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# Gulf Islands' Island Tides

'News & Views from the Southern Gulf' — Every Second Thursday

Volume 15 Number 9

Tsawwassen to Vancouver Island & On-line

May 8—May 22, 2003

Attractions & Accommodation

Vancouver Island & The Gulf Islands, Page 8

Canadian Publications Mail Product Sales Agreement N° 40020421



Photo: Brian Haller

Mayne Islands' commemorative Japanese garden in its spring finery. The garden features a rebuilt Japanese kiln (there were many on Mayne Island as well as other Gulf Islands). Don Herbert (is the person who has been the main creator of this wonderful garden).

## Outspoken Aussie still talking tough

Peter D. Carter

April was Earth Month so it was a fitting time that Dr Helen Caldicott chose to speak on Salt Spring Island, in Victoria, and Qualicum Beach. Caldicott is 65 years old—it's been 20 years since her documentary *If You Love This Planet* galvanized the nuclear disarmament movement in North America. It's ten years since she wrote her book of the same name on environmental destruction of the earth. I took my law student son to hear her. His verdict? 'She's brilliant!'

Caldicott sees Canada as a world leader in ridding the world of the constant, though unspoken, terror of nuclear weapons. Her appeal to Canadians was to follow the example of New Zealand and become nuclear free. She also asked us to oppose the US missile defence strategy ('Son of Star Wars'), to withdraw from NORAD, stop manufacturing CANDU reactors which produce nuclear weapons capable plutonium, and to stop mining uranium.

She also acknowledges Canada for enabling the production and screening of her award-winning NFB documentary *If You Love This Planet*. The film was banned in the US.

Doctor Caldicott has had a successful career in paediatric medicine, founding the Cystic Fibrosis Clinic at the Adelaide Children's Hospital in 1975 and on the

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## 'Drop Working Forest legislation,' says Carr

Speaking from Prince George on April 28 in follow-up to a forest policy workshop held by Green Party members in Burns Lake, provincial Green Party leader Adriane Carr called on the BC Liberal government to drop its Working Forest legislation. 'It was a bad idea, overwhelmingly rejected by BC citizens when the NDP floated it, and it's equally bad now,' said Carr.

The BC Green Party opposes the Liberals' proposed Working Forest legislation for three basic reasons. First, Working Forest legislation flies in the face of public ownership of BC's forest land base. 'We have a huge global advantage that our forest lands are 93% publicly owned by the First Nations and citizens of this province. We need to retain our ownership and control. Designating all the forest lands outside of parks for timber production and legislating that there shall be 'no net loss' to them, takes away the fundamental right of BC citizens to determine the highest and best use of these lands. It makes decisions like creating new parks or settling First Nations issues hugely more expensive,' said Carr.

Second, the aim of this legislation is to give forest industry majors 'certainty' that forest lands will forever be used for wood fibre production. 'No-one I've met in BC's rural communities thinks giving more certainty to the major tenure holders will solve the long-standing forestry problems in BC. In fact, everyone recognizes that uncertainty is the norm in international markets and trade, public priorities and the

environmental conditions that produce forest resources. We must stay flexible and innovative in our response to changing local and global conditions, and that makes the inflexible Working Forest legislation foolish.'

Third, the BC Green Party wants a healthy BC economy. The key to a healthy economy is diversity. 'The Working Forest legislation condemns rural BC communities to remain one industry towns just when everyone's working at diversifying their economies so they can avoid the fate of towns like Youbou. Committing almost half of BC, all of our forest land base outside of parks, into a single use zone means we will never get to the vibrant, diverse economy that is our only hope for community stability,' says Carr.

'What rural BC citizens really need is a new forest tenure system that shifts the balance towards delivering more value and benefits to communities, while increasing our market share in the huge global value-added economy that, so far, BC has hardly tapped. The working forest ignores this critical issue and is nothing more than a giveaway to the big forest companies,' Carr added.

'95% of citizens are telling the Liberals it is bad legislation. The Liberals should listen to citizens well-thought-out arguments and withdraw this proposal, just as the NDP canned their plans to legislate a working forest after the public overwhelmingly rejected the idea in 2001,' concludes Carr. ✓

## Citizens' Assembly on voting systems announced

Both Pro-Rep and Fair Voting BC have applauded a move by the provincial government to establish and fund a Citizens' Assembly to make recommendations on a future voting system to elect MLAs. Plans to establish the Assembly were announced by Premier Gordon Campbell last week.

'It's critical that our electoral system has the trust and confidence of the people,' said Campbell. 'For the first time ever in Canada, we are letting the people decide directly the best way for how their representatives should be elected.'

The assembly follows recommendations made by longtime BC Liberal Gordon Gibson, whose study of the matter followed election promises made by the BC Liberal Party. Gibson's recommendations have been reviewed by the government, who have enlarged the Assembly from one representative per riding to two, and barred a wider range of provincial and local politicians from membership.

The intent of these changes is to try to ensure that the Assembly represents a true cross-section of BC citizens. The government is nominating Dr. Jack Blaney, former President of Simon Fraser University, as Chair of the Assembly.

The Assembly will hold hearings across BC,

VOTING, please turn to page 2

faculty of the Harvard Medical School from 1975 to 1980. She has been living in the United States since 1977, where she founded Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), an organization of 23,000 doctors committed to educating their colleagues about the medical dangers of nuclear weapons and nuclear war.

What she did in the early days was to expose the government lie that there was protection under tables and in fall-out shelters from nuclear war. PSR then went on to expose the fact that the same governments were failing to inform the public on the effects of nuclear weapons, the risk of nuclear war, as well as the inherent insecurity of any so-called security strategy involving nuclear weapons.

No nuclear weapons system is fool-proof under the control of any nation, she says.

When the Berlin wall came down the world breathed a sigh of relief and then assumed that world peace could not be far behind. We now know that was wishful thinking and Doctor Caldicott is back to advise what she sees as the insanity of nuclear weapons presents no less a threat now.

Chemical and biological weapons, she says, are not weapons of mass destruction as the media would have

CALDICOTT, please turn to page 2



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## Saturna Notes - Priscilla Ewbank

We're lush and green here on Saturna. Sailing home on the *Mayne Queen* you notice how strikingly green all the islands are. Remember the last year's long summer? Gold and dry we were. The reservoir looks full to the brim and the waterfall is a real show. The Money's line of cherry trees along the road from church hill to the greenhouse is starting to put on a lovely show of blossoms.

On Easter Sunday the tide was so low that Lyall Harbour looked almost empty. Some family members had a wonderful time tide-pooling at East Point. This is the season for low tides during the day and good weather, so some wonderful landscapes and beasties are exposed for us to see and enjoy.

### Easter Events

Lots of people came to Saturna to enjoy their Easter holidays and it was a lovely, deep-blue sky weekend. Easter is the start of the 'season,' the art galleries open up for the weekend, the food establishments have special meals and the community hall is well used by local service groups putting on special events for the whole island to raise funds. The Easter Bake Sale put on by the Women's Club and the Parents Group was wonderful. I got my favorite orange sponge cake and a pecan pie.

At the bake sale were 26 cakes baked by Islanders, an 8'x4' table full of fabulously decorated cakes for the children who won in the Cake Walk to chose from. There was a dolly cake, a huge smartie-pie cake, a cake rolling in gummy bears, a cake with three wooden sailboats with light-blue icing wakes.

### VOTING from front page

and, if it recommends changes, is instructed to produce a single recommendation for a new voting system by December, 2004. This proposal will then be put to a referendum at the time of the provincial election on May 17, 2005. If supported by more than 60% of voters, it could then be implemented for the following provincial election.

'I'm pleased with the details of the process outlined in the backgrounders to Premier Campbell's press release announcing the formation of a Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform yesterday,' said Green Party Leader Adriane Carr, who led a campaign last summer proposing a mixed proportional representation system for BC. 'This is a good start for getting

The first winner was Jasmine Lee Lambert. The kids were on the stage, the cake table was below, I was looking up into her face—can you imagine the decision to be made? What a hoot!

Nan Campbell, Jacques Campbell, and Mary Grace Logan ran the Proper Tea and Welsh Cake Lounge area. Carol Money did plants and everybody else ran around selling cakes and pies. It was fun being in the line-up. It is great to be part of the audience. You get to hear all of the strategies for getting the 'best' whatever! Both service groups did very well.

That night, the Saturna Lion's Greek dinner Saturday night with belly-dancing and food was very popular! I understand that Islander Melanie Ball was the featured dancer, along with 'Tracy' from Victoria, both were well received.

### Hall Heating

A big thanks to all the crew that have worked to make the heating system function efficiently and quietly. At our last concert, it was wonderful to be warm and to hear Ferron's lyrics and guitar playing! It was never that bad but the change is so good it's more than an improvement. Reg Campbell and Ian Rowe volunteered untold hours and thanks also, Bill House.

We have five students graduating this year from Gulf Islands Secondary. They have just gotten their grad pictures, are talking about their fancy hair do's for the big day and big plans are being made for relatives who are coming to honour them. It's an important times in our kid's lives as they plan to take that big jump from home to away. They are still studying lots because Provincial exams come after graduation—there's a smart ploy to guarantee a student's continued focus! /

democracy re-established in BC.'

According to Fair Voting BC, this process provides a 'democratic test-kitchen', not only for BC. 'The impact of this innovative process will be felt across Canada,' said president, John Vegt. Fair Voting BC sees the adoption of the Gibson Report as the most significant step in fulfillment of the Liberal government's election promise to let the people select what voting system is best for BC. 'The government deserves high marks for keeping this election promise, and for placing the public interest first,' said Director, Julian West.

Further details and analysis will be found in next Island Tides. /

### CALDICOTT from front page

us believe—nuclear weapons are. She presents compelling reasons for peace-makers to remain focused on the priority of ridding the world of nuclear weapons.

While Mr Bush entertains Mr Putin at the Bush ranch in Texas, Russia has over 2,500 nuclear missiles aimed at the US and the US has over 2,500 aimed at Russia. She sees the vast US stockpile of nuclear weapons, the US renewal of nuclear weapons production, the Bush strategy of 'full spectrum dominance,' and the extension of nuclear war to space (under the pretext of the US missile defence program) as the greatest threats to world peace and security.

She introduced the younger members of the audience to the harsh facts of what one nuclear bomb would do if dropped on Victoria or Vancouver—or Nanoose. Dr Caldicott does not believe in sparing people's feelings when presenting her facts to the public and she could not be called politically correct.

When a child leaves the hall, Caldicott pauses to say 'probably a good thing.' Her harrowing descriptions make it abundantly clear that to gamble with the terrible power of uranium and plutonium is to risk the very 'death of life'.

And yet the powers that be, an amalgam of arms dealers and politicians, proceed, unchallenged by a distracted and

docile citizenry, according to Caldicott.

Caldicott has now established the Nuclear Policy Research Institute (NPRI) in California. The mission of the institute is to produce massive, effective, ongoing public education campaigns in major US media about the often-underestimated dangers of nuclear weapons and power programs and policies.

NPRI takes as its inspiration Thomas Jefferson's observation that 'an informed democracy will behave in a responsible fashion' and believes that the only way to counter the perilous and tremendously expensive nuclear programs is to inform the US public, its policy makers, and the global community about the true economic, social, political, biomedical, and moral costs of ongoing nuclear policies.

She shows how the struggle for public opinion and media attention has been dominated by interests with economic stakes in nuclear weapons and power; the Heritage Foundation through its corporate media influence she calls the advertising agency for Lockheed Martin's weapons.

For Canadians she comes back to her advice not to worry about the US but to work for our own security which is in Canada's long standing support of internationalism and nuclear weapons reductions.

Dr Caldicott listed the numerous expensive failures of missile defence weapon systems. She says that the current US strategy will push a vertical escalation of a new nuclear arms race (Russia and China) and a new horizontal arms race (eg. North Korea India, Pakistan, Iran etc). This, she warns, will lead to an even more volatile and dangerous situation than the cold war—or as Helen Caldicott puts it—no more Brahms, no more Mozart and no more poetry.

For more information about Nuclear Policy Research Institute, how to make a donation, and Dr Caldicott new book *The New Nuclear Danger: George W. Bush's Military-Industrial Complex* visit [www.nuclearpolicy.org](http://www.nuclearpolicy.org).

# Island Tides

AT FULFORD HARBOUR  
MAY

Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.	Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.	
6	0335	9.2	2.8	14	0235	10.5	3.2	
	0450	9.2	2.8		WE	0930	2.6	0.8
	1340	2.0	0.6		ME	1640	9.5	2.9
7	2240	10.8	3.3	15	0300	10.8	3.3	
	1425	2.0	0.6		TH	1005	1.3	0.4
WE					2325	10.8	3.3	JE
8	1515	2.3	0.7	16	FR	2205	7.9	2.4
					TH	0325	10.8	2.9
JE	1045	0.3	0.1					
9	0010	10.8	3.3	17	SA	0355	10.8	3.3
	1615	3.0	0.9		SA	1130	-0.3	-0.1
	FR	1945	11.2		3.4			
10	0050	10.8	3.3	18	0010	9.2	2.8	
	0805	7.5	2.3		SU	0430	10.5	3.2
	0945	7.5	2.3		DI	1215	-0.3	-0.1
11	1720	3.6	1.1	19	0125	9.5	2.9	
	0120	10.5	3.2		MO	0510	10.2	3.1
	0805	6.6	2.0		LU	1305	0.0	0.0
12	1205	7.5	2.3	20	0125	9.5	2.9	
	1825	4.3	1.3		TU	0550	9.5	2.9
	MO	0825	5.2		1.6	TU	1355	1.0
13	1355	7.9	2.4	21	0440	8.9	2.7	
	1925	4.9	1.5		WE	0630	8.9	3.7
	MA	0215	10.5		3.2	ME	1445	1.6
	0855	3.9	1.2		2320	11.2	3.4	
	1525	8.5	2.6					
	2020	5.9	1.8					

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For further information contact  
Helgi Sigurgeirson at 250-629-3778  
Anyone interest in this application is invited to attend.

**Final review**  
Draft CRD Composting Regulation Bylaw  
**Feedback opportunity**  
The Capital Regional District Solid Waste Advisory Committee is looking for your input in the final review of draft licensing requirements for composting operations in the capital region. The purpose of the bylaw is to protect the environment and the public from nuisances potentially generated by composting operations. To receive an information package and/or Comment Reply Form, call the CRD Environmental Services at 360-3078 or E-mail: [wgustafson@crd.bc.ca](mailto:wgustafson@crd.bc.ca) or visit [www.crd.bc.ca/es/compost](http://www.crd.bc.ca/es/compost).  
Please submit your comments in writing by May 16, 2003.  


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# Bulletin Board

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## BUSINESS OPP

### MEETINGS

School District #64 (Gulf Islands). A regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees will be held at Galiano Community School on Wednesday, May 14th

## HOME, GARDEN & PROPERTY

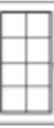
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## COMPUTERS SEEKING

With the boating season finally appearing from behind the rain clouds, Island Tides is going to run a regular boating column, with contributions from a variety of member of the marine community on our Islands. This first one is from our Southern Gulf Islands, Ports Managers.

### Dock Talk - Al Cannon (629-3036)

As the weather improves it's fun to travel between Islands, especially as our wharf system is being upgraded. So here are some fees and regulation tips to start out your boating season. The Southern Gulf Islands Harbours Commission wharves include Montague, Retreat Cove and Sturdies Bay, on Galiano Island; Miners Bay, on Mayne; Port Washington, Hope Bay and Port Browning, on Pender Island; and Swartz Bay and Piers Island.

#### Moorage Fees

It is the boater's responsibility to arrange and/or remit the moorage fees for any stay of more than four hours. Wharfingers can only be available on a part time basis, and cannot be on the dock for every boat.

**Transient Boaters:** The first 4 hours is free, 4-12 hours is 25¢/foot, 12-24 hours or overnight is 50¢/foot.

At each dock there are deposit envelopes, with receipts, a drop-box, and instructions on the notice board. A tip for those who like to visit a number of Islands, books of commuter

tickets are available from the wharfinger. These tickets are good at any of our docks, and are good for up to a 12 hour stay. They are cheaper than the above-mentioned fee, and all that is required is dropping one in the drop-box for each dock visited. No fuss, no hassle, and no having to carry the right change.

**Longer Term Moorage:** The rate is \$3.10/foot/month, or \$8.40/foot/quarter year. This type of moorage can be arranged with the dock wharfinger, whose contact information is on the notice board.

There is also a rate structure for commercial users, such as water taxis and float planes. Only three of our docks allow floatplane access—Miners Bay, Montague and Port Washington. Commercial fees are usually paid annually. Areas at each dock are reserved for commercial loading, unloading and emergency access,—for the marine ambulance or medivac vessels. These areas are marked in yellow, and no boat can be left in this space unattended, and stays are limited to a 15 minutes. Happy boating season! /

## Letter From China

Ross McKinnon

I'm beginning my third month of teaching here at Qiongzhou University, and it's about time for another up-date on life in Wuzishan City here on the island of Hainan.

Of course, the big news here, as in Canada, is SARS. We have not had a case here on Hainan yet, or so we have been told, but the University and the Province are certainly taking precautions. First of all the Chinese State cut down the so-called 'Golden Week' holidays that occur around the May 1 labour day holiday, to just five days instead of the usual seven days. This was an attempt to forestall traffic and travel from one province to another, thus stopping any possible spread of SARS.

In addition, the staff and students of my University were informed that we could not leave Hainan at all during the holidays. Two other English teachers from Canada, Nicola and Josh were planning on going to Macau and a community just south of Shanghai to check out a future teaching position, but that is now not a possibility. Our Foreign Affairs Officer, an English teacher named George Zhang had to go to Hunan Province last week, and on returning to the island found himself in quarantine in Haikou (about 200kms away) when he returned to Hainan.

It would appear that the Chinese Government is finally taking this thing seriously. I took my ESL training, and then worked, at a school in Zhuhai, close to where SARS made the leap from chicken to pig to man. At that time everyone in Zhuhai knew that something was wrong, but the authorities shut down any information about it. At least now they appear to be coming clean, although it's a little late in the day. Apparently the classrooms are to be scrubbed on a daily basis, and the students' temperatures are taken when they come to class in the mornings.

I have got reports from other universities in China as to how they are coping with SARS. Some have closed down for a couple of weeks, but like Hainan, no one can go anywhere. In at least one instance up by Beijing an entire city has in effect been quarantined. No bus, train, road or air connections are allowed. If you are in the city, you are there for a few weeks. I'm not sure how they are handling food as no city in China can support itself for too long due to the absence of refrigeration, but I'm sure there is a method.

I have had many discussions with my students about the admission of the Chinese Government that it lied at the beginning of the outbreak, and many of them sit quietly and think about it. There is not too much said, but on the other hand no one refutes the allegations. I really hope that there has been a change towards openness. /

### LAND ACT: NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A DISPOSITION OF CROWN LAND

Take notice that Rosemarie Roemer of Salt Spring Island, BC intends to make application to Land and Water British Columbia Inc. (LWBC), Vancouver Island Region - Nanaimo Service Centre, for a License - License of Occupation for the purposes of a Commercial - Marina situated on Provincial Crown land located at **Fulford Harbour, Cowichan District.**

The Lands File Number that has been established for this application is **1412168**. Written comments concerning this application should be directed to the Senior Land Officer at 501-345 Wallace Street, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 5B6. Comments will be received by LWBC until **May 31, 2003**. LWBC may not be able to consider comments received after this date. Please visit our website at [www.lwbc.bc.ca](http://www.lwbc.bc.ca) under **Current Land Applications** for more information.

Be advised that any responses to this advertisement will be considered part of the public record. For information, contact the Freedom of Information Advisor at Land and Water British Columbia Inc's regional office.



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 Publisher & Editor: Christa Grace-Warrick  
 Contributors: Patrick Brown, Priscilla Ewbank, Zorah Staar

**Telephone: 250-629-3660**  
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 Deadline: Wed. between publications Email: [islandtides@gulfislands.com](mailto:islandtides@gulfislands.com)  
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*Readers' Letters*

**A Little Help From Our Friends**

Dear Editor:  
 After reading the article on Laughlin Lake and looking at the picture shown in the Tides, as well as driving by the lake, I felt it must be man-made, so I asked a long-time resident of Galiano Island who told me that he had logged the basin that is now flooded and called Laughlin Lake.

I have lived in the Gulf Islands for 58 years, working on all of them, and I see many beautiful little lakes and watersheds. Upon a closer look, I usually find an earthen dam has been built—creating the watershed, improved in many cases by work of beavers that have returned to the Gulf Islands in the last ten years.

As we give the much-deserved accolades to those people and organizations who have worked to preserve these wetlands, it would be nice to also recognize the logger/farmer/landowner and machine operator who had the ingenuity and far-sightedness to create these much-cherished environmental pearls.

I would love to see somebody write in and tell us who created Laughlin Lake.

John Money, Saturna Island

**Hydro Rates To Rise**

Dear Editor:  
 I recently attended the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) 'workshop' in Nanaimo. We were told that the upcoming Application by BC Hydro will include a 'Stepped Rate Increase.' That will *really* impact 40% of customers on Vancouver Island who use electric heating in our residences. Using an electric hot water tank will add even more cost.

This type of customer rate increase is not needed, in my opinion, just because the provincial government refuses to turn over to BC Hydro 1000+ excess megawatts of electricity coming from the Columbia River Downstream Benefits (DSB), which all BC Hydro customers have paid for during the last 30 years. This huge amount of excess electricity is enough to serve one million new residences many years into the future.

The BC Liberal Energy Policy, endorsed by all 75 Liberal MLAs, follows their ideology, going from a least-cost basis to a market-based cost that will see annual upward '%' increases over the next number of years. The goal is \$500 minimum

*Exploring Our Intertidal Zone - Julie Johnston, Pat Haugh & Susan Taylor*

**Intertidal Ecosystems: a Beach by Any Other Name**

The Pacific Northwest is renowned for its rich marine life. This diversity is partly due to the wide variety of ecosystems along our shores. When we think of beaches, we might be picturing mud flats, rocky shores, sandy beaches, eelgrass beds, or perhaps docks and pilings.

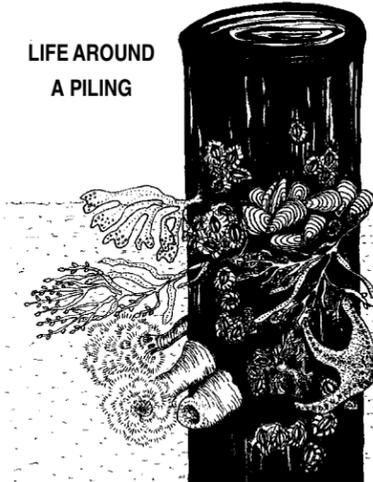
Even within each of these ecosystems, habitats vary with exposure to the elements, position in the tidal zone, or proximity to fresh water. Some creatures make their home in one small, safe area while other species have adapted to a wider range of conditions and can be seen in several intertidal zones and into the ocean's depths.

Mud flats form where fine sediments settle into protected bays and estuaries (where rivers meet the sea). Estuarine mud flats are among the most productive ecosystems on Earth. Mud mixes with sands, gravel, water, and even clay to differing degrees, forming soupy to solid flats. Either way, mud flats make challenging habitat since the mud is hard to move, breathe and eat in. Because of a lack of oxygen and attachment sites, mud flats attract residents who live at the surface (microscopic diatoms, for example) or in tubes or shallow burrows. Organisms such as mud clams, mudflat snails, tube-dwelling anemones, mud shrimps, and the sea mouse (a scaleworm) dine on plankton, bacteria, and decomposing plant and animal matter.

No two rockyshores are alike. They differ in geomorphology and environmental features: the type and size of rocks (shingle, cobble or pebble beaches); orientation of the rocks to the sun and the coastline; direction, size and speed of waves and inshore currents; frequency and force of storms; the nature and rate of erosion and drainage from land; and steepness of the slope. Many animals in this ecosystem live under rocks or in crevices or tidepools—microhabitats that protect them from sun, waves and wind. In fact, many organisms have specific adaptations for surviving on wave-splashed rocky shores. For example, purple sea urchins excavate snug-fitting holes in the rock to protect themselves.

Rock-boring clams (piddocks) scrape honeycombed burrows out of stone. Sea palms grab onto rocks with strong holdfasts

LIFE AROUND A PILING



and have long, flexible stalks. Barnacles use a cement-like substance to attach their tough shells to rock. Mussels fasten themselves to rock with filaments (byssus threads) that put steel thread to shame. Snails, limpets and chitons all move about on a powerful, muscular foot that helps them cling to rocks.

A supply of plankton comes to the inhabitants with every high tide, so most are filter feeders. Another food source is a thin coating of microscopic algae, protozoa and larvae, known as algal film, eaten by snails with their scraping tongue or radula. Cobblestone beach inhabitants include several types of clams

and worms. Higher on a rocky shore you'll find barnacles, mussels, tiny periwinkle snails, and limpets. Rockweed, bright green sea lettuce and sea hair cover some of the rocks. Shore crabs, clingfish and blennies hide under rocks. Tidepools are home to sculpins, hermit crabs, anemones, sea urchins, and tube worms.

The species on a sandy beach may be less varied than on a rocky shore, but the numbers of animals of one species can reach millions. Although sandy beaches often appear barren of life, they conceal a rich and peculiarly adapted community of clams, worms and tiny animals seen nowhere else.

Protected bays provide habitat for more species than do sand-scoured outer coasts. In rich, muddy sands, for example, you might find up to 3,000 blood worms per square foot. Animals living on sandy beaches must contend with sunlight and drying, exposure to wind and rain, and constantly shifting sand, so most are adept burrowers. Few of them live right on the surface because low tides would expose them to predators from the land (gulls and sandpipers) while high tides would bring predators from the ocean (flatfish, for example). Common inhabitants of sandy beaches include the Pacific mole crab, the razor clam (which can burrow out of sight in 10 seconds), blood worms, purple dwarf olive snails, and moonsnails. Beach hoppers (sand

**INTERTIDAL, please turn to next page**

in the mainstream media. I almost always learn something new with each issue. Keep up the good work!

That being said, I have a criticism, which is the disproportionately small amount of coverage that you give to my island, Mayne. While some might happily say that we are just a little more laid back than the other islands, I know that we certainly have our share of issues and events here too.

I downloaded the Adobe Acrobat version of your paper from the web and using the 'Find' command entered the names of each of the southern Gulf Islands to see how many times each was mentioned. Topping the list was Galiano with 33, although more than half of those were ads in the 'What's On' section. Next was Pender with 21, followed by Saturna, with 14 and Salt Spring, with 13.

Bringing up the rear was Mayne Island with a paltry two mentions, one of those in an ad. A cursory look at the back issues laying in my recycling box, show that these totals are fairly close to what one might find at any time in the *Island Tides*.

While I know that the mere mentioning of the name is not actually coverage and that many of your articles apply to the region as a whole, I still think a good case can be made for a little more attention being paid to Mayne Island. In the last issue there was a specific article referring to events on each island, except Mayne Island. Maybe a 'Mayne Notes' column to go along with your Saturna Notes would be a good idea.

Jim Traversy, Mayne Island

*Ed's Note: Yes, Jim I feel the same way—more from Mayne please! (Though you will see another of Brian Haller's glorious photos on the front page—go to [www.islandtides.com](http://www.islandtides.com) to see it in (truly) gorgeous blossom-pink colour.) What many people may not know is that Island Tides was in fact started on Mayne Island in the apartment over the deli, fourteen years ago this fall.*

*Mayne is the island of great beaches (especially Piggott), a fantastic lighthouse, wonderful community parks, a bijou theatre company, best ferry-watching (from the deck at Miners Bay's Springwater pub), the most highly differentiated landscape from the east of the Island to the west... I could go on.*

*It's hard to get/keep a balance of Island stories—I do worry about it but there is so little time and Island Tides certainly needs a little*

annual increase. All the other BC Hydro customers will see rate increases too!

Seems like they want to 'force' electric heating customers to go to natural gas heating, which is taxpayer subsidized to the tune of \$450 each annually for 70,000 Centra Natural Gas customers on Vancouver Island. Once they make electricity much more expensive, the natural gas subsidy will be eliminated, as is the case in the Lower Mainland.

Now that you know what's planned for your residence, what do you intend to do about it? What will the other 320,000 BC Hydro residential customers on Vancouver Island do? Anything? Before it's too late?

You probably have a month or so to take action (before it's a done deal!). Thanks a Watt!

James (Jim) Campbell, Sidney

**Appreciation from Mayne**

Dear Editor:  
 We wish to offer our congratulations to your newspaper for having the courage to print articles that offer your readership a different view of what is going on with the United States and the Middle-East.

The corporate controlled media speaks with a very predictable voice that makes a total mockery of the word 'journalism.' Perhaps the greatest single threat to what remains of democracy in this country and the USA is the loss of a true free press. Without a critical analysis of events instead of regurgitated propaganda and without a forum for divergent voices instead of the repetition of one over-riding view, we the citizens of both countries become victims. Although your newspaper is small in circulation compared to the majors it stands tall as one of the few independents left in our province. Keep the candle burning.

Peter Kellington & Beverley Reid, Mayne Island

**More, Please**

Dear Editor:  
 I have been a big fan of your newspaper, since I moved to Mayne Island over four years ago. I usually read each issue thoroughly and appreciate the alternative perspectives reflected in your articles, perspectives that are usually lacking

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### Friday, May 9 till Monday, May 12



**Spring Sharpening Event on Saturna.** Bring your scissors, knives, garden tools etc. to Jürgen and Judith's 'Tinkerers Sharpening Service'; second annual benefit for 'Tinkerers Travel & Learn—Timeless Skills Program' • Saturna General Store—look for the vintage brown truck (Pender visit May 22 to June 1) • Info: 250-539-2280, The Tinkerers' home—base on Mayne Island • ON SATURNA ISLAND

### Friday, May 9

**Paul White's Classic Jazz Seminar Series**, sponsored by Saturna Parks and Rec—The Last of The Pre-Modern Jazz Player (and a Mystery Guest!) plus a fine creole dinner by donation • Community Hall, Lyall Harbor 100 yards from ferry terminal • 6:30pm • Seminar admission free • Info and overnighting references, 250-539-9884 or email: [jazzbo@gulfislands.com](mailto:jazzbo@gulfislands.com) • ON SATURNA ISLAND

### Mon, May 12 till Mon, May 19

**Islands in the Salish Sea Community Mapping Show**—the final showing of the 30 maps, including four of SSI—after the show the maps will disperse to their home islands; featuring the unveiling of a provocative installation map of the endangered spaces in the Salish Sea by Briony Penn and Michelle Macdonald and special speaker Elizabeth May, executive director of the Sierra Club, on 'Planetary Citizenship' May 14, 7:30pm; Opening Reception, May 12th, 7-9pm • Artspring • May 12, 15, 16 & 17: 9am-9pm; May 13, 18 & 19, 9am-5pm; May 14, 1-5pm • Info: Judi 250-537-5599 • ON SALT SPRING ISLAND

### Saturday, May 10

**Victoria's 8th Annual Literary Info Fair**—a gathering of writers, aspiring writers, and book people of all kinds; get an on-the-spot critique of your writing, take a mini workshop; hear a reading; enter the Victoria School of Writing's Postcard Story Contest; meet editors, publishers, booksellers, writers' groups and services • First Metropolitan United Church (932 Balmoral, at Quadra) • 11 am - 3 pm • Admission \$2 • Info or booth rentals: [vicwrite@islandnet.com](mailto:vicwrite@islandnet.com), [www.islandnet.com/vicwrite](http://www.islandnet.com/vicwrite), 250-595-3000 • IN VICTORIA

### Monday, May 12 till Sunday, May 18

**Intrepid Theatre Presents the 6th Annual Uno Solo Performance Festival**—ten great one-person shows from around the world; performers include Andy Jones (Codco), Shannan 'Izzy the Clown' Calcult, and more • Belfry Arts Centre • Tickets: 250-385-6815 • Info: [www.intrepidtheatre.com](http://www.intrepidtheatre.com) • IN VICTORIA



### Sat, Sun & Mon, May 17, 18 & 19

**Victoria Day Weekend Family Fun Swims**—enjoy Saanich Commonweal Place's wavepool, waterslide, pirate ship, toddler pool, swirlpool, family changerooms, steam, sauna, and length swimming • Saturday: 1-4pm, 6:30-8:30pm. Sunday: 10-noon, 1-4pm, 6:30-8:30pm. Monday: 10-noon, 1-4pm • 4636 Elk Lake Drive (right off Pat Bay at Royal Oak exit) • 24-hour Swim Info-line 250-727-7108 • IN VICTORIA

### Saturday, May 17

**Blues Odyssey Concert**—one show only featuring from the Hornby Blues Workshop: Ron Casat (Calgary), Rick Fines (Peterborough), Georgette Fry (Kingston), Susie Vinnick (Toronto), Tim Williams (Calgary), David Gogo (Nanaimo), Michael Jerome Brown (Montreal), Gerry Barnum (Parksville) • Cowichan Theatre • 8pm • Tickets: \$18 @ the door or charge 250-748-7529 • Info: 250-748-3975, [www.folkfest.bc.ca](http://www.folkfest.bc.ca) • IN DUNCAN



### Saturdays, May 17 & 31

**Grow Vegetables Organically**—choose from two dates for introductory day-long workshops: planting, crop rotation, weed control, soil fertility • Stowell Lake Farm, 190 Reynolds Road • Admission: \$25, registration deadline May 9 • Info: Jennifer 250-653-0011 • ON SALT SPRING ISLAND

### Friday, May 23



**10th Annual Bob Dylan Birthday Party**: enjoy an evening listening to or performing your favourite Bob Dylan tunes (this year a day early because of Morag's wedding and Greg Gammon's performance at the marina) • Galiano Community Hall • Show starts at 8:30pm, Bob's cake comes out at midnight • Tickets: \$5 at the door • Info: Musicians call Gary Cramer 250-539-9944 • ON GALIANO ISLAND

### Saturday, May 24

**2nd Annual Lilac Music Festival**—music, jamming, dancing to live music, art show; performers include Zorah Staar, Patrick Smith, Glen Biagioni, Pender Drum Circle, Jennifer West—benefit for the Community Music School • Community Hall • 1-11pm (children's performance in the afternoon, supper 4:30-6:30pm—pizza available or bring your own picnic, dancing 8pm) • Info: Sandy Gauer 629-3067, Patrick Smith 629-6219 • ON PENDER ISLAND

### Thursday, May 29

**World's Premiere of Living Things We Love To Hate with Des Kennedy**—Salt Spring Island Conservancy is hosting this fascinating look at the slimy and surreptitious creatures lurking in our gardens and homes filmed on Salt Spring and Denman Islands—this 1-hour special for Discovery Channel will first appear on TV next fall; author Des Kennedy, will introduce the film and sign his newly revised edition of the book • ArtSpring • 7:30pm, doors 6:30pm for book signing • Tickets: \$15, students \$8 @ ArtSpring box office: 1-866-537-2102 (toll free) • ON SALT SPRING ISLAND

### Saturday, May 31

**Qualicum Beach Home & Garden Experience**—featuring gardens, homes, live music, artists, food and auction; funds go to 'Poco a Poco,' a Canadian Charitable Organization which 'Little by Little' is providing medical care for Children of the developing world, mainly Guatemala • 10am-4pm • Tickets: \$15 @ Quadra Foods, Quadra Island; Mulberry Bush Books, Qualicum & Parksville; Laughing Oyster, Courtenay; Blue Heron Books, Comox; Page Eleven Books, Campbell River; Falconer Books, Harbour Mall, Nanaimo • Info: Dick Ring 250-752-0517 • IN QUALICUM BEACH

### TIDAL from previous page

fleas) emerge from their burrows by the thousands at low tide and serve as beach cleaners by consuming organic remains washed-up on shore.

Eelgrass beds are found in the lowest intertidal zone and subtidally, growing on clean sand or mud. Eelgrass is not a seaweed (algae) but a perennial flowering plant with green, strap-like leaves and inconspicuous flowers. Its leaves become so colonized by microscopic organisms in summertime that they appear to have a furry brown coating. Its rhizomes and roots spread to form thick, tangled mats. Ecologically vital, eelgrass beds serve to stabilize the floor of some sandy or muddy beaches, providing protective habitat for microscopic worms, snails, smaller clams, jellyfish, sea anemones, sea stars, sea cucumbers, crabs and small fish.

Man-made docks and pilings have become favourable habitat for several species of seaweed and invertebrates, and are great sightseeing spots. Once plumose anemones (sea flowers) and feather duster worms have colonized these structures, forming dense masses that protect smaller organisms, several other species move in. These include harbour shipworms (seldom see elsewhere), sponges, tube-dwelling worms, barnacles, mussels, sea urchins, sea stars, and coon-striped shrimp (especially around pilings). Some dock inhabitants are permanently attached, and others are slow-moving. Since docks are designed to rise and fall with the tides, these species are never in danger of exposure, and can be observed at any time.

The rich and diverse intertidal ecosystems of the Gulf Islands provide a wide variety of fascinating plants and animals for study. Next time you're at the beach, consider how the organisms living there have adapted to their environment.

To learn more about intertidal ecosystems, see *Seashore Life of the Northern Pacific Coast*, by Eugene N. Kozloff (University of Washington Press, 1993).

*This article is one of a series about the species you might find on Gulf Island beaches. Julie Johnston (writer), Pat Haugh (researcher) and Susan Taylor (illustrator) are members of the Georgia Strait Alliance Straitkeepers, a volunteer group supported by the Pender Islands Conservancy Association (PICA). We conduct surveys of shorelife between high and low tide, to encourage ongoing intertidal stewardship in our community. /*

## Porlier ocean dumping site to be discussed

Dixie Sullivan of Environment Canada will be on hand to provide information and answer questions about the ocean disposal site at Porlier Pass at the next meeting of the Galiano Marine Stewardship Site Advisory Committee on Tuesday, May 13 (see ad page ?) The committee invites all members of the public interested in learning more about this topic.

The Committee is part of a joint program of the Islands Trust and Fisheries and Oceans Canada that focuses on local stewardship of marine resources. Discussions have concentrated on voluntary stewardship actions that can contribute to the protection of Galiano's marine environment.

Bill Henwood of Parks Canada discussed the proposed National Marine Conservation Area at the last meeting. Future activities may include community mapping of marine features and training in shoreline habitat inventories. /

### LETTERS from page 4

help from all its friends, including ones on Mayne, letting us know about stories and writing for the paper, too (but please spare us the squabbles and the in-fighting).

Having eight pages means it's often 'all the news that fits to print.' Complex decisions about other people's hard work have to be made in a twinkling.

Sometimes last minute ads, which we can't afford to refuse, change the space picture entirely—such as the provincial SARS ad in this issue, articles get bumped, the 'fit' is difficult, stories I was going to run can't be shoe-horned in, there's nothing to fit the space that is left so there and then I have to write a story I thought wouldn't run—the whole thing is a free-wheeling improvisation.

Once a late-breaking story changed the front page an hour before I took the 'flats' to the printers—it was when the Hope Bay Store on Pender Island burned down five years ago, I saw the ruins at 7am. I wrote the story with the tears streaming down my face and ran for the ferry. By the way, a group of Pender Islanders have pooled their resources and bought the half-finished replacement store, which has been a blot on the landscape for years—it will be wonderful when its up and running again, especially as it's in my neighbourhood.

Island Tides is sort of pot-luck newspaper, a collaboration as well as an improvisation. Our focus and circulation has become broader over the years, we have become regional so as not to tread on the toes of Island magazines and one-Island newspapers. Island Tides has created its own niche. That in turn changes what we can print—we have to appeal to the whole archipelago and to thousands of main ferry route riders, too.

I may write a book about the amazing experience when I retired—it certainly is mind-boggling looking in our 'past issues' boxes. A few months ago I worked out that I have processed (edited, written, typeset) 4-1/2 million words over the course of the paper so far—not to mention built hundred of ads. I certainly did not know what I was

getting myself into. In 'Tales of the Tides' there would be so many people I would thank for their support and loyalty to Island Tides, so maybe I'll just do it now—thank you all.

While I'm at it, I will also take this opportunity to give an especial thank-you (and sorry for when I didn't run your stories) to our dozens of writers, past and present, sometime and regular—it is the blend of so many different voices that make Island Tides unique—just like the Islands—C.G-W

### Magic Lake Roads To Improve

Dear Editor:

Here are more details to add to your article 'Roads no good, say Magic Lake residents' (April 10).

The monthly meeting of the Magic Lake Water and Sewer Committee was indeed held on January 16 at the Library Meeting Room. At that meeting, which was not attended by our CRD Director Richard Tamboline, concerns were raised by both the MLWSC members and the public in attendance about the condition of the roadways resurfaced as result of our Watermain Replacement Project last summer.

A motion was passed at the meeting to contact Hon Judith Reid, Minister Responsible for Transportation and Highways to voice our concerns regarding the condition of the roads.

I received a telephone call from the Operations Manager for the Saanich Area Office asking for a meeting to discuss the concerns outlined in the letter I sent to Ms Reid on February 7.

I contacted Richard Tamboline and asked if he would set up a meeting with Representatives of the CRD, MOTH and our committee to discuss our concerns.

A meeting chaired by Mr Tamboline, and attended by Jim Mc Farland of CRD; B. Whipple, Area Operations Manager; two of her associates and myself as Chair of the MLWSC met in Victoria on March 14. The concerns we raised were discussed

and plan of action to address the deficiencies was formulated. The CRD has some work to complete before the remedial work is started, also warmer weather is a factor in the work to be undertaken.

Following that meeting the Operations Manager for the Highways Ministry decided to meet with a delegation from the Property Owners Association on Pender Island on the afternoon of March 20.

We are hopeful the concerns we have raised through our committee and from residents in the area will result in an improvement of the roads which were resurfaced as a result of our Watermain Replacement Project.

Jim Petrie, Chair MLW&SC, Pender Island

### Rolling Back Continues

Dear Editor:

Remember our concern over WTO 'rolling back' social and environmental domestic standards and regulations in the face of corporate complaints under WTO imposed 'rules and disciplines'? All of this was set up by an economic elite in secrecy completely overriding democracy in democratic nations.

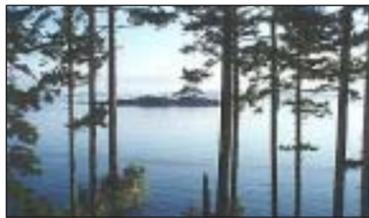
Well centuries of laws and millennia of moral standards are being rolled back on many fronts under the pressure of ruthless global corporate pressure that has enlisted the economic and military power of the United States.

The worst fears of Jefferson and Lincoln have come to pass. The 'money power' (Jefferson) has usurped the US democracy that US democracy was designed to control.

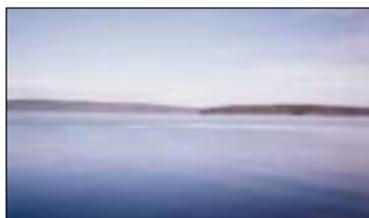
The greatest threat facing the world is not non-state terrorism; it is the loss of American democracy. Everyone in North America needs to work to save democracy in the US.

Peter Carter, Pender Island /

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Salt Spring Island: Casually elegant home, 3 bed / 2 bath, open plan kitchen / living / dining, hobby & exercise rooms, garage & carport, decks, covered patio with hot tub, perfect townhouse alternative! \$427,500



Saturna Island : Exquisite w.f. estate (10+ acres)! Beautiful character main home, cottage, studio, dock, great beaches, sunrises & sunsets! The best! See Li!



De Courcy Island : 149 ft of oceanfront, small dock, year round cottage, woodstove, separate workshop, 4000w generator, drilled well, peaceful oceanviews. \$279,000



Salt Spring Island: Two oceanfront properties, 7.53 acres with drilled well @ \$539,000, also 6.62 acres @ \$410,000, both with 450+ ft of oceanfront, shared access to boat launch, serene, sunny & private (no GST).



Pender Island: Pretty oceanviews, charming home, wood floors, 4 bed, 2 bath, large den, sauna, 2 levels of decking, carport, pool, greenhouse, B&B option. \$519,000



Salt Spring Island: Tidal oceanfront, 8.35 acres, custom home, B&B potential, zoned for guest cottage, sunny, private, quiet, close to all amenities. Beautiful opportunity - Don't delay ! \$699,000



Salt Spring Island: harbour views, 7.91 acres, 2 bedrooms - both ensuite, gazebo, greenhouse, fenced pasture, B&B option. \$438,000



Galiano Island: spectacular oceanviews, 54.36 acres, custom home, guest cottage, pond, walk to marine park. \$1,250,000



Salt Spring Island: A-Frame retreat cottage, open plan design, carport, lots of decking, seasonal creek, private, sunny, and close to everything! Quick possession! \$217,000



Galiano Island: In beautiful Montague Harbour, a sunny "West Coast Contemporary" w.f. gem. Keep your boat at your dock! Arrive by your own floatplane! Sunsets! \$699,000



Salt Spring Island: Private & sunny beauty, 3 bed, 2 bath, wood floors, sunroom, lots of decking, large separate studio, Don't miss out! \$489,000



Galiano Island : 60 acres, lowbank oceanfront & beach, fantastic views, forest, walking trails, Very Rare Opportunity! See Li !



Salt Spring Island: Charming home in popular island area, oceanviews, double garage / workshop, pool / hot tub wing, lots of decking, walking trails. B&B option? See Li! \$599,000



Salt Spring Island: Commanding views of Fulford Harbour, 2 bed, 2 bath, stone patio, rose garden, pond, excellent greenhouse. \$519,000



Saturna Island: Oceanview cottage, 1 bed, 1 bath & loft, supersized garage, fenced garden, garden shed, woodshed. Walk to ferry ! Perfect summer / weekend retreat ! \$219,000



Salt Spring Island: Renovated character home, new roof / siding / windows, country kitchen, sep. studio, sep garage / woodshed, orchard, comm. water. \$279,000



Galiano Island: Almost 10 acres, lovely land, oceanviews from rear of property, orchard with several fruit trees. A Gem! See Li ! \$207,800



Salt Spring Island: Oceanview, 5+ acres, developed drilled well, roughed in driveway, ready building site, beautiful! \$386,000



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# "See Li for Successful Solutions!"

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SARS

BC and Canada have made great progress in containing, treating and researching SARS, but unfortunately it will be with us all for some time to come. It's in our common interest to continue the battle against SARS, working co-operatively with partners around the world to prevent its spread and ultimately to find a cure.

## We're Making Progress

To date, there have been no deaths from SARS in BC. Just four people in BC have been identified as probable SARS cases, and two of them have now fully recovered. There has been no transmission at the community level in BC, and there is no evidence of transmission by individuals who do not show symptoms, meaning the risk of contracting SARS is extremely low for British Columbians. This has only been possible because British Columbians and all Canadians have done such a great job of listening to health care professionals and acting on their advice. Our health care professionals have done an outstanding job of identifying, notifying and isolating people at risk and treating SARS patients. Together, we have demonstrated to the world that we can contain SARS when we take reasonable precautions, listen to our health officials, and follow isolation procedures as appropriate.

## We're Searching For Solutions

- We have the knowledge and technology to fight SARS. BC was the first, globally, to successfully uncover the genetic code – a key stepping stone in finding a vaccine and accurately diagnosing SARS.
- The BC government is committed to accelerating the search for a vaccine with a recent \$2.6 million investment. It typically can take three to five years to develop a vaccine. We want to reduce that time by half.
- The world is working together. SARS has tested and improved our capacity to co-operate, communicate and respond to pandemics globally. And in early June the world's scientists will meet in Geneva to share their knowledge and work towards a cure.

## But There's More We Can Do

### Know the symptoms

- Symptoms are fever, dry cough and shortness of breath or breathing difficulties. To be at risk of SARS you need to have had close contact with a known SARS case or have travelled to an affected area. (Contact Health Canada for latest advisories.)

### Take reasonable precautions

- Wash your hands. Hand-washing is the single most important procedure for preventing infections such as SARS. Washing with plain soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds is the best prevention. Waterless (alcohol-based) cleansers are also effective.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you sneeze or cough.
- Promptly dispose of any tissues or other articles that come into contact with fluid from your nose, mouth, throat or eyes.
- Continue to follow instructions from health professionals.
- The risk of transmitting SARS in public is extremely low. There is no reason for returning travellers who do not show any symptoms to stay in quarantine.

### Travel safely

- Check travel advisories before you go.
- Look for the latest Health Canada information at airports and on airplanes.
- Airline passengers in affected areas are being screened before they board aircraft to minimize the risk of an infectious person being on board an airplane.
- Flight crews are monitoring passengers for symptoms to ensure anyone who appears ill will be isolated by a quarantine officer.
- There has been no evidence of any transmission attributed to airport contact.
- New technologies at airports are being introduced by the government to screen for SARS.

### Learn more about SARS and stay informed

- For the latest information on SARS in BC, visit [www.healthplanning.gov.bc.ca/pho/sars.html](http://www.healthplanning.gov.bc.ca/pho/sars.html) or the BC Centre for Disease Control Website, [www.bccdc.org](http://www.bccdc.org)
- For the latest Canadian information and global travel advisories, contact Health Canada at [www.sars.gc.ca](http://www.sars.gc.ca) or 1-800-454-8302
- For world SARS information, contact the World Health Organization at [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

If you are concerned that you have symptoms of SARS or may have been exposed, call the BC NurseLine at 1-866-215-4700 before going to a hospital or clinic.



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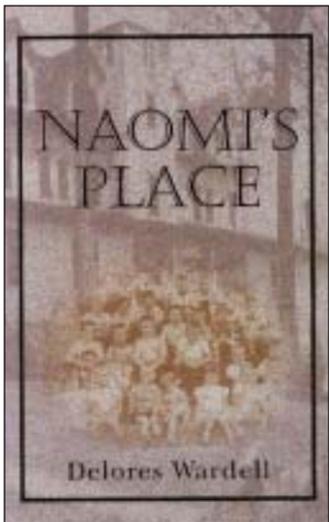
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Book Review by John Wiznuk **Naomi's Place**

This book is not a memoir or an autobiography but it is written from memories. It is the story of an orphanage in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains, and some of the children who lived there. As the author, Delores Wardell, points out it is the story, in general form, of how many homeless children were treated and educated in private orphanages from the late 1800s to the early 1960s.



In part, it is her story as she was raised in one of these orphan homes. It is also a story about two women who run such a home; trailblazers, driven by unarticulated desires and needs, forerunners in the 1930s of a movement that would demand and get a place for women beyond that of homemaker.

The subject of an orphanage in a poor region of the southern USA run by female missionaries does not ordinarily attract my attention. But Wardell, a part-time resident of Saturna Island, has a superb gift for storytelling. The ability to take ordinary events and tell them in a way that makes them universal. It also has something to do with honesty; the names of the characters in the story are not of those who lived it but they are authentic stories about real people and there is something in the way that the words are strung together that moves my eyes along and makes me greedy for the next page. The author uses all three forms of writing; descriptive, narrative and exposition, to create Naomi's place in the mind's eye and give the reader some insight into the physical, emotional and spiritual dynamics that moved through that place.

The Christian religion does not have the same presence and authority in North American life that it did seventy years ago. Even with the evangelical upswing of 80s and 90s, the vast majority do not feel it as a governing force. But some may remember a particularly religious grandmother, or enforced trips to Sunday School or some other brush with doctrine and dogma and be able to better relate to the people and situations in the story. At this time and place, long before television, when even radio was a luxury, religion and the spiritual life played a guiding role in everyday living.

Naomi, an intelligent, attractive woman in

her twenties is called to missionary work. She longs for the glamour of an overseas mission but is dispatched to an isolated 'hollow' in the Appalachians, a place of poverty, despair and backwardness. She comes as a teacher but as every willing worker soon understands, the job expands until it takes all you can give.

And that's how the story begins. It progresses as this one woman, buttressed by a sustaining faith, creates an orphanage, a home for abandoned and maltreated children, from just that faith, the desire to fill a need and the active charity of other christians.

But this is not a happy sunday school bible story. At an hour of triumph, the end of a successful fundraising tour, she receives a telegram saying that the home has burned to the ground and those she loves best in this life have died.

She returns, her health, emotions and spirit in tatters and ruin to build again. At this point Miss Ruth enters the story; the very picture of mid-twentieth century self-righteousness and religious pride. This develops a central theme of the story; the relationship between one woman who believes that there is not much evil in people and one woman who believes that there is not much good in people, the eternal dance between light and darkness, the giver and the controller.

The other theme is the children of the orphanage, how they develop as people and how the interactions among them are more germane to their development than the work of their caregivers. And in this, Wardell, a practicing clinical psychologist, poses a serious question to her colleagues in the 'caring professions.' Has the wholesale adoption of the foster home model for physically or emotionally abandoned kids been successful? Who is more likely to understand and intervene with you; a group of your peers that you live with or adults, whose lives foster kids pass through like goods in transit.

I enjoyed this book, finding it emotionally and intellectually stimulating. Of all the books that I have read in the past decade this is among the handful that, I believe, cry out to be made into a film and given wider public attention.

'Naomi's Place,' Delores Wardell, Seven Locks Press. ✓

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## A woman's job

A Salt Spring woman has been voted President of the BC Ferry & Marine Workers Union. Jackie Miller, a catering attendant, gained 70% of the membership's vote on Friday, May 2. Miller, who ran on platform of unity, was seen as the candidate most likely to coalesce the membership and heal the growing rift between ships' officers and the unlicensed members, says the Union.

Miller will be the first woman to head the union since 1980. One of Miller's initial challenges will be piloting the union through contract negotiations in the fall. The other new face at the table will be David Hahn, who was announced on May 1 as the new President and CEO of the BC Ferry Services Ltd, itself only just inaugurated (April 1). ✓

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MARINE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING - OCEAN DISPOSAL

The Galiano Island Marine Stewardship Advisory Committee is sponsoring a public information meeting about ocean disposal. Staff from Environment Canada will be available to provide information and answer questions about the ocean disposal site near Porlier Pass. The meeting will be held:

DATE: Tuesday, May 13 2003  
TIME: 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.  
LOCATION: South Galiano Hall

Additional information about ocean disposal is available on the Environment Canada website: www.pyr.ec.gc/en/ocean-disposal/index\_e.htm

Visit our website: www.islandstrust.bc.ca (Trust Area Programs/Marine Stewardship Site Initiative) Email: ladams@islandstrust.bc.ca

All members of the public are invited to attend.