

# Gulf Islands' Island Tides

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Volume 29 Number 9

June 8 — June 21, 2017

Online Voluntary Annual Subscription: \$30



Photo: Christine Stewart

Galiano students at the Galiano's BC Ferry terminal getting out the the vote for its bid in 'BCAA Play Here' competition. You can help!

## Vote for a new playground for Galiano Community School

The BC general election may be over but on the islands there is another important thing to vote for—and you can help.

Galiano's community school has been selected as one of ten finalists in BC Automobile Association's 'Play Here', a competition for a chance to win one of three prizes of \$100,000 to build a new playground—how many online votes a project gets determines who is awarded the grant.

### Islands Helping Islands - Voting

With few funding sources for playgrounds and the high cost of certified play structures, this grant is Galiano's chance. The community is seeking voting support from nearby communities and individuals. As a small community of only 1,000 people, local votes are very limited; last year's winners had over 130,000 votes.

Until June 18, you can vote every day by using each of Facebook, Twitter, Email and Google. [CLICK HERE](#) for instructions. Using all four voting platforms, you can vote up to 4 times, *every day!*

You can subscribe on the website, [www.galianoplayground.com](http://www.galianoplayground.com), for a daily voting reminder until June 18. Ask all your friends and family to visit the website for voting instructions and ask them to sign up for daily voting reminders. Share [www.galianoplayground.com](http://www.galianoplayground.com) on Facebook and ask people to vote, Galiano asks.

### Why You Would Want to Vote

Here are the many reasons why you would want to vote early and vote often.

Galiano Island has few options for structured play; there is no pool, recreation centre or skating rink. Families must go off-island to participate in many activities. Ferries, time, and money limit many children to local activities.

The Galiano Community School playground is over 30-years-old. Old playgrounds are difficult to fix and as the Galiano Playground gets older, unsafe pieces are removed without replacement. Galiano students, led by Grade 8 student Cody Kerr, made a 2-minute video for their 'BCAA Play Here' grant application. To view it [CLICK HERE](#).

Speaking about why she would like a new playground, Maroussia, a 10-year-old, grade 5 student, says: 'pointy metal things are sticking out of it and the tires are broken'.



A few years ago, the playground's tire swing was removed for safety reasons. Shekaya, a 6-year old grade one student says: 'I want the tire swing back so that we can play and have fun on it.'

A fit-for-purpose playground at the school would

revitalize play at this community hub that includes the school, community library, fitness centre, Galiano Activity Centre, and community greenhouse,' says Kate Emmings, Galiano parent and member of the Galiano Playground Committee.

The playground will be used by the new Galiano Daycare, opening this fall. The island hub also hosts Galiano Fitness Centre, School Garden, Galiano Soccer Association and the Galiano Eagles Softball Team. The playground is in use, not only during school hours, but in the evenings, on weekends, all through the summer and for events like the Galiano Community Picnic, the Galiano Soccer Tournament and the Galiano Softball Tournament.

Galiano's playground is used by Galiano families, visitors to the island and summer residents.

A new playground will be a source of pride for the Galiano Community and will help revitalize a community space. For more information visit: [www.galianoplayground.com](http://www.galianoplayground.com)—and hurry, don't waste a day's voting.

'Using all  
four voting  
platforms, you can  
vote up to 4 times,  
*every day!*'

**Final Coastal  
Voting Results  
on Page 2**



## BC Election postmortem

### Fair Voting BC

#### Half Voters Still Unrepresented

British Columbian voters cast just under 1.8 million votes on May 9. About 910,000 were cast for elected MLAs, while 890,000 were cast for candidates who did not win election. This means that barely half the voters, less than 51% of us, are represented by an MLA we support. This is par for the course for First-Past-the-Post voting.

#### Swing Ridings Rule the Day

Seventeen of the province's 87 ridings had a winning margin of under 10%, and 7 had a margin of under 5%. This means that most ridings (70 of the 87) were pretty safe bets for the winning party. Indeed, of the 75 ridings whose candidates stayed the same since the last election, only 14 changed hands this election, with an average vote shift of only 7%.

Indeed, a swing of under 500 votes (eg: in Coquitlam-Burke Mountain, Richmond-Queensborough and Vancouver-False Creek) could mean the difference between a Liberal majority and an NDP majority, despite neither party having more than 40% of the vote. A proportional voting system would be much less sensitive to small vote shifts—to swing an election from a 50-40 majority to a 40-50 outcome would require a vote swing of more like 85,000 votes here in BC.

#### A Majority Wants Electoral Reform

Close to 57% of voters cast their votes for parties that explicitly promised to take steps to introduce proportional representation before the next election. This is an important milestone.

#### ‘Us Versus Them’—Exaggerated Regional Differences

The seat map is striking—the NDP won almost all the seats on Vancouver Island and across the central parts of Greater Vancouver, while the Liberal Party won all the seats in the eastern Fraser Valley and almost all the seats in the Interior.

Does this reflect how people voted? Not at all. The NDP took two-thirds of the seats in the Lower Mainland and on Vancouver Island on 40-45% of the vote in these regions, while the Liberal Party took over 85% of the seats in the eastern Fraser Valley and the Interior on just over 50% of the vote. But in all these regions, the second party had close to 30% of the vote (and the Liberals had close to 40% in Greater Vancouver).

Why should these voters not have an MLA who shares their political perspective? Such exaggeration is damaging to our ability to make good provincial policy decisions. Whoever forms government needs to hear from voices across the province. First-Past-

Coastal BC Election Results				
Electoral Areas do not include the Lower Mainland. For more results: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>				
COURTENAY-COMOX				
Ronna Leonard	BCNDP	10,886	37.36%	
Jim Benniger	BCLiberal	10,697	36.72%	
Ernie Sellentin	BCGreen	5,351	18.37%	
Leah McCulloch	BCCons	2,201	7.55%	
COWICHAN VALLEY				
Sonia Furstenau	BCGreen	11,475	37.45%	
Lori Iannidinardo	BCNDP	9,603	31.34%	
Steve Hauser	BCLiberal	8,400	27.41%	
Ian Morrison	Independent	502	1.64%	
James Anderson	Libertarian	393	1.28%	
Samuel Lockhart	Independent	145	0.47%	
Eden Haythornthwaite	Independent	124	0.40%	
ESQUIMALT-METCHOSIN				
Mitzi Dean	BCNDP	11,816	46.25%	
Barb Desjardins	BCLiberal	7,055	27.61%	
Andy MacKinnon	BCGreen	6,339	24.81%	
Joshua Steffler	Libertarian	171	0.67%	
Delmar Martay	Independent	102	0.40%	
LANFORD JUAN DE FUCA				
John Horgan (re-elected)	BCNDP	13,224	52.75%	
Cathy Noel	BCLiberal	6,544	26.11%	
Brendan Ralfs	BCGreen	4,795	19.13%	
Scott Burton	Libertarian	262	1.05%	
Willie Nelson	VanIsl Party	242	0.97%	
MID ISLAND—PACIFIC RIM				
Scott Fraser	BCNDP	12,556	49.04%	
Darren DeLuca	BCLiberal	6,578	25.69%	
Alicia La Rue	BCGreen	5,206	20.33%	
Julian Fell	BCCons	878	3.43%	
Robert Clarke	Libertarian	298	1.16%	
Dan Cebuliak	BCRefed	86	0.34%	
NANAIMO				
Leonard Krog (re-elected)	BCNDP	12,746	46.54%	
Paris Gaudet	BCLiberal	8,912	32.54%	
Kathleen Harris	BCGreen	5,454	19.91%	
Bill Walker	Libertarian	277	1.01%	
NANAIMO-NORTH COWICHAN				
Doug Routley (re-elected)	BCNDP	12,275	46.90%	
Anna DeLong	BCLiberal	7,380	28.20%	
Lia Versaevl	BCGreen	6,244	23.86%	
Anna Paddon	Independent	274	1.05%	
NORTH ISLAND				
Claire Trevena (re-elected)	BCNDP	12,255	47.51%	
Dallas Smith	BCLiberal	9,148	35.47%	
Sue Moen	BCGreen	3,846	14.9%	
John Twigg	BCFirst	543	2.11%	
OAK BAY/GORDON HEAD				
Andrew Weaver	BCGreen	15,257	52.17%	
Alex Dutton	BCLiberal	6,952	23.77%	
Bryce Casavant	BCNDP	6,912	23.63%	
Jin Yang-Riley	VanIsl Party	67	0.23%	
Xaanja Free	4BC	58	0.20%	
PARKSVILLE/QUALICUM				
Michelle Stilwell (re-elected)	BCLib	14,468	45.31%	
Sue Powell	BCNDP	9,189	28.66%	
Glenn Sollitt	BCGreen	8,157	25.44%	
Terry Hand	BCRefed	245	0.76%	
Tyson Strandlund	BCCommunist	65	0.25%	
POWELL RIVER—SUNSHINE COAST				
Nicholas Simons (re-elected)	BCNDP	13,646	50.70%	
Matthew Wilson	BCLiberal	6,602	24.53%	
Kim Darwin	BCGreen	6,505	24.17%	
Reuben Richards	BCCascadia	160	0.59%	
SAANICH NORTH & THE ISLANDS				
Adam Olsen	BCGreen	14,775	41.95%	
Gary Holman	BCNDP	10,764	30.56%	
Stephen Roberts	BCLiberal	9,321	26.46%	
Jordan Templeman	Independent	364	1.03%	
SAANICH SOUTH				
Lana Popham (re-elected)	BCNDP	11,921	42.46%	
David Calder	BCLiberal	8,716	31.05%	
Mark Neufeld	BCGreen	7,129	25.39%	
Andrew McLean	Libertarian	177	0.63%	
Richard Pattee	VanIsl Party	130	0.46%	
VICTORIA BEACON HILL				
Carole James (re-elected)	BCNDP	16,057	53.05%	
Kalen Harris	BCGreen	9,197	30.38%	
Karen Bill	BCLiberal	4,689	15.49%	
Art Lowe	Libertarian	190	0.63%	
Jordan Reichert	Independent	102	0.34%	
David Shebib	Independent	35	0.12%	
VICTORIA SWAN LAKE				
Rob Fleming (re-elected)	BCNDP	13,531	53.62%	
Chris Maxwell	BCGreen	74,91	29.69%	
Stacey Piercey	BCLiberal	4,005	15.87%	
David Costigane	VanIsl Party	207	0.82%	

MLAs were sworn in on June 7th and 8th and the Legislature is recalled for June 22.

the-Post silences those voices.

#### More Women Elected

The number of women in the BC Legislature increased slightly, from 31 of 85 to 33 of 87 (36.5% to 38%), which is a higher percentage than any other legislature in Canada (Ontario is second at 35%). Women represented 41% of the Liberal Party candidates, 51% of the NDP candidates and 38% of the Green Party candidates. This percentage is up by 10% on average over the 2013 numbers for the Liberal Party and NDP.

However, women won only 30%, 46% and 33% of those parties' seats, respectively, suggesting that perhaps the parties tended to place women in less winnable ridings (the Liberal Party's gap of 10% suggests that they may have done this to a somewhat greater extent than the other two, who had only a 5% gap each). Nonetheless, the increase does confirm the importance of increasing the

number of women nominated. But we can do better. Some form of proportional representation, like Single Transferable Vote, would ensure that virtually all ridings would be competitive; so we would remove that largely invisible barrier of 'unwinnable' ridings.

#### More Indigenous MLAs

The election of Adam Olsen and Eliss Ross brings the total number of indigenous MLAs to four (joining Melanie Mark and Carole James of the NDP).

#### Initial Voter Turnout Figures Higher

Another slightly bright spot was the (estimated) improvement in voter turnout – currently estimated at about 57% (up from 55% in 2013, and from 51% in 2009, but it hasn't been above 60% since 1991 (64%).

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**MALE RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD**

Photo: Mike Yip



## June is orca month - Georgia Strait Alliance

It's Orca Awareness Month in the Pacific Northwest! And it's a good thing because orcas are in serious trouble. Statues, paintings and pictures are beautiful—including the gorgeous artwork on the new Salish Orca ferry, plying the waters between Comox and Powell River—but can't be the only way we want to retain and experience the magic of orcas.

They're teetering on the verge of extinction. Today, there are 78 southern resident orcas in our coastal waters—seven fewer than last year. This does not include several reports of calves who were stillborn or who died shortly after birth. We are walking on a knife's edge when it comes to the reality of extinction of this genetically unique family in the next few decades.

Prey availability is one of the major threats to recovery efforts. The diet of southern resident killer whales is one key threat we have to address to see this species recover. The orcas' diet consist of approximately 80% Chinook salmon. The average adult needs to eat around 385 pounds of salmon a day to stay healthy, traveling up to 100 miles every 24 hours to find enough food. Unfortunately, there isn't always sufficient salmon to sustain 78 whales.

In the past, many local rivers in both British Columbia and Washington state supported millions of spawning Chinook salmon each year, however, today many populations of Chinook are now extinct in the Pacific Northwest. A large percentage of the ones that remain are in serious trouble. Many local Chinook populations are at 5-10% of their historical numbers, and trends are not improving.

We won't see the orca population recover if the whales don't have enough food to eat.

How did this happen? The reasons for the declines in salmon are many; most were preventable and there are definitely solutions if

there is a will to take action.

Decades of overfishing both Chinook salmon and the fish that salmon eat, like herring, sand lance, sardines, eulachon, and other species of juvenile salmon, has dramatically reduced their numbers.

Another massive impact on salmon are the 1,000+ dams that have been built between Canada and the US on the river systems that supported spawning Chinook.

Yet many of these dams are no longer in use for power generation but are still impacting salmon. Pair this with forestry practices—including clear-cutting to the edge of rivers—which have resulted in increasing water temperatures, and eggs-choking sediment loads—and the impact on Chinook has been dramatic, and orcas have less food to eat.

### Federal Final Action Plan Released

The good news is that today we have a choice. We can either sit idle and watch this community of whales fade away or we can stand up and take action for their survival. The federal government's Final Action Plan for the southern residents was released just this March, but it is lacking in urgency, timelines and clear action.

We collectively need to keep the pressure on the government to invest more time, money and resources into rebuilding Chinook salmon populations. Orcas do not have time to wait for action; they need changes to start now.

We may not know the exact details about orcas and their relationship with prey, but we do know they rely on Chinook and they need lots of it. We know that right now there aren't enough fish and we have to start rebuilding salmon stocks immediately. The choice is clear: extinction or recovery. 🐟

Elizabeth May, O.C. MP  
Saanich-Gulf Islands

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## HORNBY

### Marriage Commissioner

The Vital Statistics Agency, Ministry of Health, is looking for an individual to serve as a Marriage Commissioner for Hornby Island. The individual will perform civil marriages within their community on behalf of the Agency. Applicants must reside on Hornby Island in order to be considered for this position.

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Tel: 250.216.2267 • News: [news@islandtides.com](mailto:news@islandtides.com)  
Advertising: [islandtides@islandtides.com](mailto:islandtides@islandtides.com)

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## Coastal Fire Centre fire ban in effect

We have dried out at last but with that comes the summer fire ban. Effective at noon on June 7 Category 2 open fires will be prohibited throughout the Coastal Fire Centre's jurisdiction, except in Haida Gwaii and the 'Fog Zone' to help prevent human-caused wildfires and protect public safety.

This prohibition will remain in effect until October 20 or until the public is otherwise notified. To view a map of the affected area [CLICK HERE](#).

This prohibition covers all BC Parks, Crown and private lands within the Coastal FireCentre, but does not apply within the boundaries of a local government that has forest fire prevention bylaws in place and is serviced by a fire department. Check with local government authorities for their restrictions before lighting any fire.

The Fog Zone is a two-kilometre strip of land along the outer coast of Vancouver Island, stretching from Owen Point (near Port Renfrew) north to the tip of Vancouver Island and around to the boundary of the District of Port Hardy. This strip extends inland two kilometres from the high

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## Readers' Letters

### Hidden Cost of Massey Bridge

Dear Editor:  
Our island is Greener! The rest of the country? Not yet.  
Down in Washington, at the nuclear repository (nice name; a retirement home for old nuclear waste), the best idea they had was to gather all the hot, nasty stuff and put it in boxcars. Then what?  
Then drive the railcars into a surface-made tunnel and pretend that if you couldn't see it, it didn't exist. (My children used to use this technique too.) It seems somebody peeked between the tunnel builders' fingers. The 'new' solution? More tunnel. But this time, no peeking!  
In BC the \$3.5 billion cost for our proposed 10-lane bridge didn't include the 7 billion dollar financing cost. Seems the Liberals thought it was a bad idea to tell us right before an election. So thoughtful. I wonder if they, too, use 'tunnels'?

Graeme Bregani, Saturna Island

### Coal Tax, Pronto

Dear Editor:  
The people of BC have voted for a minority government with the Green Party holding the balance of power. We can only hope a first order of business will be Ms Clark's promise to levy a \$70/ton carbon tax on coal, (and presumably the even more toxic bitumen), transiting our province.  
While Mr. Horgan might allow his donors to help her forget that promise, we may see Mr. Weaver remind her, perhaps with legislation to that effect?  
Provinces polluting their air and water have no right to dump that pollution on or even transport it through our lands and waters. California, Oregon and Washington have banned these poisons. It's time we did the same.

Jim Erkiletian, Nanaimo

### London Terrorist Attacks

Dear Editor:  
As an Ahmadi Muslim, I am extremely saddened and angered by the news of the attacks in London.  
It is ironic that these extremists have conducted such violence during Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting where Muslims across the globe immerse themselves in self-discipline and social

tide point. For a map of the Fog Zone [CLICK HERE](#).


### Prohibition Specifics:

- the burning of any material (piled or unpiled) smaller than two metres high and three metres wide;
- the burning of stubble or grass fires over an area less than 2,000 square metres;
- the use of fireworks, firecrackers, sky lanterns, burning barrels or burning cages of anysize or description; and
- the use of binary exploding targets (e.g. for rifle target practice).

Permitted are campfires smaller than a half-metre high by a half-metre wide, and cooking stoves that use gas, propane or briquettes (check with local fire departments for additional restrictions).

People lighting a campfire must maintain a fireguard by removing flammable debris from the campfire area and they must have a hand tool or at least eight litres of water available nearby to properly extinguish the fire. Ensure that the fire is completely extinguished and ashes are cold to the touch before leaving the area for any length of time.

Anyone lighting larger fires (Category 3 fires) or more than two fires of any size must comply with open burning regulations and must first obtain a



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welfare. In fact, Islam rests on the principles of peace and tolerance, a sharp contrast to the actions of these militant groups.

They do not represent Islam. They do not represent the global Muslim community, who are the first to condemn and apologize for their actions.

I urge all readers, not to let their perceptions of Islam, and their Muslim neighbours and countrymen to be stained by the actions of a few.

I send my sincerest condolences and prayers to the victims of this attack.

Khizar Karim, Alliston, Ontario

### Thank You

Dear Editor:  
My heartfelt thanks to my family, our NDP campaign team, the hundreds of volunteers and donors, and the thousands of voters who supported me in the May 9 election. My congratulations to Adam Olsen for his successful campaign, and to Steven Roberts and Jordan Templeman for putting themselves forward for public office.

We now appear to be on the verge of a historical minority government, which if it can endure, will result in some welcome, progressive changes at the provincial level, like voting and election finance reforms, and stopping destructive industrial projects, all of which were key elements of the BC NDP and Green platforms.

There are also many other opportunities for positive changes on Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands, such as establishing a National Marine Conservation Area for the Salish Sea, reduction of ferry fares and establishment of inter-island passenger service, affordable housing, health and seniors care facilities, expansion of community bus service and pathway systems, and green space protection.

I'm proud to have served as the first NDP MLA ever elected in Saanich North and the Islands, and it has been a privilege to have worked with Gulf Islanders on a number of these issues over the past four years. I am looking forward to future possibilities. Thank you all.

Gary Holman, Salt Spring Island

burn registration number by calling 1-888-797-1717. They must also check venting conditions before lighting the fire. If the venting conditions in the area are rated 'poor' or 'fair', open burning is restricted. The venting index can be obtained by calling 1-888 281-2992.

Anyone who lights, fuels or uses an open fire when a fire prohibition is in place or fails to comply with an open fire prohibition may be issued a fine of \$1,150 or, if convicted in court, be fined up to \$100,000 and/or sentenced to one year in jail. If the contravention causes or contributes to a wildfire, the person responsible may be subject to a penalty of up to \$100,000 and ordered to pay all firefighting and associated costs.

The Coastal Fire Centre covers all of the area west of the height of land on the Coast Mountain Range from the US-Canada border at Manning Park, including Tweedsmuir South Provincial Park in the north, Sunshine Coast, Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, Gulf Islands and Haida Gwaii.

To report a wildfire, unattended campfire or open burning violation, call 1 800 663-5555 or \*5555 on a cellphone. For information on wildfire activity, burning restrictions, road closures and air quality advisories, [CLICK HERE](#).

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Bald eagle on high alert at Baker Beach on Salt Spring.

Photo: Kim Stewart Photography

## World Environment Day reminds us to reconnect with nature

David Suzuki

The notion that we must conquer or dominate nature has governed human behaviour for a relatively short period of our 150,000-year history on this 4.5-billion-year-old planet. It's an understandable impulse. In the face of powerful, often threatening natural forces, our intelligence and foresight allowed us to develop complex societies and gave us a sense of control over our existence.

Unfortunately, our lack of attention to the intricate and interconnected ways of nature has led to widespread devastation that now threatens the very systems that support human health and survival. We have become disconnected from our own true nature.

The more science reveals about the natural world, the more we learn what many indigenous peoples have long known: that everything is interconnected and interdependent — from the tiniest microbes to the largest carnivores, from plants that sequester carbon, prevent flooding and feed us to the carbon, hydrologic and other large cycles that keep the planet in balance.

There's likely no going back to simpler times, but our survival does depend on respecting our place in this miraculous world. To heal the disconnection, we must reconnect. It's fitting, then, that the theme of June 5th's World Environment Day was 'Connecting People to Nature'.

Renowned American ecologist Edward O Wilson used the term 'biophilia' to describe the innate kinship people share with all other life forms. Because we are more likely to care for the things we love and see as important, we must rekindle this biological imperative if we are to protect the biosphere that keeps us healthy

and alive.

How do we accomplish that when many of us are moving further from our natural connections daily—when the average North American child spends less than 30 minutes a day playing outside, but more than seven hours in front of a TV, computer or smartphone screen, and when many adults spend their days driving to and from work where they sit in front of computers for hours on end?

Understanding the benefits of time in nature is a start. Studies show time outdoors can reduce stress and attention deficit disorder; boost immunity, energy levels and creativity; increase curiosity and problem-solving ability; improve physical fitness and coordination; and even reduce the likelihood of developing near-sightedness!

It also builds memories. I was fortunate in many ways to have grown up before televisions, computers, smartphones and other electronic distractions. My greatest memories are of fishing with my dad, exploring swamps and bogs to collect bugs, frogs and salamander eggs, and hiking in the mountains. Even the time my family spent in an internment camp in the British Columbia wilderness during the Second World War holds fond memories of playing by rivers filled with fish and exploring forests where wolves, bears and deer roamed.

In Japan, the term shinrin-yoku—'forest bathing' or 'taking in forest air'—describes the beneficial effects of connecting with the natural world. Japanese researchers have found people who breathe forest air lower their risk for diabetes and experience improved mood and lower stress hormone production

compared to people exercising on indoor treadmills.

Even getting dirty is good. In their upcoming book *The Secret Life of Your Microbiome*, Alan C Logan and Susan L Prescott explore the importance of microbes and microbiomes, the microbial communities on and in our bodies and all around us. Microbes break down food and produce vitamins in our guts. They coat our skin, protecting us from attacks by harmful microbes. The air we breathe, the soil we dig and the outdoor plants we come into contact with include a variety of microbes—many of them beneficial—that may be absent in indoor and built environments.

Planting pollinator-friendly native plants in your garden, making a mud pie, taking photos of wildlife in the forest or sleeping under the stars are all healthy activities—and they connect you with the natural world and open your eyes and heart to the amazing, intricately interconnected biosphere of which we are all a part.

Getting outside, especially with the children in your life, is one of the best things you can do for yourself, your family and friends, and the planet. World Environment Day reminds us of the importance of connecting with nature every day!

David Suzuki is a scientist, broadcaster, author and co-founder of the David Suzuki Foundation. Written with contributions from David Suzuki Foundation Senior Editor Ian Hanington. David Suzuki's latest book is *Just Cool It!: The Climate Crisis and What We Can Do* (Greystone Books), co-written with Ian Hanington.

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**MEETING**  
School District #64 (Gulf Islands). Regular meetings of the Board of School Trustees will be held on Wednesday, June 8, at the School Board Office, Ganges! Meeting commencing at 1pm. Public Welcome!  
Agenda:  
<http://sd64.bc.ca/district/school-board-meetings/>.

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Photo: H Wolf

Last year's muster of paddlers for the Saanich Inlet, where an LNG liquefaction and tanker loading site is planned. Organized by the Saanich Inlet Network, this year's event is being held on Summer Solstice, June 21st, which is National Aboriginal Day and the festivities included a potluck gathering, [CLICK HERE](#) for more information. Rental boats are available from Pacifica Paddle Sports in Brentwood Bay, 250-665-7411.

## The Chocolate Cake Diet - the Liberals' climate plan

Elizabeth May, MP

First, let's get out of the way any notion that the Trudeau administration is no better than the Conservatives under Stephen Harper. Trudeau and his cabinet are far superior by any sensible measurement.

So too, Trudeau will always look like a super-hero compared to Trump. Trump's latest pronouncement that the US is out of Paris, even though he has no power to effect legal withdrawal before November 4, 2020, confirms his role as Destroyer in Chief.

Trump will continue to make reckless and dangerous decisions. But that does not mean the Trudeau Liberals should get a free ride. Especially when our children's future is at stake.

The climate promises of the Liberal 2015 platform were thin. For climate action, no target was promised. What was promised was that Trudeau would go to the Paris COP21 negotiations (✓), start working with the provinces on a pan-Canadian framework within 90 days of Paris (✓), end fossil fuel subsidies (no ✓ yet—and he has refused to give the Auditor General the information to audit that promise), and put in place a national carbon price (✓- sort of).

The best things the Trudeau administration did on climate were in the first two months after the 2015 election. The leadership in Paris was real. Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna, was the first representative from an industrialized nation to call for the treaty to set the long term goal at holding global average temperature increase to no more than 1.5°C above what it was before the Industrial Revolution. And Canadian leadership mattered. The Paris Agreement calls for all nations on earth to work together to avoid exceeding 1.5°C global average temperature increase, and certainly to hold it below 2°C.

Most close observers, including climate heroes Dr Jim Hansen of NASA and Bill McKibben of 350.org, had predicted that avoiding 2 degrees would be the Paris goal.

### What A Difference Half A Degree Makes

'One point five' makes the difference between having all the low-lying island states under water. 1.5°C means that African nations can pull through and the North Pole might remain ice-covered year-round.

'1.5 to stay alive!' as the African continent's delegates chanted as they walked out of the disgraceful 2009 Copenhagen climate negotiations. That half degrees Celsius in global average temperature is the difference between millions of people dying—or not.

At two degrees we run a highly uncomfortable risk of losing the Greenland ice sheet and the Western Antarctic ice sheet. If *either* of those collapse, it means an 8 metre sealevel rise. Read that again, because I want to be sure you noticed: *8 metre sealevel rise*. We lose both and we will have a 16 meter sealevel rise.

So, meeting the Paris long-term target matters. A lot. In Paris, Catherine McKenna called the climate target left behind by Harper 'the floor'. The new administration would do better...but that was so 2015. Throughout 2016, things got worse. The Harper target became the Trudeau target. It is *not* a 'Paris target'. In fact, it is incompatible with the Paris goal.

### Getting To A Carbon Tax

The political goal of a carbon price was all important to the Liberals ... but it would not on its own deliver even the weak Harper target. No matter, it was a promise, so political trade-offs were needed.

'Rachel needs a pipeline.' 'Christy needs LNG.' We need Christy to go along with Kinder Morgan so we have to give her projects that increase greenhouse gases: massive LNG like Woodfibre and Petronas and the massive boondoggle damming of the Peace River (Site C) to provide the energy for fracking the gas for that LNG delusion. (All of these projects violate the rights of First Nations.)

All this to be able to get Rachel her pipeline, so

that we can get a national carbon price.

I still believe the Liberals mean well, but that doesn't mean they are *doing* well—the first rule of holes: if you want to get out of a hole, stop digging.

The approvals of projects that increase greenhouse gases (GHG) are the political trade-off for a carbon price. As of May 18, we have the details for the backstop carbon price for any province that does not develop its own pricing mechanism by 2018.

While consumer energy—gas at the pump and home heating—will have a weak \$10/tonne price in 2018, the biggest polluters in the country are off the hook until 2019. And then, they will not have to pay a price on actual emissions. The biggest polluters – the 563 facilities that produce 37% of Canada's GHG emissions—will be paying on the basis of energy intensity.

This concept—invented by the first President George Bush—means that the target is set per unit of production, so as production goes up, even if the amount of carbon per unit drops, GHG emissions can rise while we are celebrating a carbon price.

### Clean Tech & The Economy

Every time I hear Jim Carr or Cath McKenna or Justin Trudeau say 'Environment and Economy go hand in hand,' I know that the statement is true. It means we can invest in clean tech and renewable energy and energy efficiency—and boost the economy while driving down GHG emissions.

But that statement does not apply to the Liberals' climate plan. You might as well say 'Going on a diet and eating chocolate cake go hand-in-hand.' These are contradictory. They cannot go hand in hand.

Those attacking the Liberals for too much climate action—Brad Wall and the Wild Rose-Conservatives of Alberta—are matched by those who are prepared to cheer mediocre climate action as though we have all the time in the world. We do not.

We are running out of time. A reckoning is coming. And chocolate cake diets do not work. ☞





Photo: David Greer

Spring is all about eggs and hatchlings. These belong to a Bewick's wren, in a nest nicely hidden in the clematis on David's deck.

## The new Era of BC Politics - Adam Olsen, MLA

The past few weeks have been a humbling experience.

During the election I promised to be part of changing the discourse in British Columbia politics. I had imagined working to achieve this over the course of a four year-term as an MLA. But the final results returned a two-seat difference between the BC NDP and the BCLiberals with the BC Greens' three seats holding the balance.

British Columbians are used to majority governments, one party supported by less than half of the voters, holding 100% of the power. For decades politics in our Province has been a power 'game'.

This 'game' has not benefited citizens, it has only advanced partisan interests. As a result our political dialogue and the behaviour of our politicians has become polarized.

Before and throughout the election campaign, I heard from people that they believed we needed a change in government. I heard that they had grown

weary of the BCLiberals and that they are suspicious of the BC NDP. In Saanich North & The Islands the results reflected a strong desire for change.

In the weeks following the election, my BC Green colleagues and I were handed a difficult scenario; the balance of power.

Do we prop up the unpopular BCLiberal government and risk them calling another election very soon, so they could solidify their grip on power? Or do we prop up an untested NDP government on confidence and budget votes? No matter who we chose to prop up, the 'other side' was going to be bitterly disappointed.

After weeks of negotiations and careful consideration we decided to give the NDP our support on confidence and budget votes. Our agreement allowed us to remain an independent third voice in the Legislature as an opposition party.

Let me be clear. We have not sold out our values. We are not a coalition, nor are we the 'GreeNDP'. I am the MLA of Saanich North & The Islands and the most important decision I have made, happened while I was still technically your MLA-elect.

During the campaign I offered a hopeful vision for the future of British Columbia founded on a commitment to intergenerational equity. I promised you that I would:

- be an insurance policy, holding both the NDP and BCLiberals accountable;
- establish a responsive and pro-active constituency office solving local issues and advancing the interests of our communities; and
- seek and offer pragmatic public policy solutions to the challenges and opportunities facing British Columbians.

The agreement BC Greens and BCNDP signed—to support confidence and budget votes of an NDP minority government—allows me to honour these commitments. I will be a community-focused MLA

who has your interests and the interests of our riding at the centre of my decision-making. I will honour my agreement with the NDP but they have to earn my support on all other initiatives, just as they earned our support by making a commitment to advancing certain policy proposals on which the BC Greens campaigned.

We could not change government by supporting the BCLiberals, it would have been more of the same. They would continue down the same path on health care, education, transportation, affordability and housing. Liberal, NDP, Green and Independent voters in Saanich North & The Islands told me that was unacceptable.

The BCLiberals have been in power for 16 years, they became out of touch with British Columbians and during the election so many people told me it was time to reset. (Four cabinet ministers were defeated.)

It has been more than six decades since our last minority government. I understand the uncertainty the minority government situation has caused. But nobody is more uncomfortable than the 87 MLAs elected in May 9 and that is to the benefit of all British Columbians.

Over the past few weeks I have been asked repeatedly about holding the 'balance of power.' I choose to regard it as the balance of responsibility.

All 87 MLAs share the responsibility to govern the province for next four years. Every MLA must act responsibly to make it work for the whole term. We must work together, breaking down the polarization which has eroded democratic debate and good public policy making.

Indeed, we are entering a new era of BC politics where collaboration and transparency across political lines are needed for the system to work.

It's an exciting time for our province and I am committed to work with all 87 MLAs in the Legislature as we move forward. ✍



Photo: Laura Parker

Saanich North & The Islands MLA Adam Olsen is honoured with a First Nation's Blanket Ceremony before his swearing in on June 7.





Photo: Mark Worthing, Sierra Club BC

'Walk 4 The Salish Sea' participants certainly 'walked the talk'. Starting at Mile 0 in Victoria, they walked 75kms in 4 days to Kinder Morgan's Westridge terminal in Burnaby.

## Walking 4 the Salish Sea

Laura Parker

As we stand, march, and paddle to protect our Salish Sea, it is fitting that this edition of *Island Tides* comes out around World Oceans Day with this year's theme being, 'Our Oceans, Our Future'.

On the first day of the Walk 4 the Salish Sea, May 25, it felt like we were walking for something instead of against. We are protectors not protesters: protectors of the Salish Sea, it's wildlife, the land, and our children's future. Not afraid of change, we're excited by the possibilities to transition to safe, clean renewable energy systems away from the dying fossil fuel industry of the last century.

This is about moving forward into a green economy which includes, alternatives in transportation, renewable energy, better building policies for cities, urban agriculture, to name a few exciting prospects.

On a big blue-sky day, with a cool breeze blowing off the Strait of Juan de Fuca, hundreds joined First Nations and Environmental NGOs at Mile 0 in Victoria to kick off the 75 kilometre trek to the gates of Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain Pipeline terminal on Burnaby Mountain. Drumming, singing, and chanting buoyed up the carrying of heavy signs: orca fins, jellyfish, even a huge life-size orca balloon!

Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May addressed the crowd to remind us that the NEB review of the Kinder Morgan expansion is without merit and the project must be stopped. 'Approving this pipeline was an enormous mistake. And it is a mistake that we will undo.' [click here.](#)

Both BCNDP MLA Carole James and Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps also spoke

passionately, standing up for British Columbians against this project. Victoria Councillor Ben Isitt and North Saanich Councillor Jack Thornburgh joined Elizabeth May to walk the first day (she walked all four!)

The kilometres passed quickly as people met, connected, and talked about the issues. Passersby waved and honked in support, as we handed out

leaflets of information of the cause. Cold water and snacks to refresh and nourish us were a welcome sight at check points along the way. Winding through the streets of Victoria, stopping traffic (thank you to the Victoria police contingent who helped keep everyone safe), then trekking the Galloping Goose trail we ended up 23 kilometres later at Tsawout First Nation's gymnasium in Saanichton for a potluck, entertainment, and more passionate conversations. A wonderful way to end the day of being for something instead of against.

I only participated on the first day but Elizabeth May marched on, as did many more.

On June 1, MP May spoke in Parliament about the need for 'a decent, rigorous environmental review done by the Government of British Columbia,' before deciding on pipeline support. However on June 6 an Opposition Motion in the House Of Commons to support the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion approval was carried by 252-51.

First Nations challenges to the pipeline now seem a last resort for opposition to it. The public can help by supporting the legal costs of the Coldwater, Squamish, and Tsleil-waututh nations challenging Kinder Morgan in court.

For more information, [click here.](#)

'... it felt like we were walking for something instead of against—we are protectors not protesters.'

## New marine protected area for BC outer coast is on the way

On May 24, Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard announced a new Area of Interest (AOI) off the coast of British Columbia, with the intention of making it one of Canada's largest Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) by 2020.

The identified AOI represent approximately 140,000km<sup>2</sup> of ocean, located west of Vancouver Island at the edge of Canadian waters.

The move is part of Government of Canada's plan to reach its domestic and international targets of protecting 5% of Canada's marine and coastal areas by 2017 and 10% by 2020.

The AOI aims to protect ecologically and biologically significant areas, including underwater seamounts and a series of hydrothermal vents. A seamount is an underwater mountain that rises more than 1,000m from the seafloor.

Hydrothermal vents are chimney-like structures that release minerals from the Earth's crust. Typically, these vents are home to unique species of animals that have adapted to live in the harsh conditions created by the presence of the vents.

Seamounts and hydrothermal vents are ecologically and biologically significant because they support enhanced biological productivity and complex ecosystems made up of a distinctive quantity and variety of species.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada identified the area as a priority for protection through a peer-

reviewed science advisory process. The protection of a large ocean area provides a holistic approach to marine conservation, contributing to the protection of several entire ecosystems and unique ocean features, interdependent habitats, and the connectivity between distinct sites in an area not currently under extensive pressure from human activity.

Once the AOI is fully identified, final boundaries and activity restrictions for an MPA will be established through extensive consultations, through an Advisory Committee with provincial and territorial partners, Indigenous Peoples, and stakeholders.

Input from consultations, along with scientific expertise and traditional ecological knowledge, will contribute to a report to support the development of the MPA's conservation objectives and the management measures.

### Conservation Plan

The protection of large offshore areas is one component of Canada's five point plan to reach its marine conservation target.

The plan includes: finishing the work already started in areas progressing towards designation as MPAs; identifying new MPAs to protect areas currently under pressure from human activities; identifying existing, and establishing new, effective area-based conservation measures, such as: restrictions to fishing to create marine shelters for fish, mammals and their habitat; and exploring ways to update the *Oceans Act* to facilitate the designation process for MPAs.



# Saturna Notes

Priscilla Ewbank

The transformation of winter to spring this year was an explosion! Cool weeks; plants slowly trundling along; then whammo—long hot days of blue skies and we rocketed through whole blooming cycles! What a lark! What tremendous life-force energy on display for us all to see and celebrate this year!

## Gardening & Long Walks

I am a gardener. I think and contemplate and I remember why I love life so much when I am gardening. Through gardening, I can get back to that space when my interior climate is gloomy.

Family and community, gardening, and long walks on the Island make my life rich and fruitful. Living on Saturna for so long I have the lives of people in mind as I walk by their homes. Years of wildlife and flora comings and goings—growth and dying of landscapes by season and by year are mine to reference.

I have regular people that I contact to see what is going on in their neck of the woods and what they remember by comparison from when they first came. Memories of what older Islanders have told me about even earlier Islanders and places comes to life in this social landscape.

As my life matures, I understand older Islander's observations and comments better. I can even see what a wealth of knowledge and experience I, too, have garnered simply by living in peaceful times in one community and one landscape.

## Pictures From The Past

All those chronicles, diaries, and local newspapers are priceless to keep us up to date and to record our evolving lives, personal and public, as we have our turn at life.

Most of us love to see pictures from the past. How young they (we) looked! How big the trees were! 'That's where the wharf was?' What ingenious things did 'they' do to create a social and economic life? What are we doing? We Islanders (except for a few that were born here) each had our own point of entry to slip into the long lives of our communities and our natural landscapes; living and being part of the changes.

## Islands' Social Order

Saturna Island has ways of running committees and organizations that are more or less Robert's Rules of Order-ish when discussions are going well and consensus is easy.

If the situation is more heated we do one of two things. Give it another go, consulting with trusted and experienced natural leaders, or get more uptight and rule-oriented. Whatever the situation, we always have the full complement of chairpersons, secretaries, and treasurers, and agreed upon ways of transacting business.

Socially, older Islanders passed down traditions that made great sense in their times. We also have a whole flock of 'understood' ways of accomplishing communal activities—and change can be gradual.

You have to be here for awhile to get the hang of these 'choices' and 'rules'. You may have to have your life bang-up against a situation to understand that you don't know them and must ask an experienced Islander—what the heck is happening? 'Oh didn't yah know?'

## The Etiquette of Baby Showers... Then

One example of social evolving that has come to the fore recently is the etiquette and rules around community-wide baby showers. When I came to Saturna the cardinal rule was that there is only one community shower per mom and it was for her first baby. This shower was to help set her up with baby basics. Hand-me-downs were a real necessity, fashion was far down on the list.

There were more conventions. No baby shower



Photo: Laura Parker

**BC's first ever Green caucus is sworn-in on June 7 at the Legislature. Sonia Furstenu, Andrew Weaver, and Adam Olsen are all smiles at the opportunity to represent their constituents.**

until after the baby was born (because babies did not always survive in earlier times). Babyshowers were held at night after the women have made dinner and cleared-up. Men did not come and were not invited. Potluck food was brought. Socializing and eating were the first order of the shower, then present opening. Wine is drunk. Children can come, especially siblings. Children help transport the presents to the mom and help with the tricky bits of unwrapping. A hat is made for the new mom consisting of a paper plate woven and worked with all the ribbon from the presents.

A family member or close friend recorded the list of presents for accuracy and to help with the thank-you notes expected from the Mom. The baby was handed around to loving arms and must be shared—unless it was crying then it went back to the mom.

## ... And Now

Ahh! And here is where our world has slowly evolved. Babyshowers are still held after the baby is born with all the above rules except that those community, first-child baby showers are held in the afternoon. Wine is still drunk.

Recently, some men have come quite happily to their own baby's shower and probably have drunk wine. Originally, no man would be caught dead coming—showers were women's stuff!

There is now a split in opinion; some would like to welcome and show their appreciation for all Saturna children born to the Island regardless of birth order, especially since as we have often gone years with no babies. The thinking being that having so few babies, surely a community welcome can be extended to all regardless of their birth order.

We are in the midst of deliberating this situation. At a family shower for a second-born—invitation only to honour the old tradition—firm adherents for both sides had a go at presenting their positions, wine glasses in hand. This was a hearty discussion in the midst of nursing babies, sunshine and general good will!

During discussion, we have noted occasions that have by-passed the one-shower, first-baby, cast-in-stone rule. What if you have your baby 17 years after the last one? What if you have a first-born that was not born on Saturna and then you marry a Saturna Islander and have an Island baby? Tricky circumstances, those, which warranted stretching the rules!

Several questions were asked, have we ever had a mega-shift in island practices of this magnitude before? And what should be an inclusive process for evaluating the possibility of a community shift in the unwritten rules surrounding baby showers? At the heart of the matter is—it turns out—who will host and organize the more frequent community showers?

These tribal ways of doing things in my own community can be fun, though they also have the potential to be destructive.

In my opinion, as a community we have come together more and more—men and women—and been able to examine and discuss ways of communicating and accomplishing shared goals; both in the more formal context and in our social lives. So we shall see! ☺

## Shell completes divestment of oil sands interests

On May 31 in Calgary, Royal Dutch Shell announced the completion of two previously announced agreements by Shell Canada Energy, Shell Canada Limited, and Shell Canada Resources that will see Shell sell all its in-situ and undeveloped oil sands interests in Canada and reduce its share in the Athabasca Oil Sands Project (AOSP) from 60% to 10%.

Shell divests its oil sands interests in Canada for net consideration of US\$7.25 billion.

Pursuant to the completion of the transactions, the Athabasca Oil Sands Project (AOSP) is now a joint venture between Canadian Natural Upgrading Limited (60%), Chevron Canada Limited (20%), and Marathon Oil Canada Corporation (20% which is owned 50% by a Shell-affiliate and 50% by Canadian Natural Resources Limited).

The AOSP includes the Albion Sands mining and extraction operations (Muskeg River and Jackpine mines) north of Fort McMurray, Alberta, and the Scotford upgrader and Quest CCS project northeast of Edmonton, Alberta.

The 100% Shell-affiliate-owned Scotford refinery and chemicals plants, adjacent to the Scotford upgrader and Quest CCS project, are not included in the divestment.

The Peace River Complex includes facilities at Peace River, Carmon Creek and Cliffdale. ☺



## War and Peace - 2017?

We humans are illogical, as anyone can tell,  
And if you add 'plain stupid', then you have described us well.  
Now I had always thought the human race would stabilize,  
As long as we obeyed the rules environment applies;  
Though climate change would take its toll, and need the right solution,  
There'd be no other obstacles to stop our evolution.  
But humans are illogical, and under no pretext  
Can anyone see world affairs, and know what happens next.

The world's in such a mess today, it makes me think again—  
Not whether we'll survive it all, but rather if and when.  
One of our leaders could decide to press that little button,  
And you and I and half the world would end up dead as mutton!  
Why is it when the leaders of two nations can't agree,  
That thousands of their citizens go on a killing spree?  
And neighbour nations take up arms, and so join in the fight,  
With a hundred different points-of-view of what is wrong or right?

And just who are these leaders, they are flesh and blood like me;  
Not chosen for their brains, but their demagoguery.  
Perhaps instead of fighting wars, where countless lives are lost,  
The UN could well deal with this at very little cost....  
At the General Assembly in New York, the centre of the hall,  
The duelling-ring can be right there, where t'will be seen by all;  
A two-man bout is better than with everybody in it,  
And modern warfare now is such that nobody can win it.

You leaders who would go to war—we surely would not miss you—  
'Twelve paces outward, turn and fire'—should settle any issue;  
Though with the present conflicts and more conflicts every day,  
We'd have to schedule duels at least several times a day ....  
Now Reader, this is fantasy, but one thought stands out clear—  
How well the world would get along without those war-lords here;  
And my idea has merit, for it saves a lot of bother,  
And in the end, if all goes well, they'd eliminate each other!

—H.Barry Cotton

## Map: are you in a tanker hazard route?

LNG proposals are pushing forward without the regulatory safety net needed to protect communities from the risks posed by LNG tanker traffic, say a number of BC groups. In fact, they say, regulatory safeguards against security risks in use in jurisdictions like the US are not being applied in BC.

My Sea to Sky, Voters Taking Action on Climate Change (VTACC), Skeena Wild, and Saanich Inlet Network are working together to make voters aware of this safety gap.

These local citizens' groups have launched a website with an interactive map that uses hazard zone mapping commonly employed in the US so that voters can see where they live in relation to LNG tanker traffic hazard zones here in BC.

'In the United States, you can't plan on building an LNG terminal without conducting a careful screening process that assesses security risks and threats to nearby communities,' says Kevin Washbrook of VTACC. 'In BC, proponents simply choose the site that is most convenient.'

To view the map [CLICK HERE](#). It focuses on Squamish/West Van, Delta/Richmond, the Prince Rupert area, and North Saanich. The map shows the location of populations of concern, critical infrastructure and first responders in relation to LNG tanker hazard zones.

'Our communities would be the ones most affected if there were a deliberate attack or serious accident on an LNG tanker,' said Hilary Strang of Saanich

Inlet Network, 'The risk of an LNG tanker explosion may be low, but its consequences for the local community would be catastrophic. Government needs to plan for and protect against those risks.'

'The LNG industry has guidelines for terminal siting, but they aren't being met by BC proposals,' said Eoin Finn of My Sea To Sky, 'LNG proposals build momentum in approval processes even when they are poorly located. We're worried governments will try to mitigate risk through design when they should be screening and rejecting bad proposals. It's a band-aid solution that puts communities at risk.'

For a detailed review of the gaps in LNG safety and security regulation in BC, see this document [CLICK HERE](#).

## Grads go free

BC Transit and its partner communities are offering GradPASS again: two days of free, unlimited transit travel during June. It's expected that more than 22,000 GradPASS cards will be given out this year.

GradPASS was first introduced in Vancouver in 1988. Over the past 29 years, the number of participating communities has grown to 50, including Salt Spring.

Students simply scratch off their two chosen travel days (they don't have to be consecutive days) and show the card to their bus driver. GradPASS is not transferable and can only be used on participating local systems.

## BC Ferries signs 5-year service contract for minor vessels; awarded Green Marine certification

On June 1, BC Ferries and Point Hope Maritime Ltd announced that they have entered into a five-year supply agreement for scheduled dry-docking, maintenance, repair or refit requirements, as well as emergency dry-docking services for eight of BC Ferries' minor vessels.

This agreement supports its goal to continue its practice of investing in BC-based marine services, says BC Ferries. Over the past 10 years, BC Ferries spent approximately \$1 billion at local shipyards on dry-dockings and refits, repairs, mid-life upgrades and life-extension projects.

BC Ferries also provides work for other local shipyards including: Seaspans Vancouver Shipyards, Vancouver Dry Dock, Esquimalt Drydock Company, the Esquimalt Graving Dock, and Allied Shipbuilders.

'We are pleased to solidify an arrangement as our docking partner for our minor vessels with Point Hope Maritime, which has strong capabilities in safety, engineering, planning, project management procurement and quality control,' said BC Ferries' Vice President of Engineering Mark Wilson. 'Access to a local, secure supply of services is crucial for the reliability of our fleet, and therefore essential to the communities we serve.'

BC Ferries is planning approximately 20 scheduled dry-dockings for the minor vessels over the next five years, and will contribute millions of dollars in supporting local employment and services. The agreement also allows for emergency dry-docking space if required.

The vessels that will be serviced at Point Hope Maritime include: *Kahloke, Klitsa, Kuper, Kwuna,*

*Nicola, Nimpkish, Tachek and Quadra Queen II.*

'BC Ferries has been an important and valued Point Hope client for many years. This five year partnership will allow for operational and fiscal efficiencies that result from the certainty of establishing a scheduled service,' said Ian Maxwell, President and CEO Ralmax Group of Companies, owners of Point Hope Maritime. 'We are proud to be recognized for the quality of work that our employees deliver, and welcome this strategic alliance that brings with it many benefits for the Capital Region.' More than 650 businesses—the majority of them local—provide regular subcontracting and supplier services to Point Hope Maritime throughout the year.

Modernization and expansion at Point Hope over the past decade has resulted in a substantial, competitive dry-dock operation on Victoria Harbour, where four fully serviced spurlines can accommodate up to six vessels in the yard and additional vessels can be moored and serviced afloat. Up to 200 skilled trades, staff and contractors are employed at Point Hope delivering professional ship repair and maintenance services.

### Richmond Fleet Maintenance Unit Green Award

BC Ferries also operates its own internal vessel refit facility known as the Fleet Maintenance Unit in Richmond. The facility contains a complex of workshops engaged in highly skilled ship repair activities such as machinery rebuilding, structural repairs, lifesaving system re-certification, and coatings.

The Fleet Maintenance Unit received its first Green Marine certification on June 1.

Green Marine is a globally recognized, voluntary, industry sustainability initiative for ship operators, ports, terminals and shipyards. It enables participants to reduce their environmental footprint by fostering a culture of continual improvement and exceeding regulatory compliance.

BC Ferries' vessels and terminals have been Green Marine certified since 2015, when the company first joined the program but the shipyard certification is a new achievement, showing a commitment to continue to benchmark environmental performance and make continuous improvements.

'Including all their activities in the program clearly reflects a strong commitment from BC Ferries towards the greening of their operations. It will also significantly help us achieve our objective, which is to advance environmental excellence for the marine industry in general,' said David Bolduc, Green Marine's Executive Director.

BC Ferries' newly certified fleet maintenance unit directly employs 158 people, including tradespeople and technicians, completing an average of 22 vessel refits each year. The facility provides approximately \$30 million of vessel repair, maintenance and upgrades annually with as many as five afloat refits taking place concurrently.

The Green Marine environmental certification program addresses key environmental issues through 11 performance indicators such as greenhouse gases, air emissions, spill prevention, waste management, environmental leadership, and community impacts—some applicable to shipping activities, other to landside operations.





Photo: Derek Holzapfel , [www.naturediver.com](http://www.naturediver.com)

**Rock faces—looks like some children had fun on the beach on South Pender.**

## No new contracts, no evictions, while the site c dam faces review - Sierra Club BC

BCHydro must not award any new dam contracts before the BC Utilities Commission concludes its review of the Site C dam, say a broad coalition of citizens' and environmental groups across BC and Canada. Given the current uncertainty over Site C's fate, BCHydro must put a pause on evictions and damage to First Nations heritage sites, they say.

'The incumbent government has no mandate to push Site C further, since the government-in-waiting has committed to a review of the project by the BC Utilities Commission,' stated Morag Keegan-Henry with the Lower Mainland group FightC.

A new \$2 billion contract for a generating station, powerhouse and spillways was expected in 2017, but has not yet been signed with any of the four shortlisted proponents. There have been many on-site problems and non-compliance issues. In February, for example, a huge tension crack suddenly appeared in the slide-prone banks of the Peace River. (The river is named after a historical peace agreement between the Cree and Dunneza peoples of Treaty 8 territory.)

'BCHydro could make a 'business as usual' announcement about the \$2 billion contract as early as July 2017. This is something that the NDP and the Greens must prevent,' demands George Smith with the Alliance 4 Democracy on the Sunshine Coast. 'This white elephant must be stopped in its expensive, wasteful tracks.'

The Boon and Meek families in the Peace have had their evictions postponed till the end of June, but if road realignment work continues, they remain in danger of losing their homes. 'Multi-generational farm families still face eviction this summer under the dam's rushed timelines,' said

Andrea Morison of the Peace Valley Environment Association. 'No one should be evicted from their homes until the BCUC has completed its work.'

Craig Benjamin of Amnesty International pointed out, 'Even if the BCUC review is expedited, devastating harms to farming families and First Nations will still result unless the dam's planned schedule is suspended during the review. In particular, no activities should be permitted that would cause irreversible harm to First Nations' grave sites and other cultural heritage.'

'Given the incoming government's commitment to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the calls-to-action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Tsilhqot'in Supreme Court decision, First Nations' concerns must be honoured,' added Joe Foy of the Wilderness Committee. 'BCHydro should suspend activities that are destructive to the Peace River Valley.'

'As the province moves forward with the BC Utilities Commission review, activities on the dam site should be limited to environmental monitoring and addressing impacts such as those related to minimizing silt leakage, sedimentation, and slope stability,' suggested Candace Batycki, Program Director of the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative.

'The current government has no social license to authorize BCHydro to award new contracts,' said Tim Pearson of Sierra Club BC. 'The results of the election clearly show the voters have serious concerns about Site C, and those concerns must be honoured by the incumbent government.'

## Drug costs on the rise

A new Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB) report reveals that prescription drug expenditures by Canadian public drug plans reached \$11.3 billion in 2015-16, up \$1 billion over the previous year.

This increase was mainly driven by a 12% growth in drug costs. While new and curative treatments for hepatitis C were major contributors to this growth, other high-cost drugs continued to put upward pressure on drug plans.

This relatively high growth rate signals a shift from a sustained period of low growth because expenditures related to new, higher-cost drugs significantly outstripped savings resulting from generic drug price reductions and generic drug competition to drugs that have recently lost patent protection.

Prescription drug expenditures are composed of three main components: drug costs (74.7%), which increased by nearly \$0.9 billion in 2015-16, dispensing costs (21.8%), and markups (3.1%).

The growth in drug costs in the public drug plans analyzed was mainly driven by the use of new direct-acting antiviral drugs for hepatitis C, and other high-cost drugs. Other, lesser cost drivers included changing demographics and increased use.

Patented drugs, the largest market segment at 58.5%, grew at a rate of 18.8% in 2015-16. Patented drugs exceeding \$10,000 in annual treatment costs grew by 60.5%, accounting for 27.6% of drug costs, but were used by less than 1% of public drug plan beneficiaries.

New and curative treatments for hepatitis C cost Canadian public drug plans \$600.6 million in 2015-16, contributing 8.0% to the total 12% drug cost growth.

The savings from generic substitution and price reductions in 2015-16 only partially offset cost pressures on the Canadian public drug plans analyzed by pulling overall drug cost levels downward by 4.1%.