Saturday, June 13

**Heartwood Folk School: Food Preservation Classes**—Root Cellars & D-I-Y Food Dryers, 10:30am; Overview of Food Preservation, 11:00am; Canning & Fermenting Demo, 1:00pm • Community Hall • Info: [www.heartwoodfolkschool.ca](http://www.heartwoodfolkschool.ca), re: classes on sustainable energy, food growing, nature skills, traditional arts & crafts, building, technical, & other practical or joyful skills! • **PENDER**



#### Saturday & Sunday, June 13 & 14

**21st Denman Island Home & Garden Tour**—12 incredible properties offer inspiration and delight; find out why people come from all over to experience this tour • 9:30am-5:00pm, daily • Tickets: \$20 at local outlets, by phone 250.335.2148 or online: [denmanconservancy.org](http://denmanconservancy.org) • **DENMAN**

**Next Deadline: June 3**  
**250.216.2267, [islandtides@islandtides.com](mailto:islandtides@islandtides.com)**

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# Salt Spring Island Conservancy

## Celebrating

# 20

## YEARS OF

## Conservation Success

ON JUNE 6, THE SALT SPRING ISLAND CONSERVANCY WILL CELEBRATE ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY AND THE GRAND OPENING OF OUR DONATED HOME AT BLACKBURN LAKE NATURE RESERVE.

*From an initial wellspring of hope and determination, the Conservancy has grown into a strong local land trust built by the dedication of many, and buoyed by the support of generous members, volunteers, donors and grantors.*

*Together, we have helped preserve over 3,400 island acres, including our 7 nature reserves (694 acres) and 16 conservation covenants (793 acres). We also protect Species at Risk and their habitats, educate adults about land stewardship and provide nature-based education for all Salt Spring elementary students.*

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO PLAYED A PART IN THIS SUCCESS!

### JOIN US:

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2-5 PM, BLACKBURN LAKE NATURE RESERVE  
265 BLACKBURN ROAD, SALT SPRING ISLAND

MUSIC \* FOOD \* FUN

