

Gulf Islands' Island Tides

Giving The Coast A Community Voice For 27 Years



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Photo: Jim Hebert

Gabriola celebrates Oceans Day.

Salt Spring incorporation referendum—again

Salt Spring is again facing a referendum on September 9 as to whether the island should incorporate and become a municipality. It is the issue that won't go away. A previous referendum about whether to incorporate, in 2002, failed by a 70% vote opposed.

This time around, a group of islanders, The Many Islanders Opposed to Incorporation, has started a campaign to educate people as to why they should not want to incorporate.

A hectic and enthusiastic launch marked the arrival of its 'Positively NO' campaign; simultaneous launches of a website [CLICK HERE](#), a Facebook page [CLICK HERE](#), and YouTube videos [CLICK HERE](#).

'We wanted to express the idea that although we are against incorporation, our point of view is anything but negative,' said Positively NO's spokesperson, Jean Gelwicks. 'No is not a negative word when facing real risks too important to ignore.'

'We are proud of Salt Spring's many accomplishments and our intent is to remind people of what we have here—an exceptional, vibrant, engaged community without the over-development associated with so many other tourist destinations. This is

thanks in no small part to our existing local governance.'

Many Islanders Opposed to Incorporation is made up of islanders from all walks of life who believe that a municipality is an inappropriate fit for Salt Spring's rural island community. The group says that it recognizes that Salt Spring is a very special place which has remained that way precisely because of the visionary all-party legislation introduced in 1974 to create the *Islands Trust Act*.

The group points out that the legislation's mandate, which stressed the responsibility of the Islands Trust to 'preserve and protect'—was a much needed intervention in the face of rampant, unregulated development on Salt Spring and other Salish Sea islands. It is just as valid today, they say.

The group plans to work assiduously to keep islanders well informed about referendum issues, and invites them to reflect on what is magical and irreplaceable about Salt Spring. The group invites everyone to join the conversation on Facebook. Go to the group's website [CLICK HERE](#) to find detailed FAQs, research papers on key issues, slide shows, news and events and an inspiring tribute to Salt Spring called 'Love Letters.'

Salish Sea - world heritage site?

The Canadian government hosted UN World Environment Day on June 5. The theme was 'Connecting People to Nature'.

Meanwhile a local non-profit, Salish Sea Trust, based in Cedar, is working on doing just that with a bid to create a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the Salish Sea.

Salish Sea Trust, is seeking support from all BC's political party leaders and all MPs in 'thinking globally and act locally' to protect and improve the Salish Sea, a region that directly serves 3.5M Canadians. In an area of great natural beauty, the move is an opportunity to connect people with nature.

The regional organization has submitted its UNESCO World Heritage Site application to Parks Canada. Over 15,000 individuals signed the group's petition.

Salish Sea Trust sees a chance for BC's three party leaders to work with the federal government to live up to Canada's promise to the world to increase marine protection areas along Canada's coasts from our present 1% to 5% this year and to 10% by 2020.

Laurie Gourlay, interim Director of the Salish Sea Trust says, 'Green

Leader Andrew Weaver has signed a letter of support for the Salish Sea to be recognized as a World Heritage Site.' The City of Victoria has endorsed the Salish Sea World Heritage Site nomination, as have Langley, Delta, Powell River, the Town of View Royal, and Parksville.

Of the project, former Environment Minister David Anderson said, 'Sheltered from the open Pacific by one of its largest islands, the Salish Sea is an area of outstanding biological diversity and abundance.'

'At the same time is the location of extensive urbanization, economic development, and resource exploitation. How humankind manages to respect biological diversity and natural eco-systems in an era of unprecedented economic growth is one of the greatest challenges of our times. World Heritage status for the Salish Sea would provide a clear focus for that challenge in this significant part of the world.'

For more information [click here](#): <http://salishseatrust.ca>.

Ed's Note: At press time we have not heard back whether NDP Leader John Horgan or Christy Clark had signed letters of support.

North to Alaska!

Every year human-powered vessels, paddled or pedalled, together with some wind-power, race from Port Townsend on the US side of the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Victoria and on to Ketchikan—no motor, no support, all the way from here to Alaska. Physical endurance, saltwater know-how, and bulldog tenacity help the dozens of entries navigate the 1,200 cold water kilometres.

This year, one vessel paid an unscheduled visit to Saturna. *Big Broderna*, crewed by brothers Lars and Nels Strandberg from Anacortes and two friends, broke her pedal-power driveshaft while rounding East Point. They hailed locals, Priscilla Ewbank and Richard Woods, who were out viewing the boats at the spectacular beauty spot. The locals told them how to come ashore safely.

The Saturna dwellers thought hard, then raced them to John Gaines worksheds where they searched for likely pieces to fashion a repair. Next they sped to Bob Bruce's workshop where they completed the repair for the F31 trimaran. Back at East Point the crew installed the repaired part and were on their way.

The conflicted rescuers warned them not to beat their race-favourite, ex-Saturna-owned catamaran *Bad Kitty*, who was in the lead at that point.

Big Broderna did not actually lose much time as the tide at East Point was on the turn and the sailing competition was becalmed in any case.

In fact, *Big Broderna* did go on to reach Ketchikan in 4 days and 4 hours, only six minutes behind the first place boat—and won a set of steak knives.

The sad irony is that *Bad Kitty*—which had been raced by Richard Woods last year—despite leading most of the way, finished third; behind *Big Broderna* because of the hometown help.

Meanwhile, former Saturna and Galiano doctor and Olympic rower, Janice Mason, was still plugging away in *Oaracle*, a 2-crew rowboat with crewmate Ian Graeme. What inspired tenacity! [click here](#) for more



Photo: Priscilla Ewbank

Big Broderna waits out repairs on the rocks at East Point.

The Fountainhead

America was great before this Donald Trump came in; It prospered in the last few years of Obama's discipline. It would be nice to know just what his backers think of him—We'd then know what is policy, and what is outright whim. That edict—'keep the foreigners out'—what effect has it had? And all that guff re local trade (while foreign trade is bad)? Vindictiveness all down the line—Obama's medicare, A mainstay of the working poor—does Donald seem to care?

He acts as though the President's a dictator in essence, With orders from the Head-of-State replacing common sense; And when it comes to climate change, sheer ignorance is bliss—'I don't believe a word of it'—that's how he deals with this! It seems to me—if other leaders find Trump a hard sell. It's only one step more to downgrade America as well!

—H. Barry Cotton, June 2017



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Photo: Derek Holzapfel, www.naturediver.com

Colours of our xeriscape summers — sedum. These ones are at Pender's Roesland, part of the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve.

Food security a Canadian public concern

Community Food Centres Canada

According to an Ipsos Reid poll, 91% of Canadians think food insecurity is a persistent problem in our country, a problem that 41% believe has worsened in the last decade. And the poll shows that Canadians want to see solutions: 74% believe that government has a responsibility to take action to ensure everyone has access to healthy, affordable food.

'Canadians are telling us loud and clear that we need to do better' said Nick Saul, President and CEO of Community Food Centres Canada. 'We know that the best way to reduce food insecurity is to increase people's incomes.'

'We currently have National Food Policy and National Poverty Reduction Strategy processes unfolding in parallel at the federal level, and we need to make sure that they both speak to this issue—and to each other.'

According to University of Toronto's PROOF Food Insecurity Policy Research project, four million Canadians are food insecure. Food insecurity negatively affects physical and mental health, and costs our health-care system significantly. Shortage of household income is the most important predictor of food insecurity.

Increasing access to affordable food is one of the four focus areas of the National Food Policy, says Community Food Centres Canada. The others are improving health and food safety, growing more high-quality food, and conserving our soil, water, and air.

A public consultation phase of the National Poverty Reduction Strategy, which is being led by Employment and Social Development Canada, is

wrapping up at the end of June. The timing for the development of a strategy and implementation plan has not yet been announced.

'We need to ensure that reducing food insecurity and improving the lives of vulnerable Canadians stays at the forefront of both of these important conversations,' says Saul. 'At the same time, with so many ministries involved in the National Food Policy, there is an important opportunity to surface new solutions that can break down silos and address the complex issues affecting different parts of our food system—solutions that could include community responses to food insecurity, a national school lunch program, and support for small farmers.'

The Ipsos poll also asked Canadians about areas where this type of multi-sectoral approach could be useful—for example, addressing Canadians' declining levels of food literacy and finding innovative approaches to promoting healthier diets and reducing chronic disease.

Community Food Centres Canada says that the poll showed that Canadians are interested in new approaches, including solutions that would put more affordable fruits and vegetables on the plates of low-income individuals. 91% of Canadians said they would support a government subsidy program that would provide fruit and vegetable vouchers to people living on low incomes as a way to address diet-related illness.

Community Food Centres Canada builds and supports vibrant, food-focused organizations that bring people together to grow, cook, share, and advocate for good food for all. To find out more [click here](#).

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Fuel spill shuts Ucluelet and Tofino highway for the day

On Thursday, June 16, a tanker accident in the Upper Kennedy Lake area released approximately 3,000 litres of aviation fuel resulting in the shutdown of Highway N^o4 for approximately 24 hours.

The spill has impacted the immediate site as well as the adjacent lake. Kennedy Lake is an important fish bearing site which is of critical importance to the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations.

Chief Elmer Frank said, ‘Thank you to all responders that attended on site the first evening of the spill, which helped to minimize the spill impact. We are also glad that no-one was hurt in this accident.’ Chief Frank also wanted to thank the many people who offered to respond to the site to provide assistance. Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Park Guardians attended the site Thursday evening immediately upon hearing of the spill, and are continuing their presence since that time.

Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations is currently awaiting information from biologists and a geotechnical engineer to determine soil impacts and a proposed remediation plan. It is likely that soil will have to be excavated and removed as part of the remediation.

Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations demands that any resolution of the spill include habitat restoration and measures to support salmon enhancement to mitigate any further decline of fish stocks. 📧

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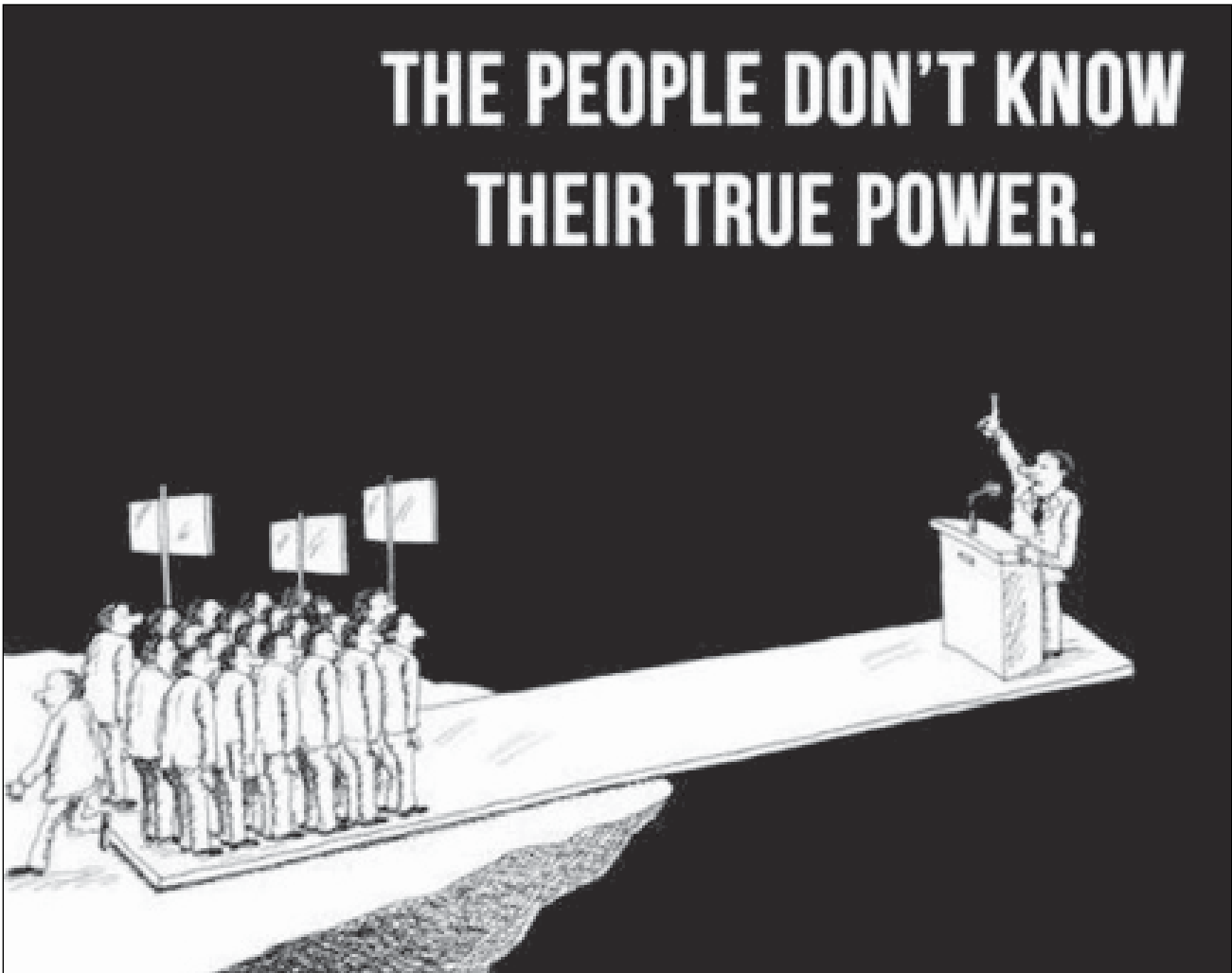


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Readers' Letters

Arithmetically Challenged

Dear Editor:
Christy Clark may be the most arithmetically challenged Premier that our province has ever known.

She claims to have the most seats—43—but the combined MLAs she faces is 44.
She claims to have won the largest percentage of the popular vote—40%—notwithstanding the fact that the government-in-waiting earned 60%.

Ms Clark’s famous five conditions to support the Kinder-Morgan pipeline became three overnight. ‘Jobs for British Columbians’ and ‘world class spill response’ simply vanished—leaving residents to wonder: since when does 3 = 5?

Now, if Ms Clark had been able to win the Courtenay-Comox riding, she would most certainly have trumpeted her *majority* government, appointed a Speaker of the House, then governed according to constitutional law which authorizes the Speaker to vote in tie-breaking situations.

Yet, this same number—44—is being cast as unworkable, indefensible, and an assault upon democracy in the hands of her opponents.

How can a single number mean two very different things?

Truth is, it can’t, and Christy Clark isn’t ‘listening to the voters’ so much as ‘hearing voices’ when she suggests that most British Columbians want her to stay on.

It’s time for Christy to step aside.

Mike Ward, Duncan

First Nations & Softwood Lumber

Dear Editor:
Vicki Husband got it right. Order of Canada and Order of BC member, Husband is a long time conservationist in BC, well known for her

opposition to industrial logging in the forests of BC. When asked her opinion about new softwood negotiations coming up between Canada and the US, in an interview with *The Tyee* last October, Husband said that the US has a right to complain that BC softwood (which includes cedar, hemlock, pine and fir) is subsidized.

She cited facts such as that of a logging company on Vancouver Island that pays as little as 27¢ in stumpage fees to the government for a cubic metre of timber from public forests—a volume about the size of a telephone pole.

Adding that the industry was poorly managed, she said, ‘They are getting away with murder. I know that.’

I know it, too. So do many other people, both inside and outside the logging industry. And they have been getting away with murder from the very first tree farm licence that was given out—but that is another story.

I want to emphasize something else...the fact that ‘public forests’ in our province is a euphemism for aboriginal land. Public forests are almost all on unceded native land. There have been no treaties settled between First Nations and any reigning government officials for the majority of these lands. And the way things are going, and have gone, when and if the claims are eventually settled and rights to the land given back to First Nations, the lands will be ruined. They will be stripped of valuable old growth forests and the land itself will be degraded by tree farming.

In my opinion this is a time for First Nations people to step forward and interject their own land claims into these softwood negotiations. They have a right to demand a hearing in the negotiations. It is their claims to the land and their protests that need to be heard.

We all have a human investment as well as an environmental one in stressing that it is the uncaring industrial logging methods of clear-cutting, monoculture planting, and the increasing use of machinery that tears up the forest for us all.

Vicky Husband is right...the logging companies are getting away with murder, murder of the land while cheating us all by making us pay for the privilege. And I will add another murder...the murder of First Nations’ land rights.

Betty Krawczyk, Vancouver 📧

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Photo: Harald Hommel

Pat Bay Sunset—Saanich Inlet evening calm.

Movement for Oceans - Elizabeth May, MP

From June 6 to 8 I attended at the United Nations for the special High-Level United Nations Oceans Conference. Without a doubt, it sparked the greatest global focus to date on our oceans—and on World Oceans Day, June 8.

The conference was in the context of the Sustainable Development goal for healthy oceans, co-chaired by Fiji and Sweden. The success of the gathering was that the issues were not merely discussed; numerous partnerships and projects were announced and funded.

What was striking was the complexity of the issues and threats facing the great blue world of our planet. I kept thinking about the oceans agenda as it existed at the time of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. Key issues then were over-fishing, endangered marine species—particularly threatened whales and dolphin species, and land-based sources of marine pollution. All those issues are still on the agenda in 2017, but more pressing issues have been added.

Much of the focus of the United Nations' conference was on the growing problem of plastic pollution of the oceans. Between micro-beads added to toothpaste and facial creams to plastic bags and water bottles, 8 million tonnes of plastic is discarded every year into the world's oceans. Fish ingest the plastics. Sea turtles and sea birds as well as fish are killed by plastics and the problem is getting worse.

The UN meetings launched a Clean Seas Campaign to directly attack the problem—calling for countries to take action against single-use plastic consumer goods, ban microbeads and find ways to clean up existing plastic contamination.

As well, the conference dealt with the negative impacts from global climate change and warming ocean temperatures and its evil twin—ocean acidification caused not by warming, but by physical mixing of atmospheric carbon into ocean water, creating carbonic acid that can melt the shells of ocean creatures. All nations (except the USA) re-confirmed the importance of the Paris Agreement.

The issue that over-fishing is increasingly presented as a problem of illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries got action from the FAO. The FAO led the negotiation of the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA).

I keep looking back to the UN Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and believing, if properly implemented, it could end high-seas illegal fisheries. We have a long way to go to end the horrific rates of destruction of species which in some cases are off-shore draggers which enslave human beings as crew. No more desperate state for humans exists on the planet as for those slaves held at sea for years working in appalling conditions—with punishment for complaint a swift death at sea.

Canada's delegation at the UN Conference was led by Minister of Fisheries Dominic Leblanc and included Members of Parliament from the Liberals, Conservatives, the Bloc and Green Parties. Minister Leblanc's main focus was on the marine biodiversity challenge and Canada's commitment to 10% of our coastal areas to be within some form of protection by 2020, with 5% by the end of this year. The goal is complicated by having several federal mechanisms for protection.

Salish Sea NMCA

In Saanich-Gulf Islands, we wait for the completion of the National Marine Conservation Area in the Salish Sea (still referred to by government as Southern Strait of Georgia). The proposal was endorsed in 1970 by no less than Jacques Cousteau, yet here we are in 2017 with no clear indication of a time line to conclude protection. Clearly, the process must be aligned closely with the nation-to-nation negotiation and recognition of sovereignty of the many coastal indigenous nations that have navigated and fished these waters for thousands of years. But we should be making it a priority.

This marine protection is under the

jurisdiction of Environment and Climate Change, within Parks Canada. As well, Environment Canada has jurisdiction over Marine Wildlife Areas. Meanwhile, DFO has jurisdiction over Marine Protected Areas under the terms of *Oceans Act*.

On June 15, amendments to the *Oceans Act* were tabled for First Reading. The changes focus primarily on modernizing and expediting the creation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). While there are more changes I would like to see (such as ensuring MPAs have the goal of protecting ecological integrity), overall, the amendments are encouraging. Under the proposed changes to the *Oceans Act*, the pace of creating MPAs (currently, on average, at least a 7-year process) will be speeded up.

The minister will be empowered to designate Interim Marine Protected Areas. Under the proposed process the government will have five years to develop the regulations that transition an interim area into a permanent MPA. New and damaging activities proposed for areas being considered for interim MPA status—such as fisheries, seismic testing, undersea mining and offshore oil and gas extraction—may be immediately restricted when the Minister acts to create interim protection. Existing fisheries activities in these areas may also be restricted. Still, it is the case that any and all of marine protections in Canada do not necessarily preclude any human activity. Most protect existing economic activities.

I was particularly pleased that the *Oceans Act* amendments include changes to the *Canada Petroleum Resources Act*. Once approved through parliament, there will be a new legal authority to prohibit new oil and gas activities in MPAs with the Minister having the power to cancel existing oil and gas interests in MPAs, with financial compensation.

Humanity is in a desperate race against time to save the lives of our oceans, and ourselves. This month, most nations took real steps in that race. ☞

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Saturna Notes - Priscilla Ewbank

In June, among the roses, life for Islanders is accelerating into the fast lane—if you are parents, operators of businesses, or both of the above—expecially if you live on Saturna and are involved in Saturna’s annual Lamb BBQ on July 1.

Nevertheless, June is a glorious month and we have island events in which we are happy to enjoy being ourselves, ahead of the coming crush of visitors.

Walk, Row, Paddle To Taylor Point

A favorite early June event is Parks and Recreation’s Taylor Point Walk, Paddle, Row. This gathering is held on the beach on Gulf Island National Park land—long a part of the Campbell Farm, and just far enough and beautiful enough to be very enticing and qualify as a true jaunt! Fifty people came: walking the south cliff rim trail, kayaking, or rowing our replica Spanish longboat, the 6-oar *Saturnita*.

Chef Hubertus made excellent sandwiches to meet everyone’s specialized tastes and many offerings of liquids. The lunch truck had strict instructions as to which beach and how to get there to deposit the vittles.

All safety precautions were engaged: leader and back-end sweep for the walk, and a safety boat. The day was a basker—the walkers lolled in the sun on the beach, cheering the 15-strong kayak contingent as they pulled in, and *Saturnita* as she shipped oars smartly on the ringing command of the coxswain, and swept up onto the sand.

There was strong representation from the younger set, one stroller plus mom and dad made it all the way with a new born and 3-year-old!

The enthusiastic very much older crowd came down with the lunch truck. Dogs tore around, kids screeched, the beauty of the east facing sand beach and the day was a blessing for us all.

Lots of people switch-up for going home—walkers

paddle, and paddlers walk. Going uphill home, parents reserve their bag of candy; rewards for ‘just past the tree we are going to stop and have a treat!’. This is the 15th time we have done this and much thanks was given for the support of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the enthusiasm of the people who coordinate and lead the various routes to lunch on the beach.

I have seen lots of old-time pictures of Islanders. Men, kids, and women—in skirts, blouses, and hats—among the silvery driftlogs and sand, obviously having a lovely happy picnic on some beautiful Gulf Island beach—just like us.

End of the School Year

And it is graduation time all through the Gulf Islands! All our kids, growing like sprouts among us, are obviously on a different time schedule for changing than we adults. Between Strong Start and the elementary school we are now up to fifteen kids!

Suddenly the community’s babies are in kindergarten, then middle school, and then graduating—blooming and blossoming! The relatively new Strong Start on our island is almost like another school entity. Our kids get so much good, guided social skill interactions and easy playing/learning that when they reach kindergarten they are way ahead of us from bygone days.

June 13 was Saturna Elementary School’s Celebration Day. The kids won lots of awards, played heartily and each heard some words of recognition for their own special gifts. Thoughtfully chosen, beautiful books inscribed with the child’s name are given as awards, a tradition for at least 50 years.

For the first time in several years, Saturna has a highschooler graduating from Salt Spring’s Gulf Islands Secondary School, Arielle Middleditch. Arielle plans to take her next year off, starting with 4 months of travel in India. Then she hopes to attend university in Halifax. Her curiosity about the



wide world is great and she ‘looks forward to seeing what is out there’.. Arielle is the daughter of our long-time deeply appreciated, School Trustee, Susanne Middleditch.

Arielle followed her beloved big sister Miranda’s footsteps across the highschool stage—17 years later.

Early in Susanne’s career as trustee, it became evident that we would be having another school-age child. Back then, Saturna was struggling with keeping its elementary school open because student numbers were so low. Many in the community thought that Saturna had really lucked out—not only did we have a super trustee, but she increased our potential pupil count!

Saturna Lamb BBQ

Much of the community is gearing up for the annual Saturna Lamb BBQ. Our head BBQ Boss, unpaid, humorous, and a stickler for details is perfect for the job. You know you have the right person for the job when volunteers are inspired and ready to go the extra amount to get their part of the Canada Celebration Day done as well as they can.

Like other islands, Saturna has had

a long line of islanders of this calibre, who organize and carry out the various treasured, big-scale events that we pull off year-after-year to fund our activities. We count our blessing for a person who steps forward and says, ‘I will be the coordinator!’

Students are painting new burlap bunting for the booths, the knives for carvers are getting sharpened, mintsauce is made, wood—seasoned and fresh wet—has been collected, lambs are growing, cookies and buns are getting ordered, cash is on hand, new T-shirts ordered and printed, prizes for games on hand, ice cream, face paints, beer ordered, walk-in cooler working, honorable guests invited.... Yikes! The list goes on and on.

Every 5 years or so, it seems that this event requires ever more permitting permits and insurance forms. Could there be more? Yes! There could!

I wonder how we do it and then remember each person does their perfect part. We’re smart and resourceful and can fix all BBQ day glitches—except the weather! ☔





Photo: Tom Hobley

May Queen, Green Man, parade, maypole dance, community festivities—Mayne Island Conservancy's May Celebration at Miners Bay, on a glorious May 20th.

Out and about in Saanich and the Southern Gulf Islands - Adam Olsen, MLA

For the past few weeks all eyes have been on the BC Legislature, as we move towards a different type of government for the first time in British Columbia in over 60 years. While political theatre in the Legislature makes for interesting discussion between pundits, I am ready to get to work on addressing the challenges and opportunities we have in Saanich North and the Islands.

The role of an MLA is to represent the communities that elect them. This was a primary focus of my election campaign and I am thrilled to spend this summer connecting with my constituents. In the next few weeks we will be opening our constituency office and I am looking forward to welcoming many people there.

Several people have already reached out to our office and the important work of representing our community is underway. We will be holding townhalls across our riding in the next few months but in the interim please feel free to contact my office at adam.olsen.mla@leg.bc.ca

The whole Olsen family is excited about the summer ahead. From farmers markets to community festivals, there are many exciting things to explore and appreciate about our home. In the immediate future, I hope to see many of you at the Tour des Îles festival, and of course at the Canada Day celebrations happening on all the islands.

Over the next few weeks I am hopeful that our provincial Legislature will reach a state of stability in this new era of BC politics and that all MLAs make the effort to reach across party lines and work together in the best interests of the province we represent. I know this is a value shared by many of my friends in the other parties and many of us are ready to get to work doing the job the people elected us to do.

Regardless of what happens in the Legislature, Saanich North and the Islands will continue to be a vibrant community and I invite everyone to connect with me at events throughout the summer. I look forward to celebrating our home with all of you.

Wells and groundwater

Join Islands Trust and its partners at a series of free workshops over the summer to talk about wells and groundwater.

Representatives from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Island Health/Coastal Health will be sharing information about: groundwater and wells; how to protect water sources; how to test and treat well water; and water conservation tips and technologies.

Maxxam Analytics will provide workshop participants with free water testing kits.

Remaining workshop dates are below:

Denman	June 23	12:30pm–3pm	Denman Island Community Hall (Back Hall), 1196 Northwest Road
Salt Spring	June 30	10:00am–12:30pm	Hart Bradley Memorial Hall (Lion's Hall), 103 Bonnet Avenue
North and South Pender	July 7	10:30am–12:30pm	Pender Island Community Hall (Upper Hall), 4418 Bedwell Harbour Road
Hornby	July 14	1:00pm–3:30pm	New Horizons Hall, 1765 Sollans Road
Saturna	July 21	12:30pm–3pm	Saturna Recreation and Cultural Centre, 104 Harris Road
Gabriola	July 28	10am–12:30pm	Gabriola Arts and Heritage Centre, 476 South Road
Bowen	August 10	1:00pm–3:30pm	Bowen Island Municipal Hall (Council Chambers), 981 Artisan Lane
Gambier	August 11	9:30am–12pm	Gambier Island Community Centre, 721 Andy's Bay Road

What's On?

VANCOUVER ISLAND & ALL THE GULF ISLANDS

Thursday to Sunday, July 6 to 9

2017 InFringinG Dance Festival—exceptionally talented performers from across Canada; presented alongside Save On Foods' DragonBoat Festival; produced by Crimson Coast Dance Society • FREE and ticketed shows, youth HiPHoP PoWWoW residency • Info and tickets: www.crimsoncoastdance.org/infringing • **NANAIMO**





GREEN CAUCUS IN ‘THE PEACE’

Photo: Darcy Shawchek

Green caucus visits Site C

On June 20, Andrew Weaver, leader of the BC Green Party, Sonia Furstenu MLA for Cowichan Valley and Adam Olsen, MLA for Saanich North & The Islands, toured Fort St John and the surrounding areas and met with the West Moberly and Prophet River First Nations, touring their culturally significant sites affected by Site C dam construction.

The caucus also met with the Boon and Meek families, whose properties would be affected by the proposed new highway, as well as the Christian Labour Association of Canada, which represents Site C workers and Fort St John Mayor Lori Ackerman.

‘We travelled to Fort St John to listen to Chief

Roland Wilson and Chief Lynette Tsakoza and learn how their communities will be impacted if Site C goes ahead as planned, MLA Weaver said, ‘After Premier Clark wrote to me on June 6, I requested detailed information in order to determine whether her claim that a delay in Site C construction would cost \$630 million. Based on what we have learned in Fort St John, I remain skeptical.

‘The West Moberly and Prophet River First Nations have advocated for a different highway option, which according to their engineering consultant will cost just 0.06% of Site C’s current estimated budget, and will spare the disruption of their ancestral gravesite and sweat lodge. It is essential that BCHydro provide open and

transparent disclosure of information in order to support fair and respectful discussions with those affected by the current highway realignment proposal.

‘The budget for Site C has gone up by billions of dollars since it was first proposed, and experts have projected it will cost even more than the current \$8.8 billion estimate. The fact that the government has proceeded with the largest tax-payer funded project in BC’s history without the proper due diligence is an affront to the people of BC I look forward to this project being referred to BCUC under a new minority NDP government to ensure that BC ratepayers’ interests are being protected.’

The Longest Day is also World Refugee Day

June 20 is World Refugee Day. As climate change bites in, with famine and wars, this day has increased in meaning many-fold in this young century.

This year Canada’s Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau said:

‘On World Refugee Day, we honour the strength and resilience of the millions of people around the world fleeing conflict, insecurity, and persecution.

‘We solemnly acknowledge the hardships they face, celebrate the significant contributions they make to our communities, and recognize the dedication of those who help them.

‘Today, over 65 million people are displaced around the world, and more than 22 million of them are refugees. They flee unlivable situations in their

homelands, crossing deserts and seas to escape, and carrying dreams of a new life even as they struggle with intense loss. These hardships particularly affect women, who bear different and disproportionate effects of conflict and insecurity.

‘Canadians are fortunate to live in a country shaped, over the centuries, by the dreams and hard work of millions of immigrants and refugees. Today, we recognize their dignity and potential. Despite the hardships they face, these individuals make many contributions to shape the diverse, strong, and prosperous country Canada is today.

‘Canada has a long tradition of welcoming refugees, and today, Canadians continue to help newcomers establish their lives here

I’ve met so many who have lost so much. But they never lose their dreams for their children or their desire to better our world. They ask for little in return —only our support in their time of greatest need.

— UN Secretary-General, António Guterres

with compassion and openness. In recent years, communities across the country have welcomed over 40,000 Syrian refugees. Their generosity illustrates the spirit of compassion that defines us as Canadians. When we embrace our differences and come together to welcome newcomers, we strengthen our communities in enduring ways.

‘Rising conflict, insecurity, and persecution today have led to migration levels not seen since the Second World War. We have a global responsibility to respond to this crisis and to support those who are forced to leave home. We must address the root causes of forced migration by

seeking diplomatic solutions for violent conflicts and standing united in the fight against terrorism. We must also redouble our efforts on climate change, so that it does not further exacerbate insecurity in the world.

‘Today, I call on Canadians and people around the world to stand with people seeking shelter from enormous hardship and violence. Refugees are forced to leave home, but they carry with them dreams for their children and the hope of creating a better world. Let us show compassion for their plight, recognize their dignity, and continue to see ourselves in each other.’

MOON DATES:

Super New Moon: June 23 • Full Moon: July 8

NEXT DEADLINE June 28
250-216-2267



Photo: Camilla Anderson

Hands-on science kits are being explored in Salt Springschools, as part of BC’s new school curriculum.

Intermediate kids get hands-on science equipment

Earlier this year, Gulf Islands School District received new curriculum implementation funding for science kits for each school to support science inquiry for intermediate level students. The initiative, funded by the province, is targeted to provide resources that support the implementation of BC’s redesigned curriculum.

While the bulk of the Province’s curriculum implementation funds are directed towards technology for learning and other school-based resources, some resources go to support this hands-on science project for earlier grades.

The FOSS Kit design, by the Lawrence Livermore Hall of Science at UC-Berkeley, is explicitly inquiry-

based, hands-on, and aligned with elementary science themes. Kits focused on the human body, solutions and mixtures, and motion.

SD N°64 kit ordering began in early March, with science support teacher Camilla Anderson working with three teachers who had expressed interest in working with the kits. Teacher Jim Lightfoot’s Fulford Community Elementary School class began a pilot project early in May which continued to mid-June.

Camilla Anderson commented, “This week I will conduct the last two labs with Jim Lightfoot to wrap up our human body unit. Children’s enthusiasm to complete the investigations is really magical to see!

These labs really spark a lot of conversations, questions, and make students wonder. During the next two mornings ... we are going to compare bones of humans, rodents, and chickens and relate structure to function. On Thursday we will be building a model of a leg and foot that students will have to make from wood dowels, rubber tubes, rubber bands, and paper clips. The leg will bend, and they have to make the foot point up and down. They learn all about bones, muscles, tendons, and joints. It should be super fun!”

In June, Andrew McPhee’s class at Salt Spring’s Fernwood Elementary School began with the Solutions and Mixtures kit. ✍

Islands’ stewardship nominations for individuals and groups

Islanders have nominated 10 individuals and eight organizations under the fifteenth Islands Trust Community Stewardship Awards Program, which recognizes people for work that supports the Islands Trust mandate to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique environment and amenities.

The activities nominated include providing community support for seniors and families, volunteering for community projects, developing a natural burial cemetery, promoting arts and culture, raising awareness of land, marine and cultural heritage, promoting local food sustainability, wildlife rescue and conservation projects.

“The islands are a special place, and this year’s stewardship awards nominees represent the dedication, commitment and care needed to preserve the unique communities, culture and environment of our islands,” said Peter Luckham, Chair of the Islands Trust Council. “The Islands Trust Council is grateful to the people and groups working every day to build the capacity of our communities to look after each other and our environment, today and into the future.”

The nominees are from Bowen Island and seven local trust areas: Denman, Gabriola, Hornby,

Lasqueti, Mayne, Salt Spring and Saturna.

Organizations Nominations

- ♦ Denman Island Memorial Society for creating the Denman Island Natural Burial Cemetery.
- ♦ Gabriola Arts Council for 20 years of supporting and enhancing the artistic, cultural and social environment (two nominations).
- ♦ Hornby and Denman Community Health Care Society for 38 years of providing health care services.
- ♦ Lasqueti Island Emergency Dispatch Advisory Committee for fostering community engagement.
- ♦ Mayne Island Assisted Living Society for community services to enhance islanders’ quality of life.
- ♦ Mudge Island Citizens Society for establishing and operating the Mudge Island Citizens Society.
- ♦ Salt Spring Seniors Services Society for providing the Salt Spring Seniors Centre Driving Program.
- ♦ Saturna Community Club for 80 years of promoting social and environmental well-being.

Individual Nominations

- ♦ Bob Turner of Bowen Island for raising awareness and promoting conservation of Howe Sound.

♦ Bob Weeden of Salt Spring Island for 21 years of leadership in conservation and environmental stewardship.

♦ Brenda Guiled of Salt Spring Island for advocating for community sustainability and active transportation.

♦ Everhard van Lidth de Juede of Bowen Island for 30 years of fostering ecological sustainability.

♦ Jacinthe Eastick of Gabriola Island for community involvement.

♦ John Peirce of Gabriola Island for securing a cross-border conservation covenant and trail

♦ Karen Ethridge of Hornby and Denman Island for 15 years providing leadership in community health care.

♦ Laura Matthias of Salt Spring Island for protecting, restoring and stewarding the natural environment.

♦ Liz Ciocea of Gabriola Island for 30 years of advocating for wildlife and the environment.

♦ Michelle Catherine Nelson of Bowen Island for food sustainability initiatives and community involvement.

[click here](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/csa) www.islandstrust.bc.ca/csa to read more about this year’s nominees and past recipients. ✍

Marine oilspill response exercise in Plumper Sound



V-SHAPED SWEEP BOOM TOWED BY TWO VESSELS

Photos: Christa Grace-Warrick



OIL STORAGE BARGE



SKIMMING VESSEL WITH BOOM DEPLOYED



SKIMMED OIL TRANSFERS TO BARGE

On June 7, Western Canada Marine Response Corporation conducted a multi-vessel marine oilspill exercise in Plumper Sound, which lies between Saturna, Mayne and Pender Islands. Some vessels are pictured. (No oil was spilled in this exercise.)

For more information [click here](#).

Want to volunteer for the BC Bat Count?

The Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) Community Bat Program is the South Vancouver Island and southern Gulf Islands representative of the BC Community Bat Program (www.bcbats.ca).

HAT is seeking volunteers and bat colonies for this summer's Annual Bat Count. This citizen-science initiative encourages residents to count bats at local roost sites. 'Bat counts are a wonderful way for residents to get involved in collecting important scientific information' says Katie A H Bell, Bat Stewardship Coordinator with Habitat Acquisition Trust. 'No special skills are needed, kids can be involved, and you can relax in a deck chair while counting.'

This year the Annual Bat Count is important because it will collect baseline data on bat populations before the devastating White Nose Syndrome fungal disease affects bats in the province.

'White Nose Syndrome is estimated to have killed more than six million bats since it was first discovered in eastern North America a decade ago,' says biologist Mandy Kellner, Coordinator of the BC Community Bat Program. 'In March 2016, the disease was detected just east of Seattle. This has greatly increased our urgency to understand bat populations in BC.'

'We need the public's help to census local bat populations. The summer of 2017 may be our last year to obtain population estimates before White Nose Syndrome causes widespread declines in western North America.'

Volunteers wait outside a known roost site, such as a bat-house, barn, bridge or attic, and count bats as they fly out at twilight. They record the final number along with basic information on weather conditions. If people don't have a roost site on their property, the Bat Count says that it will try to match

them with a roost site nearby.'

Ideally, 1 to 2 counts are done between June 1 and 21 before pups are born, and 1 to 2 more between July 21 and August 15 when pups are flying.

Besides the annual count, HAT's Community Bat Program also provides information for people dealing with bat issues on their property or ,on the other hand, have questions about how to attract bats.

The program is funded by the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation with support of BC Conservation Foundation, Province of BC, LUSH and MEC.

To find out more about or to register for a bat count, or to get assistance dealing with bat issues, [click here](#) or call 1-855-9BC-BATS. To contact the HAT Community Bat Program directly please call 250-995-2428 and ask to speak to Katie. ☎

If you wish you had been reading *Island Tides* for years—you can!
Read our back issues in the archive section at www.islandtides.com.

NEW FEATURE! - THE LONG READ

Canadian Innovation

On September 4, 2014 Elizabeth May's TedX Calgary minitalk titled 'Canadian Innovation' was uploaded to YouTube.

This is the transcript watch the talk it's more fun! [click here](#)

It's great to be here. Thank you for inviting me to TEDx YYC. Thank you, Calgary. I recognize that I stand in the traditional territory of Treaty 7, Blackfoot first nations—although at the moment it does look like a big red dot, and I realize that I am at a TEDx talk, and I have been told that when you give a TEDx talk, it is not like my normal talks, it is not like a speech. I have got to get in the—you know—in the groove of what TEDx is like.

So, they directed me to please watch a lot of previous TEDx great talks. I thought, well I will save some time, and find the great TEDx talks delivered by politicians. This winnows down the possibilities considerably, and I am afraid it takes you right out of the great Ted Talks, and you start realizing that either they don't associate politicians with innovative thinking that is entertaining and inspiring, or, most politicians have the common good sense not to walk on stage essentially naked with their ideas, stand on a red dot, and try to talk to you through the lights (you can't see anybody).

It may just be that I will find out later whether it is politicians who self-select out of Ted Talks, or TEDx people who have the sense not to invite us. You will have to tell me....

But look, I am in Calgary, it's Friday the 13th, and I propose in the next 13.57 seconds to explain to you why the Keystone Pipeline will be really bad for the Canadian economy—like what could go wrong? (laughter) (applause).

Actually, I want to talk to you about something I do care a lot about, which is Canada's economic future, our economic health, our wealth, and our future well being, which has a lot to do with a single problem, which is a multi-faceted problem, which is called Innovation and Productivity.

In a nutshell, every economist agrees that we are lagging badly on innovation and productivity. In fact, it is something of a crisis. People use words like 'terrible, stagnant, pathetic'—and this is *all* economists. I mean, it is very rare to get unanimity among economists on any topic, and on this they are unanimous like a chorus.

The conference board of Canada recently did a study to see of the 16 largest industrialized economies, where does Canada rank in productivity, and they did this chart—1 to 16,—and, like, we are 13th. Okay, so we are behind Switzerland, Sweden, the US, France, Germany, but good news, we are ahead of Belgium. I mean it is not terrible yet.

But those figures also show that things are getting worse. If you look back at where we were—and this is a relative term that is used by economists—where Canadian business ranked relative to the productivity of the business sector in the US, in 1984 we were 90%. Pretty good.

By 2007, we were at 74%, so not good, and what it means—it's not just a loss of percentage points—it's a loss of billions of dollars to the Canadian economy, a loss of jobs, a loss of productivity. It is not good.

Nobel prize winning economist Paul Krugman has said 'productivity may not be everything, but in the long-term it is almost everything.' This stuff really matters.

So, economists have been tearing their hair out, wondering what did they do wrong—where did they go wrong? Public policy economic gurus, people like, for instance, people *exactly* like Don Drummond who recently published a confession—he thought 'well we have put all the good policy instruments in

place'. We did everything we thought we should do when we saw productivity was a problem, we put in place the policies that we thought would deliver better productivity for the Canadian economy. Things like lower taxes. Things like less regulation. Things like more trade deals. Things like reducing the power of unions.

They did all this stuff and not only did productivity not get better over that decade, it got worse. So now they are scratching their heads 'where did we go wrong?' and they have come up with the answer. Corporate culture. It's the private sectors problem. They are lazy. They are sitting on their money, they don't care, they don't have a fire in their belly.

Listen, you take that answer to people in corporate capital—you take that answer to people in the private sector—and I tell you they are not impressed. This can't be the right answer, but the people who came up with the policy tools are convinced their tools couldn't have been wrong, so the only explanation they can find is to blame the private sector.

Okay, let's step back and see what's really going on. Let's unpack this a little bit and see what's happening here. If you look at labour productivity, which is a pretty important indicator, labour productivity is made up of three factors; one of them is labour skills, one is labour enhancing capital, and one is what is called 'multifactor productivity'. I am sorry, but multifactor productivity is just another impenetrable name for innovation.

It turns out on the first two, labour skills and labour enhancing capital, we have been keeping up with the US. In fact, we are doing a little bit better, but on innovation? Flatlined. Ever since Statistics Canada has kept track of this, we have made no improvement at all. What the heck is going on with innovation?

We look at the sectors where innovation tends to have been happening, and it had to do with, for instance, anything to do with value-added—manufacturing. Value-added sectors boost innovation. They spend more on R&D, they are looking around for things. So, it is pretty relevant that over that same period of time where innovation and productivity was declining, our economy was tilting to more export of unprocessed, raw, resources; less value-added.

Here is the stat. At the end of the 1990s, according to Statistics Canada, 60% of our exports were value-added. Today? 40%. So, we are tilting towards raw resource exports. Things like bitumen that hasn't gone through refineries yet. Things like logs that haven't gone through mills yet. Okay, you want value-added, you want R&D, you want these things to happen?

Look at the tools we came up with. We have got much better tax treatment for corporations to invest in value-added and R&D—and they are not doing it. Why? What's the driver? Where is it? What is missing?

Well, it seems to me we ought to change the narrative. We want Canada to have a healthy economy. We want to build on our resources. So, don't ship them out raw. Let's have more value added; more refining; more upgrading; and the technologies that make us do it all cleaner.

Let's unleash the brilliance of Canadian innovation in clean technology and green tech and we can do it. There are loads of examples.

So, what policy tools do we need? We need to shift around a few things and one of them—talk about the

corporate sector that really gets irate when told it's their fault. I don't know if any of you have ever had a chat with Jim Balsillie the founder of Research in Motion and the Blackberry—he sees red when anyone tells him that it's corporate Canada's fault.

He says when you go out there—and you've got a corporation that starts competing in the global market place—we need much, much, better intellectual property rights protection for Canadian corporations. We need to be out there, he said it's a battle ground. Intellectual property rights is predatory and we are not protecting Canadian innovation internationally.

Second thing we need to do—yes—we need more R&D, but we are kind of shackling the inventiveness of great brains by saying we want *applied* research—show us how to build a better widget. Don't go off wondering about the nature of the universe. So, basic research needs funding, not just applied research.

We would never, Alexander Graham Bell would never have invented the telephone if someone had said 'here is some money, go invent something so we can talk to each other across long distances'. He was trying to figure out how to help deaf people here. He was doing *basic* research.

Third thing we need to do. We need to unleash venture capital to help people take risks. People will say, 'Well there is no new money, what do you mean unleash venture capital, it's risky.'

Well, it happens that having reduced Canada's corporate tax rate to half that of the United States—we now have the lowest corporate tax rate in the industrialized world. It happens that corporate bank accounts are sloshing around with something like 600 billion dollars worth of cash, Mark Carney, our former governor of the Bank of Canada, now in the UK, called this 'the dead money'.

Now, I want to stand outside that tomb of the dead money, something like Jesus outside Lazarus's tomb, rise up and walk, rise up and do work, create jobs, innovate, research. Okay, so maybe they need some help to rise up, a little bit of an increase in the corporate tax rate, create some venture capital risk funding, that will help everybody.

Fourth thing we need to do—environment and economy are not in conflict. It will help productivity. It will help innovation if we bring in carbon pricing and smart regulations.

There is a huge body of literature started 20 years ago with Michael Porter at Harvard University. It is really clear. Well designed regulations and carbon pricing will help create the clean tech economic boom we want, will make Canada's entire economy—not just one sector—more competitive. So, these concepts of innovation and sustainability, environment, and economy are not in conflict.

We need to harness all of them. Harness all the sectors—the brilliant people in corporate Canada, the brilliant people in our universities. Harness the people who want jobs in the trades with the people who want jobs in the universities. Figuring out how to do it smarter, and cleaner, and better, and when we bring all those things together, we will start reversing the loss of Canadian productivity.

We will have a safer, stronger, greener, healthier economy in the future, and it is all possible if we work together—and that's why if Keystone is rejected, we are all going to be better off.

Thank you very much. 🍷