

Hello again! A bumper issue this time. Enjoy the read!

Gulf Islands' Island Tides

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

Volume 15 Number 7

The Spirit of the Southern Coast

April 10—April 23, 2003

'What's On?'

Vancouver Island &
The Gulf Islands, Page 7

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A stroll by Galiano's Laughlin Lake.

Photo: Andrew Loveridge

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Happy Easter!



More foghorns silenced

Foghorns at thirteen locations on the west coast of Vancouver Island and the Central Coast are being silenced immediately. They are at Cape Scott, Quatsino, Lookout Island, Nootka, Estevan Point, Lennard Island, Cape Beale, Pachena Point, Carmanah, Addenbroke, Ivory Island, McInness Island, and Egg Island.

Saturna Island Senator Pat Carney called attention to the removal of these foghorns in a letter to federal Fisheries and Oceans Minister Robert Thibault in mid-March. She accused the Minister of failing to notify her of the intended removal, despite specific requests that she be advised if any decision of this type was made. As a result, she said, '...it is difficult for me ... to relay timely information to those who fear their lives will be endangered by this decision.'

Over the past few years, DFO has eliminated foghorns in a number of locations on the inner coast, with the rationale that the use of radar and GPS on both large and small craft made foghorns unnecessary, an argument that has met with vociferous objections from fishers and vessel operators. This is the first attempt to remove them from locations on the foggy and more treacherous outer coast.

Carney quoted objections to their removal from the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, the Village of Port Alice, the Town of Port McNeill, the village of Alert Bay, the Comox-Strathcona Regional District, and the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council.

'It appeared,' said Carney, 'that the consultation process carried out by DFO on the removal of these services was a token gesture... Lives will be lost as a result of this cost-cutting measure...'

Laughlin Lake added to Galiano parks

After three years of fundraising by conservation agencies, Laughlin Lake on Galiano Island, one of the few lakes in the region that has no human development along its shores is now protected forever.

The 11-hectare (27 acre) property provides essential habitat for an abundant and diverse population of birds, mammals and amphibians. As the largest body of freshwater on Galiano Island, Laughlin Lake is important in a region that has only 1% of its area covered by freshwater ecosystems.

The campaign to purchase the Laughlin Lake property began in 2000 when the property was offered for sale through a foreclosure. The Galiano Conservancy Association, a community-based land trust dedicated to protecting the natural and human environment on Galiano Island, felt they had to act quickly to protect the property's important habitats. They approached a conservation minded individual who agreed to provide an interest free loan so that the property could be purchased immediately.

Since that time, Galiano Conservancy Association has fundraising been with partners, the Habitat Acquisition Trust and the Islands Trust Fund, to repay the \$165,000 loan from this generous individual. Fundraising efforts included a concert by Victoria Folk Music Society, an art show at Goldstream Park Nature House, and a tea party auction on Galiano Island. Galiano Islander Andy Turner raised more than \$5,700 by shaving off his hair and mustache!

Environment Canada provided the final \$63,115 required to protect Laughlin Lake through the Georgia Basin Ecosystem

Initiative, a federal and provincial government initiative to achieve healthy, productive and sustainable ecosystems and communities in the Georgia Basin.

'I am pleased to announce the Environment Canada funding, through the Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative, to protect this important site for the preservation of habitat and species in the Georgia Basin,' said the Honourable David Anderson, Minister of the Environment. 'Protecting Laughlin Lake establishes a vital link in a sea-to-sea natural corridor spanning the middle of Galiano Island.'

'We are thrilled to finally be able to complete this purchase,' said Kim Benson, member of the Islands Trust Fund Board. 'A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported protecting this valuable site.' The Islands Trust Fund is the conservation land trust established to preserve and protect the unique character and environment of the Islands Trust Area.

'Fresh water is a precious commodity on the Gulf Islands: these are the driest places in Canada in the summer and wildlife is drawn to it from all around,' said Boyd Pyper, executive director of the Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT). 'In addition, several endangered species make Laughlin Lake home and are dependent on its continued existence, so HAT sees the acquisition of Laughlin Lake as a significant step in the protection of our natural environment.' Habitat Acquisition Trust is a regional land trust established to enhance the protection and stewardship of regionally significant lands on southern Vancouver Island and the Southern Gulf Islands. /

Green power proposals swamp Hydro

BC Hydro has agreed to consider 30, out of an original 70, proposals from independent power producers for its 2002/03 Green Power Generation (GPG) procurement process. The proposals would total approximately 3300 gigawatt-hours, over four times Hydro's original target, which was to bring 800 new green gigawatt-hours on line each year.

They include 24 small hydro, 4 biomass, one biogas and one wind energy project proposal. Together, these projects represent a combined potential capacity of approximately 700 MW.

'We were extremely pleased with the strong response received from the private sector and have a good variety of pre-qualified project types,' said BC Hydro's senior vice president of distribution, Bev Van Ruyven. 'BC Hydro is relying on the private sector to meet the future energy needs of our customers, and this response confirms they can do that. Green power generation projects will also help BC Hydro meet its clean energy commitments and stimulate economic growth and development.'

The pre-qualified projects are predominately small hydroelectric, but woodwaste, biogas and a wind proposal were also pre-qualified. Ten of them were on Vancouver Island; the Minister of Energy disclosed this week that they were at Port Alberni, China Creek, Gold River, Cypress Creek, Nanaimo, Nanaimo reservoir, Mount Brandes wind farm, Holberg, Ucona River at Gold River, and Zeballos Lake.

BC Hydro will now issue a Call for Tenders document to the pre-qualified bidders, who must submit their bid by August 29, 2003. Projects are required to meet a commercial operation date of September 30, 2006.

Hydro Sets Ceiling Price

Bid prices from proponents will be adjusted, for comparison purposes, for several factors—including location, firmness of energy and transmission impacts—that represent the proposed project's costs and benefits to

GREEN POWER, please turn to page 3

Asymmetric Markets - Patrick Brown

The 2001 Nobel Prize for Economics was awarded to three US economists, George Akerlof of the University of California (Berkeley), Michael Spence of Stanford University, and Joseph Stiglitz of Columbia University, for their work, mostly in the 1970s, on 'asymmetric' markets. The asymmetry referred to inequalities in the information available to the participants in a market.

Akerlof's 1970 paper, 'The Market for Lemons', took as its example the sale of automobiles, pointing out that buyers and sellers often had grossly unequal amounts of information about the cars involved, leading to the domination of the market by 'lemons' - low quality vehicles sold at high prices. The work of Spence and Stiglitz went on to illustrate the cost and value of various types of information to participants, such as advertising, warranties, discounts, and different ways of offering the same product.

The primary message of this work is that markets are not perfect, and the more unequal, or asymmetric, the information available to various sellers and various buyers, the more unlikely it is that transactions will take place at logical and consistent prices, and that the market itself will behave rationally. So much for the 'invisible hand', the oft-repeated capitalist mantra that free markets in every case optimize economic activity (or government activity).

Since then, entrepreneurs have developed many new ways of exploiting information asymmetry in apparently free markets. When the State of California set up a daily auction system to purchase its electricity needs, sophisticated players such as Enron were able to manipulate the market not only through superior computer models of demand and supply, but also through creating and distributing false information. This 'gaming' of the market led to extremely high prices for the extra power and natural gas that California required on hot days, when the entire state languished in air conditioning. A variety of state agencies, and the Federal Energy Review

Commission, are now suing electricity and gas suppliers (including BC's Powerex) for 'excess profits' made between January, 2000 and June, 2001.

The US Forest Service sells much of its timber (from US federally-owned land) through auctions, and has consistently lost money on its operations. It is suspected that, since local timber companies have the most accurate information on the quality and accessibility of the timber to be sold, that they collude to maintain low prices at timber auctions.

Yet this is the system which US timber interests would have BC adopt, and which is enshrined in the massive changes to forest legislation recently rushed through the legislature.

(The government has made it clear, however, that the Crown land timber that is auctioned is not to be sold as logs for processing by US mills. It can, however, be processed by any mill in BC. And the new Act still provides for ministerial discretion, just like the old one.)

In order to satisfy US demands, some 20% of BC's Crown land timber is to be auctioned. And the the new plan would have the stumpage charged on the other 80% of Crown land timber in the province set at rates based on the prices received at the auction.

This raises some interesting possibilities for the control of information and strategic bidding. If you are a small operator, you would like to get your timber for as little as possible. But the timber available through auction is a relatively small part of the total supply, so it may be more expensive because of its scarcity. If it sells for a high price, does that mean that all the other Crown land timber is worth more?

However, if auction prices are low, stumpage will remain low for all the established big firms in BC. But US timber interests would like stumpage in BC to be high; should they arrange to bid up BC auction prices?

Stay tuned for another asymmetric, irrational market. The 'invisible hand' has sharp elbows; lots of opportunity here. /

Island Tides

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Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.	Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.
8 TU MA	0410	9.2	2.8	16 WE ME	0410	10.5	3.2
	0605	9.2	2.8		1035	3.6	1.1
	1505	2.6	0.8		1715	9.5	2.9
				2225	5.9	1.8	
9 WE	0020	10.2	3.1	17 TH JE	0435	10.8	3.3
	1600	3.0	0.9		1115	2.3	0.7
					1825	10.2	3.1
				2315	6.9	2.1	
10 TH JE	0115	10.5	3.2	18 FR VE	0455	10.8	3.3
	1705	3.0	0.9		1155	1.3	0.4
					1930	10.5	3.2
11 FR VE	0155	10.5	3.2	19 SA SA	0010	7.9	2.4
	1810	3.0	0.9		0525	10.8	3.3
					1240	0.7	0.2
				2040	10.8	3.3	
12 SA SA	0235	10.5	3.2	20 SU DI	0110	8.9	2.7
	0900	7.9	2.4		0555	10.5	3.2
	1140	8.2	2.5		1330	0.7	0.2
	1915	3.3	1.0		2150	10.8	3.3
13 SU DI	0300	10.5	3.2	21 MO LU	0235	9.2	2.8
	1905	7.2	2.2		0625	9.8	3.0
	1325	8.2	2.5		1420	1.0	0.3
	2010	3.3	1.0		2300	11.2	3.4
14 MO LU	0325	10.5	3.2	22 TU MA	0430	9.2	2.8
	1930	5.9	1.8		0700	9.2	2.8
	1450	8.9	2.7		1520	1.6	0.5
	2055	3.9	1.2				
15 TU MA	0350	10.5	3.2	23 WE ME	0000	11.2	3.4
	1000	4.9	1.5		1620	2.3	0.7
	1605	9.2	2.8				
	2140	4.6	1.4				

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Magic Lake water restrictions now—reservoir at 48%

It hasn't been a wet winter. As a result, the Buck Lake reservoir, which supplies water to much of the Magic Lake subdivision, is down to 48% of capacity. Normally, according to the Capital Regional District, it would be at 92% of capacity at this time of year. The CRD says that this is the lowest level since they have maintained records.

The extensive capital works to replace the worst of the leaky water mains are just about completed, and it is hoped that this will substantially reduce consumption. But this is not proven yet, and the Magic Lake Water and Sewer Committee plans on completing the treatment plant on Magic Lake as soon as possible to reduce the draw on Buck Lake.

But as a precaution, the Committee is also implementing 'Stage 3' water restrictions immediately, a step expected to reduce water consumption by 25 to 30%.

Stage 3 means that outdoor watering is severely restricted: no lawn watering or sprinkling; garden watering by drip system or hand-held hose (with spring loaded shut-off) only; similar hose or bucket for car and boat washing; no filling of swimming pools, wading pools, or hot tubs. No house or driveway washing. /

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Music Review by Zorah Staar

Lisa Lindo lights up Pender stage

How can a singer make you feel happy even when they're singing allegedly sad songs? Whatever that sparkling gift is, Lisa Lindo has it, along with a mile-wide smile and many other uplifting talents besides.

Lindo came to Pender on March 13 for the finale of another fine Gulf Islands Concert Series, and brought a smokin' band with her just to heat things up. After belting out a conventionally jazzy 'I Hear Music' she immediately started messing with us, singing a bossa nova 'Boy from Ipanema' which (she explained) really is quite a sad song because no matter what the girl singer does (including some wickedly acted out aaaaah's and ooooo's), that boy walking down the beach 'just doesn't see.'

Then came another song 'Sometimes I'm Happy' that showcased not only the incredible power, richness and range of Lindo's full-out voice, but also the smooth little flickers of sound that her truly amazing lead guitarist (Kevin Barrett) wove around her singing at just the right moments. Barrett was joined by bassist Drew Birston and drummer Mark Congram, demonstrating throughout the show how some really hot playing can support a singer without stealing their fire.

Another slow bossa nova beat somehow brought some light into the sorrow of 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow', and also showed the gorgeously gentle side of Lindo's voice, along with more beautifully subtle guitar playing from Barrett, harmonics ringing out in fine Lenny Breau style. The many complex latin rhythms of the evening were played out with aplomb by drummer Mark Congram.

Then came one of the highlights of the show for me in a version of 'Teach Me Tonight' (previously sung by Nat King

LINDO, please turn to page 4

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Baghdad, 1964 - Patrick Brown

In 1964 I was in Iraq, setting up computer systems for the Iraq Petroleum Company, owned by an unholy combination of British, French, Dutch, American and Armenian oil interests. The dictator of Iraq at the time was a Mr. Qassim, who was widely suspected of having been responsible for the assassination of King Faisal a couple of years earlier. Saddam Hussein was then a young army officer, and would assume power a few years and two dictators later. There was a fair amount of instability, with rivals for the dictatorship constantly battling.

Oil company employees were not in any particular danger from the sporadic gun battles, since the Iraq, Kirkuk, and Basrah Petroleum Companies financed the regime, whoever was in charge. We stayed in the Baghdad Hotel (now, I believe, the Sheraton), which featured at the time a very classy dining room, white tablecloths, liveried waiters, and a menu which consisted entirely of crusty rolls and Iraqi beer.

Coup attempts and rumoured revolutions occurred almost weekly. The hotel had a fine view of Qassim's palace across the river; one night his brother-in-law, who was Commander of the Air Force, decided to bomb it. He failed and crashed into the palace, missing Qassim who was elsewhere.

There were only four Canadians in Iraq at the time, and one night we got together to play bridge in a suburban house rented by one of the petroleum engineers. The house was a typical Baghdad house, concrete block with a flat roof, with stairs and a steel hatch so the occupants could go up and sleep on the roof on hot nights.

Later in the evening, the noises started; distant bangs and thumps. Then louder and more frequent. 'They're at it again,' we decided, and turned down the lights—pierced brass fixtures which were none too brilliant to begin with. The bangs continued. We kept resolutely playing, ignoring the increasing racket from outside.

About midnight, three of us began to wonder how we could get back to the hotel; the hotel was accepted as a no-

BAGHDAD, please turn to next column

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Three Hills Home *Book Review by John Wiznuk*

Students of Canadian history will remember something about the brutal expulsion of the Acadians from their lands along the Bay of Fundy in western Nova Scotia and their dispersal throughout the thirteen colonies that would become the United States, the French colony of Louisiana.

This act of political inhumanity, perpetrated by the British military during their wars with the French for conquest of North America, was immortalized in the poem 'Evangeline' by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Visiting atrocities on people of a different colour, religion, language, locality, or economic status is nothing new in history; we hear about it with numbing regularity.

Three Hills Home is not an academic account of these events. It is a work of historical fiction and author Alfred Silver has chosen to make the story personal; to shave down the broad generalities to people, characters and communities who, faced with the pressure and flow of events, make their choices as best they can and then try to live through the consequences. It is a story of guerrilla warfare and cultural resistance—its location happens to be Nova Scotia, Canada, in the 1750s. But it could just as easily be set in Vietnam, Afghanistan during the Russian Occupation, the Belgian Congo or any one of a myriad deadly conflicts where opposing ideologies clash and the local people suffer greatly in the process.

There is a spy, Corporal Cully Robin, certainly not a Bond clone; a man brutalized by the English army yet with enough heart left in him to know that love is more than sex. There is an attractive young woman, (isn't there always) named Eulalie; a woman of her time, domestic, capable, intelligent and the object of more than one man's affection. There are the Acadians, bound together by religion, language, complex family ties yet as proudly individualistic as possible. There are the redcoated British soldiers, bound together by military discipline that will cheerfully execute them or flay the skin off their backs for any transgression, stationed in a foreign land where they believe enemies surround them. There are leaders who will kill, torture, do whatever they can, however they can, to gain power.

The chain of events set in motion by all these players ebbs and flows with the same natural force as the tides of the Bay of Fundy that govern their lives, bringing death or destitution to some, wealth and power to others.

Anyone who has lived a life that went in a straight, planned line from the cradle to the grave has led a very boring and unusual life indeed. Living in a time of turmoil, of war and the twisting of attitudes and feelings by fear, the 'Grand Dérangement' as the Acadians called it, one is likely to have bizarre stories to tell and the twists and turns of plot and character are always within what might be.

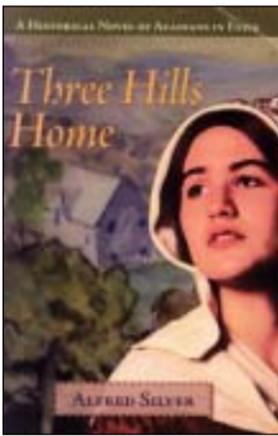
Silver's research and previous books on historic themes have given him a good grasp on life in the 1700s and 1800s. It is so different that many will mistake fact for fiction. There is, however, the ring of truth in his descriptions of the commonplace and epic events.

And there is no lack of violent action. To write a book about times of no conflict is, I suppose, a profitless task in that it probably wouldn't sell many copies. In this book, as in Silver's others, there is the impersonal violence of war and the personal violence of life in an era of sparser legal controls when might was far more likely to be right than would be tolerated today—though robbery, rape and armed coercion have by no means disappeared.

Alfred Silver has a long list of titles to his credit. *The Red River Trilogy*, three books about the Canadian plains and how they went from part of a fur trade empire to part of Canada. *Acadia*, the first in the series about his adopted home Nova Scotia, is the story of the legendary Charles La Tour and the early French settlements on the Bay of Fundy.

Listeners to CBC radio will know his name as the writer of the 'Clean Sweep' series of radio mysteries and last year as the writer and co-presenter of a series on influential singer/songwriters that aired on 'Definitely Not The Opera,' CBC Radio 1, Saturday afternoons. He is a winner of the Thomas Raddall Award for Fiction.

Three Hills Home, Alfred Silver, Nimbus Publishing, \$19.95.



GREEN POWER from page 1

BC Hydro. Adjusted bid prices will then be compared against the ceiling price of 5.5 cents per kWh (Hydro's long run marginal cost).

(The Minister of Energy estimated this week that electricity from the proposed Duke Point gas-fired generating plant would cost an estimated 7.3 cents per kWh. This would appear to be more expensive than the green power 'ceiling price'.)

BC Hydro will then award electricity purchase agreements based on the ranked adjusted bid prices below the ceiling price, starting with the project with the lowest adjusted bid price until the 800 GWh/year energy cap for the 2002/03 GPG procurement process is reached.

Previous Proposal Calls

This is BC Hydro's third request to independent power producers for project proposals. The 2000/01 call resulted in the signing of electricity purchase agreements for more than 20 proposed green projects with a combined potential to generate 930 gigawatt-hours/year.

The 70 proposals received that year represented a combined potential capacity of approximately 1,000 MW, with a potential output of about 5,500 GWh/year. Fifty-three proposals were for hydroelectric projects; the balance were for projects involving biomass, biogas, wind, ocean wave, pumped storage or other energy sources. ✓

BAGHDAD from page 2

shooting area. What part of town were the bangs coming from? Was it between where we were and the hotel? Could we get a taxi? Or should we stay overnight?

Our host decided to go up on the roof and see if he could see any explosions. He returned quickly, slightly embarrassed. 'There's no revolution tonight,' he said. 'It's just the roof hatch—it was loose—banging in the wind.' So much for remaining cool under fire. ✓

Tiger Tops Tent Camp, Nepal - *Ross McKinnon*

Having been from the southwest part of the Himalayas to the flatlands of the Terai by the Indian border, and now over to the southwest area of this beautiful country, I find it a study in contrasts, and a wonderful location marred by serious political and economic problems.

The Kingdom of Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world, having a per capita income of just over \$250 per year. Its people are wonderful, the scenery is magic, the food and tourist facilities are more than adequate, and the air is full of tension. For the past few years there has been a Maoist threat in the country, which for the most part has been very successful. The Maoist faction now is in control of most of the Western part of Nepal, along with selected provinces around Kathmandu. You are never very far from the threat of a bomb, the fear of an ambush, or the sound of a rifle. For the most part tourists have not been threatened, and most of the violence has been aimed at the government forces, be they police or army, but the smell of fear pervades the air.

The Royal Nepali Army and the police strive mightily to forestall the victory of the Maoists, however, the rebels are using traditional guerrilla tactics by controlling the rural areas, random violence in the urban areas, and forcing the government forces to retaliate in a brutal manner. This in turn alienates the very population that the government needs to support its programs.

The fact that the King dissolved Parliament last October and feels in no hurry to call an election does not help matters. In addition to that there was the tragic and shocking murder of the ruling King and Queen and most of the Royal Family two years ago by the supposedly mad Crown Prince. The fact that a sizable part of the population do not believe the official version of that night makes it particularly hard for the present King to govern.

Enough of the brutal and tragic side of life here. I have found the great majority of the population to be friendly, hard working, and accepting of the problems of the Kingdom. To say that the Nepalese are not happy would be a lie, however life is not without its problems. The total number of visitors has decreased by about 70% since the 'troubles' began, and since

much of the Nepalese economy is based on tourism all the sectors have felt the drop. About the only growth area is the provision of bodyguards for all of the banks, hotels, restaurants and the occasional government and diplomatic officials.

As you can probably guess the cost of living is very reasonable here. By Canadian standards it is unconscionably cheap. A very good meal with a couple of bottles of local beer in a pleasant restaurant will set you back about \$4. There is one English movie house in Kathmandu and front row seats in the balcony cost the equivalent of 20¢. If you really make an effort you will be able to spend much more money if you insist at eating at one of the several western chain hotels that exist in the capital. There are any number of great restaurants here though, so you don't need to go to the 'classier' places where they serve 'traditional' western food.

The usual meal here is 'dal baat' or rice and lentils with occasionally meat (water buffalo or 'buff') and chicken added if it's a special occasion. At Janakpur I ate at least two meals of dal baat every day for a week. However it did taste better than a Big Mac and fries.

As I finish this brief note from Nepal it has just been announced that a cease-fire has been declared. A prominent Police Chief and his wife had been gunned down in the centre of Nepal while out for a Sunday morning walk, and the reaction of the population was one of horror, despite all of the other killing that has occurred here in the past years.

I had a private meeting with the negotiators for the Government and the Maoists just after the truce was announced and everyone was proceeding very slowly. The previous attempt at negotiations last October had failed after three meetings, and we were discussing how best to ensure that they don't go off track this time. Let's hope that it will hold this time. It is too good a country to be torn apart even more by civil strife.

Next stop, China again, and I may try and send back a report to the best little paper in BC from there.

Pender Islander Ross McKinnon is on a stint in Asia. He has been teaching English to Chinese students. ✓

Auditor General to vet Coell's review

The Provincial Auditor General has confirmed that he will examine the conduct of the disability review that has led to 14,000 disability allowance recipients being asked to requalify themselves for their benefits. The form, and the evaluation itself has caused considerable concern. Ms McPhail has requested that Provincial Auditor General Wayne Strelieff obtain information about the following:

1. The assumptions that informed the decision to embark upon the review of the eligibility of certain benefits recipients;
2. The objectives and/or anticipated outcomes of the review as articulated at the various levels of approval as authority to proceed was sought;
3. Any changes in stated objectives at any time after the review was launched, both internally and publicly;
4. The criteria used to determine which disability benefits recipients would be required to complete the 23 page form;
5. Whether the material sent to the individuals under review was clear on its intent and appropriate, given the circumstances of

those individuals;

6. How many individuals who first received the 23 page form were eventually exempted based upon the information the Ministry already has;

7. The total costs associated with the eligibility review, including but not limited to staff costs, doctors fees, contracts for assessors, contracts for community organizations, as well as human suffering; and,

8. The outcome of the review including number of recipients deemed ineligible for continuation on disability benefits and the resulting savings to government.

The Auditor General confirmed April 4th that he would follow up MacPhail's request to examine the disability review with a full and complete investigation.

'This independent investigation is an opportunity to get to the bottom of a process that has been mishandled from the beginning, causing enormous pain and hardship for thousands of British Columbians living with disabilities,' said MacPhail. ✓

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Common Cottage Water Problems and Their Cures

Wilf K. Scheuer (www.prostarwater.ca)

You have found paradise and are all set to enjoy cottage life. Retirement is a few years away and you look forward to moving in permanently. The previous owners assured you that the well water was great and they had never experienced any problems. They were proud to tell you that they drank the water for years and never got sick! Panoramic view and waterfront properties sell quickly in this market, so you just did not have the time to take samples to a laboratory to verify the water quality. You are now finding that the plumbing fixtures are collecting stubborn red and green stains. Worse yet - the water gives off a distinctly unpleasant odour when running a bath. Your wife and kids are refusing to drink the water and showering is an unpleasant smelly experience. What do you do now?

Your first step should be to utilize the services of a provincially accredited laboratory and have them test the water. A typical test provides for the levels and allowable limits for elements in water including basic information such as total dissolved solids, iron, manganese, hardness, alkalinity, arsenic, boron, lead, pH, sodium, chromium, aluminum and others. They will also test for bacteria levels and report on the coliform count (they indicate faecal contamination and the limit is 0) plus background bacteria which should be below 500 HPC (heterotrophic plate count).

Well water, surface water and rain water can have different problems that require unique solutions. Some are potentially hazardous and some are just inconvenient. After you have had a test performed, you can then research the best products that will cure the specific problem(s).

Select an experienced and reputable dealer. Ask for a performance guarantee. Most lenders are now insisting that prior to releasing mortgage funds, cottage water systems are tested and the water meets limits for potable water as per the Canadian Water Quality Guidelines as published by Health Canada.

This has ramifications for realtors, purchasers and sellers of real estate. Sellers should correct any problems that need attention with proper treatment or advise the purchaser that he will have to install a water filtration system to obtain potable water. The contract price can be adjusted to compensate for the expense of the treatment unit. Non - disclosure of water problems can result in personal liability exposure, property devaluations and expensive legal issues that can be very costly to resolve. Rural water systems should be tested on a regular basis to assure that there are no changes in quality. Pure water is essential for health. Health is essential to enjoyment of life. ✂

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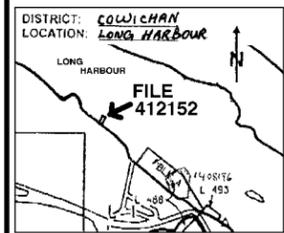
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LAND ACT: NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A DISPOSITION OF CROWN LAND

Take notice that David Weston 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 Residential - Private Moorage situated on Provincial Crown land located at Long Harbour, Cowichan District.

The Lands File Number that has been established for this application is 1412152. 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 3, 2003. LWBC may not be able to consider comments received after this date. Please visit our website at www.lwbc.bc.ca under Current Land Applications for more information.

Be advised that any response 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.



LINDO from page 2

Cole) that showed just what a really great singer can do with a really great song. Lindo passed on lessons of love in slowly sexy style, 'from the ABC's of it, to the XYZ's of it!', until we too might want to 'use stars to write 'I love you' a thousand times across the sky.' And a very interesting bass solo by Drew Birston rounded out the mellow mood. Other highlights of the first set were an edgy but engaging composition by Lindo called 'Drink Your Coffee While It's Hot' (a musical illustration of the fact that in certain matters, women really don't like to be kept waiting), and also a dark, Coltrane-ish version of 'My Favourite Things.'

The second half began with an intriguing instrumental composition by Kevin Barrett, his gorgeous guitar tones almost leaping like some kind of weird whale song. 'It's not Easy Being Green' (by Kermit the Frog) was very poignantly shared by Lindo, with some high gentle singing taking us from sadness to self-acceptance. Things got real sexy again with a Blossom Dearie special called 'Peel Me a Grape' (use your imagination). And then Lisa Lindo and her band carried us home with strong and shimmering covers of Hoagy Carmichael's 'Stardust' and 'Georgia.' What a trip! Check out www.lisalindo.com for more. ✂

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Wireless internet proposed for Islands

Mayne Island resident Bill Wadsworth and his company Gulf Islands Wireless Network Ltd. are building a high-speed Internet network to serve the Southern Gulf Islands. He has already built three base stations and plans another six as customer demand grows. The base stations are linked to a transmitter on Salt Spring Island.

But Wadsworth faces opposition from Galiano residents concerned about electromagnetic radiation from a tower on Stockade Hill.

The tower has been there for some time; it was previously used to transmit Knowledge Network broadcasts to Gulf Islanders.

Health Canada says that radiation not strong enough to cause heating is not a concern. But Galiano's Norbert Duerichen is worried that long-term continuous exposure to radiation from the transmission equipment might be hazardous to health, but Health Canada advised that little was known about this, and so it was not an accepted cause for objections to the installation. Stay tuned.

Meanwhile, Wadsworth is proceeding with setting up his system. He plans to have the system running by mid-April; customers will pay \$49.95 a month, after a \$300 installation fee, which would include a wireless card and antenna installation. ✂

Civilian casualties in Iraq

Red Cross doctors who visited southern Iraq this week saw 'incredible' levels of civilian casualties including a truckload of dismembered women and children, a spokesman said Thursday, April 3 from Baghdad. Roland Huguenin, one of six International Red Cross workers in the Iraqi capital, said doctors were horrified by the casualties they found in the hospital in Hilla, about 160 kilometres south of Baghdad.

'There has been an incredible number of casualties with very, very serious wounds in the region of Hilla,' Huguenin said in a interview by satellite telephone. 'We saw that a truck was delivering dozens of totally dismembered dead bodies of women and children. It was an awful sight. It was really very difficult to believe this was happening.' Huguenin said the dead and injured in Hilla came from the village of Nasiriyah, where there has been heavy fighting between American troops and Iraqi soldiers, and appeared to be the result of 'bombs, projectiles.' 'At this stage we cannot comment on the nature of what happened exactly at that place... but it was definitely a different pattern from what we had seen in Basra or Baghdad. 'There will be investigations I am sure.'

Baghdad and Basra are coping relatively well with the flow of wounded, said Huguenin, estimating that Baghdad hospitals have been getting about 100 wounded a day. Most of the wounded in the two large cities have suffered superficial shrapnel wounds, with only about 15% requiring internal surgery, he said.

But the pattern in Hilla was completely different. 'In the case of Hilla, everybody had

very serious wounds and many, many of them small kids and women. We had small toddlers of two or three years of age who had lost their legs, their arms. We have called this a horror.'

At least 400 people were taken to the Hilla hospital over a period of two days, he said—far beyond its capacity. 'Doctors worked around the clock to do as much as they could. They just had to manage, that was all.' The city is no longer accessible, he added.

Red Cross staff are also concerned about what may be happening in other smaller centres south of Baghdad. 'We do not know what is going on in Najaf and Kabala. It has become physically impossible for us to reach out to those cities because the major road has become a zone of combat.' The Red Cross was able to claim one significant success this week: it played a key role in re-establishing water supplies at Basra.

Power for a water-pumping station had been accidentally knocked out in the attack on the city, leaving about a million people without water. Iraqi technicians couldn't reach the station to repair it because it was under coalition control. The Red Cross was able to negotiate safe passage for a group of Iraqi engineers who crossed the fire line and made repairs. Basra now has 90% of its normal water supply, said Huguenin.

Huguenin, a Swiss, is one of six international Red Cross workers still in Baghdad. The team includes two Canadians, Vatche Arslanian of Oromocto, N.B., and Cassandra Vartell of Calgary. The Red Cross expects the humanitarian crisis in Iraq to grow and is calling for donations to help cope. The Red Cross Web site is: www.redcross.ca ✂

12% protected areas in BC not enough, says Sierra Legal & UBC Centre

A report released jointly today by the Sierra Legal Defence Fund and the UBC Centre for Biodiversity Research directly contradicts the BC government's assertion that 12% protected areas is enough to conserve biodiversity in BC. The government has relied on meeting the 12% target as justification to zone the rest of the province as 'working forest'.

BC's Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) relies on two goals: (i) protection of viable representative areas of BC's natural diversity and (ii) protection of rare or vulnerable features of the province, including rare and endangered species and their critical habitat. Failure to meet the first goal has been well documented (the major ecological regions in BC lack proportional representation under the PAS), but there has been no assessment, until this report, as to whether the PAS is protecting species at risk and their habitat.

Most Rare and Endangered Species Located Outside Protected Areas

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The report, Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas in British Columbia, found that the second goal of the PAS has not been met. A significant number of BC's rare and endangered species are located outside BC's protected areas. Areas of high species richness also had little overlap with current protected areas in the province.

'The 12% target for protected areas is arbitrary, scientifically indefensible and insufficient to protect BC's remarkable biodiversity,' said

PROTECTION, turn to page 11

United Nations rules B.C. government violates workers' rights



When the B.C. Liberals ripped up collective agreements covering more than 150,000 public sector workers, they violated labour rights enshrined in international law and respected in democracies worldwide.



The International Labour Organization, the United Nations agency mandated to uphold global agreements for workplace rights and responsibilities, has ruled that six bills enacted by the B.C. Liberals contravene the convention on freedom of association.

In the eyes of the UN agency, this puts British Columbia in the company of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala and Venezuela.



The ILO reminded the B.C. Liberals that “all governments are obliged to respect fully the commitments undertaken by ratification of ILO conventions.”



The ILO has called on the B.C. Liberals to repeal one bill entirely and rewrite five others to comply with international human rights agreements.



**Premier Campbell,
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Readers' Letters

Galiano Parks Keep Growing

Dear Editor:
 I remember how had we worked on Galiano Island, back in 1991, to raise the \$250,000 we needed to buy Mt. Galiano from MacMillan Bloedel. We had just one month, but we succeeded ... although many people thought it a pity that the park didn't extend to the waterfront, since the District Lot immediately to the south was privately owned. I remember trying to persuade the owner to carve off the major part of the lot so we could raise funds to buy it for preservation (leaving him with his homesite). He couldn't afford to donate it, as his life-savings were tied up in it. An attempt to do this ran afoul of local bureaucracy.

But just yesterday I got a phone call from this gentleman, Bernard Mignault, with the best news imaginable. He says that Parks BC has found the money to buy some 58 acres of this lot (called DL8), amounting to about 80% of it. This is really great news, as it means that the property will be spared from subdivision or clear-cut logging. I really want to thank Parks BC and all the people responsible for this decision. You look at this piece of forest for a long time when you are on the ferry from Swartz Bay and it would make a bad impression if it were hacked around. This is the same point I was making when I was crusading for Matthews Point, also on Active Pass, and now a CRD Regional Park.

I fancy that a good deal of the money must have come from Ottawa, via the Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy, in which case I would like to extend a big thank you to those people as well;

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Inter-Tidal Zone

Crusts—Nature's Rainbow On The Beach

Julie Johnston (writer), Pat Haugh (researcher) and Susan Taylor (illustrator)

Have you ever seen a 'clean' rock down at the beach? Likely not. When you look closely, many rocks are covered with thin crusts that hardly seem complex enough to be living organisms. The marine crusts that cover intertidal shores can be hard or soft, plant or animal. They come in many forms and colours, ranging from lichens to soft seaweeds, encrusting coralline algae, sponges, hydrocorals, tunicates, and bryozoans. Crusts serve several purposes, from tidying to protecting to feeding.

Lichens, combinations of fungi and algae growing together in a mutually beneficial way (symbiosis), occur right at or just above the salt water spray line. Black seaside lichen often looks like a band of black tar painted on the rock. Other lichen crusts you might see in the Gulf Islands are waxy fire-dot (a brilliant orange crust), gold dust lichen (resembling fine bright yellow granules), seaside mouse (a brown and white or tan lichen), and seaside tar spot lichen (which requires salt spray rather than just tolerating it).

Algae also can form crusts, which can be soft or firm, red or brown. Tar spot seaweed is a soft algal crust that forms a thick, smooth, dark crust and looks like blotches of oil on the rocks (not to be confused with *Hominis pollutantissimum*, or the aftermath of an oil spill). It grows in the intertidal zone, not in the spray zone like the lichens. Biologists have only recently discovered that tar spot is the crust phase in the life cycle of bumpy Turkish washcloth, one of the most common red algae on the Pacific coast.

Coralline red algae contain a lot of calcium carbonate, making them firm and brittle like coral. They range from reddish to purplish pink. Pink rock crust covers rocks and even mollusk shells, like roundish smooth splotches of paint one to four inches across. Limpets, chitons and abalone like to graze on encrusting coralline algae. A Brazilian marine biologist has discovered that coralline algae might be one of the largest stores of carbon in the biosphere, important in our struggle with global warming.

While coralline algae are rough and hard, encrusting sponges are soft and—wait for it—spongy! Sponges are very

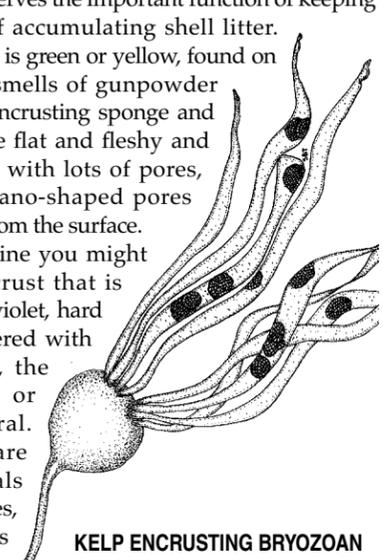
simple multicellular animals with a central cavity and a single external opening. Four encrusting sponges are found in this area. Boring sponge is tan coloured and found on living or dead mollusk shells; it serves the important function of keeping the sea bottom free of accumulating shell litter.

Crumb of bread sponge is green or yellow, found on exposed shores, and smells of gunpowder when broken. Purple encrusting sponge and velvety red sponge are flat and fleshy and appropriately named, with lots of pores, including larger volcano-shaped pores (oscula) that protrude from the surface.

Near the low tide line you might find a thin, smooth crust that is bright purple, pink or violet, hard to the touch, and covered with almost star-like pits, the purple stylasterine or encrusting hydrocoral. Hydrocorals are invertebrate animals related to sea anemones, and their name derives from their calcareous skeletons, which resemble true corals.

Several tunicates, or sea squirts, grow in soft crust-like colonies. Sea pork grows in irregular shapes on rocks exposed to heavy wave action, in opalescent white sheets up to one and a quarter inches thick. White glove leather looks as it sounds and grows as a crust up to half an inch thick. Pacific white crust grows in flat colonies less than a quarter inch thick, white to grey with pink to orange tinges. Colonial tunicates have multiple small siphons and several large ones scattered over their surface.

And finally, encrusting forms of bryozoans (or moss animals) grow in frost-like geometric patterns of tiny boxes, each of which holds an even tinier animal called a zooid. Kelp



KELP ENCRUSTING BRYOZOAN

CRUSTS, please turn to page 9

especially to Sheila Copps, who was so sympathetic towards our efforts. Since so much effort has been expended here, I would like to suggest that Galiano should be included within the Gulf Islands National Park. The people of Galiano signed a petition to this effect two years ago, but it seems that the time was not propitious.

And to all you readers, keep plugging away! There is still more work to be done!

Andrew Loveridge, Galiano Island

Youngsters Show The Way In Film

Dear Editor:
 Canada's youngest filmmakers will descend on Galiano Island at the end of April (see 'What's On?' page 5 for details) to attend EyeLens 2003, the 8th annual film, video, and animation festival on the Island. Over 150 productions will be on the big screen during the 3-day event.

These new directors, screen writers, editors, composers, cinematographers, sound engineers and actors are as young as eleven-years-old but many have already won international awards, and all have had their movies screened world-wide on youthfilms.com. G.I.F.T.S.' six-day summer film 'boot camp' on Galiano is where these shorts are produced.

The quality of shorts being produced by digital kids in a digital world is mind-blowing. They have ripped apart the mythology that it takes a million dollars and a film degree to produce movies. The parallel revolution of internet broadcasting allows these young story tellers to show their films to a huge audience world-wide.

George Harris, Galiano Island

More Residential House Holiday Rentals

Dear Editor:
 I read, with a great deal of interest, Mr. Charles Harris's letter in your March 27th issue 'Residential House Holiday Rentals.' In it he attacks "short-term vacation rentals" by this I assume, he means weekly rentals of vacation homes to vacationers. He discusses at length 'the problems caused by these commercial enterprises being conducted in our residential neighbourhood.' While he mentions that he 'lives on Buck Lake' he forgot to mention what business he is in. For those of your readers who do not know, he is the owner of a commercial enterprise, the 'Hummingbird Hollow Bed and Breakfast' that he rents out to

short-term vacation rentals.

One of my first, ungracious thoughts, was that he neglected to mention his vocation for fear that some readers might think that his motive for attacking weekly vacation rentals was to get rid of, what he considered to be, some of his competition. If he could do that, he felt, he would attract more business for himself because the weekly vacation homes would no longer be available. Then I thought, no he wouldn't forget to mention his business for that base reason, he was only thinking of the greater good of all the residents of the Gulf Islands.

Before going on any further allow me to introduce myself. My wife and I are American citizens who bought a second home on Pender Island in 1999. We spend three months of the year here in the spring, rent it out in July and August and then we return in September October and November We would gladly stay longer, at times, but the Canadian government only allows us to stay six months in any given year.

Our tenants are primarily Canadians with some Americans. Every dollar we earn stays in Canada and goes for such things as our living expenses, insurance, property taxes, our mortgage (Canadian credit union), our Canadian property manager, landscaper, housekeeper (during the summer), a security and Pender Island maintenance man, hot-tub maintenance, Vox-Cox alarm company etc, etc. During the first couple of years here we re-modeled and furnished the house. Ninety-five percent of the furnishings were purchased in the Gulf Islands and Victoria. All of the carpenters, electricians, contractors, plumbers, painters etc. etc., were either Gulf Island residents or came from Vancouver Island. Enough about us, let us get back to Mr Harris and some of his stated reasons for not liking what we, and others like us, do with our 'commercial enterprises' and how our renters behave.

Mr Harris implies that the weekly vacationer in rental houses, not his establishment because he forgot to mention it, contribute 'noise,' which his renters or full- or part-time residents of the Islands never do. 'Barking dogs:' most vacation rentals don't allow pets. We have two dogs which we kennel when we come here, so they won't bother the neighbours barking at the deer. Of course no dogs that are part time or permanent residents of the Islands ever bark. 'Obscene language:' I must admit that I have been known to murmur an

LETTERS, please turn to page 8

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'What's On?' Vancouver Island & The Gulf Islands

Saturday, April 12

Pender Island Peace Circle 'Eat for Peace!'—a simple dinner ... and an opportunity to help create peace in the world; fundraiser for UNICEF, Oxfam, Amnesty International; a Pender Island contribution to the United Nations Decade for Peace and Non-Violence for the World's Children—in Iraq. • Pender Community Hall • 6:30pm • By donation at the door (nothing is too small) • Info: 629-3811 • ON PENDER ISLAND

Good Friday, April 18

Angela Hewitt Piano Recital—Hornby Festival Society presents 'the pre-eminent Bach pianist of our time'—Hewitt (awarded the Order of Canada in 2002) will perform two Bach toccatas, the Beethoven 'Pastoral' Sonata, two Chopin nocturnes & Ravel's *Le Tombeau de Couperin*; Hewitt is a founding member of 'Piano Six,' a project dedicated to bringing exceptional music to rural communities • Community Hall • 7:30pm start, Vancouver Island concert-goers can catch 10pm ferry home • Tickets: \$10 advance, \$12 door & \$5 children under 19 • Reservations: 250-335-2734 or festival@mars.ark.com, www.hornbyfestival.bc.ca ON HORNBY ISLAND

Good Friday, April 18

Paul White's Classic Jazz Seminar Series, sponsored by Saturna Parks and Rec—The White Swing Bands taking from the Black Big Bands—1920-1940 (Third session of 4); Magnificent Lamb Ragout, with veggie option, 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 • ON SATURNA ISLAND

Easter Weekend, April 18-21

Saanich Commonwealth Pool Easter Family Fun Swims—enjoy Saanich Commonwealth Place's wavepool, waterslide, pirate ship, toddler pool, diving boards, steam, sauna and whirlpool—Fun Swims: Good Friday, Saturday & Easter Monday: 10-noon, 1-4pm, 6:30-8:30pm. Easter Sunday: 10-noon and 1-4pm • 4636 Elk Lake Drive (right off Pat Bay Hwy at Royal Oak exit). Swim Info-line 250-727-7108 • IN VICTORIA



Sunday, April 20

Alison Vardy, BC musician on the Paraguayan & Celtic harp, sponsored by the Galiano Concert Society • Community Hall • 2pm • Tickets: @ Galiano Island Books. Info: 250-539-2458 • ON GALIANO ISLAND

Sunday, April 20

4th Annual South Pender Art Walk—hop on down and tour the studio galleries of artists Frank Ducote, Joy McAughtrie, Isabel Roberts, Wendy Munroe, Vern Simpson and Susan Taylor • Watch for the yellow balloons on Gowland Point Road, Southlands Drive and Jennens Road (tour maps will be available at each studio) • Noon-4pm • Info: Susan Taylor 250-629-6661 • ON SOUTH PENDER

Wednesday till Sunday, April 23-27

5-Day Terrific Jazz Party—17 red hot bands from US and Canada, including the *Big Band Trio*, *Les Chiens Noirs* (Tom Hook & friends) from Everywhere, USA, *Titan Hot Seven* featuring Bob Draga and Jeff Barnhart; 5 dance floor venues throughout Victoria, free shuttle bus • Wed: 4:30-midnight; Thursday through Saturday: Noon-1:30am; Sunday: 10:30am-4pm • Tickets: Daily Badges from \$20; 5-day All-Event Badge \$100, at Tourism Info Centre and The Bay Centre • Info: 250-953-2011 or www.terrific.com • IN VICTORIA

Fri & Sat, April 25, & 26

8th Annual, Eyelens Film and Video Festival 2003—Gulf Islands Film & Television School presents over 150 screenings of Year 2002 short films, animations and videos; Friday: 7:30pm Local Heros, 10pm IMPP; Saturday: screenings all day, 1pm workshop, 7pm Gala awards ceremony • South Galiano Hall • Tickets: at-the-door • Info: www.GIFTSfilms.com, G.I.F.T.S. 250-539-5729 • ON GALIANO ISLAND

Saturday, April 26

3rd Galiano Triathlon—3km Kayak, 13km Cycle, 5km Run—fundraiser for Galiano Fitness Centre, Individual & Team events • Montague Park start 12:30pm • \$30/person, entry deadline April 15 • Info: www.galianoisland.com/triathlon, Janice Mason jem@gulfislands.com or 250-539-3421 ON GALIANO ISLAND

Saturday, April 26th

"At this critical junction in history, the media are determining the fate of the earth"—talk by Dr Helen Caldicott, peace activist, founder of Nobel Prize winning Physicians for Social Responsibility, and author of *The New Nuclear Danger* and *If You Love This Planet*; performances by Vally and Tuned Air • Gulf Islands Secondary School Gym • 8pm • Tickets by donation (Sugg. \$10-15) @ Volume II, Stuff and Nonsense and et cetera books • Limited billets available. Info: Irene Wright 250-537-5347, Marion Pape 250-537-4567, or www.ccc.ssi.ca • ON SALT SPRING ISLAND

Fri, Sat & Sun, May 2, 3 & 4

'A Big Bunch of Roses'—The Pender Islands Choral Society sings Pop & Broadway • Community Hall • FRI & SAT: 7:30pm, SUN: 2pm • Tickets: \$12 for adults, \$6 for children 5 to 12 years @ the usual outlets • ON PENDER ISLAND

Nettleton questions Accenture directors' history

On Wednesday, April 2, a committee of the Provincial Legislature was debating the estimates of the Ministry of Energy. Paul Nettleton, Independent Liberal member for Prince George-Omineca, had some questions for the Minister, Jack Neufeld, on the qualifications of recently appointed directors of the new company that Accenture had formed, with BC Hydro, to carry out BC Hydro's clerical and personnel operations. What follows is from the transcript of proceedings (from *Hansard*):

P. Nettleton: I do have a few questions. I'll take up, actually, where I left off, if I may, on Thursday of last week. On Tuesday of last week, B.C. Hydro and Accenture named their appointees to the board of directors of the new company, to be called Accenture Business Services of B.C., that is taking over the management services of B.C. Hydro as of April 1, 2003. Again, to the minister, who has the responsibility of appointing board members to Accenture Business Services of B.C.?

Hon. R. Neufeld: B.C. Hydro has the right to appoint three, and Accenture has the right to appoint four.

P. Nettleton: I have some concerns regarding some of those appointees, especially in light of my request to the auditor general of B.C., in part to investigate whether there be any connection between Accenture and Andersen Consulting, Arthur Andersen LLP. One of the board appointees, Etienne Deffarges, held the same position of global managing partner with Andersen Consulting as he will now be holding with Accenture Business Services of B.C.

A quote that I have in this regard comes from Utility Business Magazine, the December 1, 1999, issue, under the heading "Andersen Consulting Appoints Partner": "Andersen Consulting has appointed Etienne Deffarges as global managing partner for its worldwide utilities practice. Deffarges specializes in portfolio strategy, privatization, foreign investment, mergers and acquisitions."

A question, then, to the minister: is this the same Etienne H. Deffarges that the publication *Fortnightly Energy Customer Management*, October 15, 2000, identifies as the global managing partner for utilities strategy at Andersen Consulting, San Francisco?

Hon. R. Neufeld: Yes, he is.

P. Nettleton: Is this the same Etienne H. Deffarges who, as a presenter at the third annual EnerTech Forum, extolled his success with Accenture in making Enron Corp. a clear winner in revenue growth for 1999-2000?

Hon. R. Neufeld: I don't know the answer to that question.

P. Nettleton: It would appear that Mr. Deffarges himself is crediting Accenture with Arthur Andersen's earlier claims to have made Enron a clear winner. This shows that Mr. Deffarges is still proud of his Andersen work with Enron.

To the minister: is this the same Etienne Deffarges who alternatively and concurrently described himself in different publications as both the global managing partner of Andersen Consulting and of Accenture consulting in the U.S.A.?

Hon. R. Neufeld: I can't answer that question. I don't know. It's really not a lot to do with B.C. Hydro.

P. Nettleton: Accompanying Tuesday's media release from B.C. Hydro is a background containing bios on each of the newly appointed board members, and Mr. Deffarges's bio conveniently omits to mention that he was a global managing partner for Andersen Consulting U.S.A. What it does say is: "Previously, Mr. Deffarges held the position of global managing partner of the strategy and business architecture resources practice for Accenture." These statements and claims by Mr. Deffarges are highly contradictory, unless Mr. Deffarges has a twin brother with the very same first name.

A question for the minister: could we be looking at an altered or adjusted résumé here to conceal the fact that Mr. Deffarges was indeed high up in the Andersen organization at that time? My research into Accenture/Andersen indicates they are masters of revisionist history. In fact, they prefer to have no corporate history that links them to Andersen and Enron, but I'm telling you that Andersen's director's career history is directly linked from Accenture back to Andersen Consulting—all the way back to Arthur Andersen accounting and their involvement with the Enron corporation and the other accounting scandals that we are all aware of.

Now they're moving into B.C. Hydro with the blessing of this government. Does this not concern you, Mr. Minister?

Hon. R. Neufeld: First off, the CV that was prepared, which went with the announcement—I don't take umbrage with it. I assume the person put in there what they normally do. I don't know if they've put in there everything they've done in their lifetime. That's entirely up to the individual.

It's obviously no secret that Accenture and Arthur Andersen were a business before. I think we have to move forward from there, and we should not say that anyone that ever worked for Andersen Consulting, Arthur Andersen or Enron are all bad people, unless you want to say everybody that worked for Enron were bad people. I'm not sure if that's what you're inferring.

Obviously, we know the name. I've confirmed the name, and that should answer the question.

P. Nettleton: A question, then: are this government and B.C. Hydro concealing these facts because they don't want the people of this province to come to the conclusion that their government and B.C. Hydro are actually going into partnership

with Andersen Consulting of Enron infamy by engaging Accenture?

Can you tell me, Mr. Minister, who made the decision to remove Andersen Consulting from the bio of Mr. Deffarges? If Andersen Consulting has a clean record, as you suggest, why did it misidentify the name of his previous employer, thereby attributing Andersen's work with Enron to Accenture?

Hon. R. Neufeld: Accenture Business Services is a corporation incorporated in the province of British Columbia. It will employ British Columbia people, pay taxes in British Columbia and move forward and provide services to B.C. Hydro through an outsourcing agreement. That outsourcing agreement will save B.C. Hydro ratepayers approximately \$250 million over ten years. I think that's actually good news for the province.

...(LATER)...

P. Nettleton: Another question, if I may: were you aware that Andersen Consulting did not officially change their name to Accenture until January 1, 2001, but that they used the names Andersen and Accenture interchangeably before that time following the Enron scandal? Given that that's the case, do you agree with me that these questions, among others regarding Accenture, should be investigated?

Hon. R. Neufeld: The member has asked the auditor general to review the deal that Hydro has with Accenture Business Services. I don't know what the decision is of the auditor general at this point, but I'm sure he asked that same question there.

Also, the contract. When B.C. Hydro applies for a rate review sometime this fall, the B.C. Utilities Commission will have an opportunity to review that contract and make sure the agreement that was made in that contract is actually going to save British Columbians money. They will review it to make sure they're going to receive the same services and the quality of service. I'm comfortable with that. That's all done within British Columbia.

I'm also comfortable with the fact that if we can save \$250 million, I think it's incumbent on this government, on me, to actually exercise that right. I'm not sure; maybe the member is saying we shouldn't save \$250 million—that maybe we should just kiss \$250 million goodbye. I'm sure that isn't what he's inferring, but it tends to lead me to believe that that could be what's happening.

P. Nettleton: One further question regarding another appointee to the Accenture Business Services board: Mary Tolan, chief executive, resources group, Accenture. I see that her bio does not include specifics of her career history. Is it not true that, in fact, Ms. Tolan was a global managing partner of Andersen Consulting and that she was based in Andersen's head office in Chicago—according to her interviews in *Information Week*, November 20, 2000, and *CNETnews.com*, February 9, 2000?

Hon. R. Neufeld: I'm going to reiterate that Andersen Consulting is gone. We're dealing with a company called Accenture Business Services, actually incorporated in British Columbia with a head office in Vancouver. As far as what the member said, I have no reason to disbelieve him, because I don't have in front of me the information that he has. That's the answer to the question.

...(LATER)...

P. Nettleton: Well, this move into B.C. must be very important to Accenture, as Ms. Tolan was second-in-charge of Andersen Consulting worldwide to chief executive Joe Forehand. It appears that B.C. Hydro and the B.C. government are now helping Accenture legitimize or launder itself into an onshore, made-in-B.C. company. Will this subsidiary of Accenture, to be known as Accenture Business Services of B.C., no longer avail itself of Accenture's tax-dodge base in Bermuda, or will Accenture Business Services of B.C. be registered in both B.C. and Bermuda? What assurances can the minister provide the people of B.C. that Accenture Business Services of B.C. will be 100 percent a B.C. company and not even a teeny, weensy bit Bermuda-based or tainted with the Andersen-Enron scandal?

Actually, I shouldn't even be asking that, because it's not possible for such a big, crafty leopard to change its spots. Either somebody in this government has had the wool pulled over their eyes by this Andersen-Accenture Houdini act, or someone in government is in cahoots with Andersen-Accenture. The more I research into the Accenture-Andersen-Enron connection, the more I see of the careless doublespeak of the companies' directors and principal officers nationally and internationally.

Mr. Minister, loose lips sink ships, and I believe the Accenture ship is not a seaworthy craft. It's an old ship with new paint. The name on the side says 'Accenture,' but under the peeling paint, if you look carefully, you can still see the name 'Arthur Andersen,' which will never go away, no matter how much they paint over it. I do hope, Mr. Minister, that you are an innocent dupe in this whole sordid scheme and that you're not caught with paint on your hands when this is all over. Thank you.

Paul Nettleton is a former logger and millworker who has earned a law degree from UBC and has practiced in northern BC. He was first elected in 1996, and was recently excommunicated from the liberal caucus for insisting that the government intends to privatize BC Hydro. /

LETTERS from page 6

expletive or two on occasion. This even though I knew the CRD had declared the Islands a swearing free zone and no one in the Gulf Islands ever swears. 'Trespassing:' I must plead guilty to this one also. One day, while my wife and I were exploring the Island, we didn't see a 'private property' sign and trespassed. As soon as we realized it we backed-up and left the area. Of course no Gulf Islander or any of Mr. Harris's renters has ever done such a thing. 'Open fires:' once again, none of Mr. Harris's renters has ever started an open fire on a beach or elsewhere and no Gulf Islander would ever start an open fire to burn branches or leaves. He further talks about 'the volunteers who do the leg work for our societies', inferring that only full-time residents contribute time and money. I could list the organizations we belong to on Pender but that would appear to be patting ourselves on the back, so I will just skip that part of our life here.

I could go on and on giving my opposing views to Mr. Harris's positions but I hope I have made my point. In summation let me say this, virtually every argument Mr. Harris uses, in attacking weekly vacation rentals, applies equally to full-time and part-time residents of the Gulf Islands. Almost all of us, with very few exceptions, at one time or another are guilty of one or more of Mr. Harris's accusations, including Mr. Harris himself by renting out his property to vacationers.

Mike Connolly, Pender Island

Independent Canada

Dear Editor:

Canadian defiance of the US is nothing short of a tradition! Examples include the Pig War, refusing nukes on our soil, not joining the Cuban embargo, and refusing to fight in Vietnam. Despite these conflicts, and perhaps even because of them, we remain a vibrant and independent nation.

Those who fear the economic wrath of the United States would have us become a sad group of northern toadies. While we have a name for those who sell their bodies for money, what shall we call those who would sell their nationhood for economic prosperity?

Reverend Jim Love, Vancouver

Is There A Tooth Fairy?

Dear Editor:

Keith Sketchley's questions may be rhetorical, but one at least deserves an answer. Yes Keith, many otherwise sensible people believed Hitler. Millions of them lived in Germany, and quite a few lived, believe it or not, in the USA. The architect of this deception was Herman Goebbels, the Nazi minister for information and patron saint of spin doctors, whose massive tome 'The Theory and Practice of Propaganda' is still considered the seminal work in its field.

As to my Bush/Hitler comparisons, apart from the obvious ones of cavalier electoral practice and a massively propagandized population, there really are few. Bush is a far more manipulated man than was Hitler, who, rightly or wrongly, was in charge. If one insists on forcing Second World War comparisons, it is actually easier, and more revealing, to make them between Bush and Mussolini. It was Mussolini, after all, who defined fascism as 'Government by an alliance of the corporate and the military.'

The silver lining in this cloud will be the removal of an undisputedly appalling Iraqi regime. This will happen, the US cannot do otherwise and still expect the rest of the third world to do as they say. Not to win would be seen as losing two in a row, Vietnam being of course the first. Further, a loss, something defined as the US leaving Iraq without Saddam's head on a plate, would be a catastrophe for the US of literally biblical proportions. Sheriff George, unable to catch the first black hat, would also be shown to be incapable of catching the second. He would be fifth on the list of medieval Kings and Popes as a discredited leader of another failed crusade to impose Western rule on the Middle East.

The real argument is one of choosing the lesser of two great evils. On the one hand is a small country with a lot of oil and a brutal government that the US was able to get along with, and even support for many years. On the other is a new world Imperialism in which a single power can go and do what it likes by pure main force. This can apply to any small country, which for any reason appears not to be running in the manner that the power considers most coincident with its interests.

If anyone believes that this attack is an altruistic effort to help the beleaguered Iraqi people, I suspect that they also believe in the tooth fairy. This has to do with an opportunistic attempt to inflict punishment for the World Trade Tower bombings on a target massively enhanced by propaganda. This is somehow more satisfying than unsuccessfully chasing the man who actually did it. Of course there is also the little matter of locking up a large chunk of the world's oil supply, and

there's more. Protecting Israel's western flank is the other thing that never seems to be mentioned. With the US army as the self-appointed security guard in the oil patch, any attack on Israel would immediately involve the attacker in an unwinnable war on two fronts. The savings in reduced aid to a more secure Israel will go a long way to pay the bill.

What we have is an utterly cynical war prosecuted for a whole subtext of agendas that have nothing to do with the odd mix of piousness and bombast that is the party line. Is Bush acting in the best interests of the US? Sadly, probably he is, unless he loses. The big question is whether the short term interests of the US ruling classes are genuinely parallel with the long term interests of humanity at large.

John Carlton, Pender Island

Waging Peace

Dear Editor:

In his letter in *Island Tides* March 27 issue, Keith Sketchley asks 'Why not save lives by stopping such evil earlier? ... Faced with armed tyrants, what does Carlton [March 13 *Island Tides* and see letter above] suggest that people do?' Good questions, questions I and others have been thinking about for ages.

I have come to the conclusion that 'returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars' to quote Martin Luther King. 'Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.'

We do not stop evil by killing those who commit evil acts. We become, ourselves, more 'evil' when we commit violence, even if it is supposed to prevent violence in the future. In the case of the US aggression against Iraq, the Administration cannot even claim to be killing those who commit evil acts, for many of those being killed are as innocent as you or I.

What can we do? We can learn from what the Danes did when Hitler invaded Denmark. We can work for peace and justice. We can work for truth by getting out the news of what is really happening, instead of swallowing the falsehoods being spread by the 'weapon of mass distraction,' the mass media. We can contribute to humanitarian efforts to help the people under siege, etc.

We can find out more about effective ways of 'waging peace'. I am organizing showings of videos about how the Danes resisted Hitler and how Milosevic was ousted from power using nonviolence. Catherine Morris of Victoria's Peacemakers Trust will be bringing the films to Salt Spring Island on May 5 and 6. For more information, please contact me at 250-537-5251 or js@saltspring.com.

Jan Slakov, Salt Spring Island

Pender Possibilities

Dear Editor:

This letter is a call for ideas on how to restore the orientation of the local community constituency to the opening up of possibility for one another's self-development. Central to this call is the development of a sustainable network of local employment.

Your ideas on how we might co-create a sustainable network of local employment opportunities on Pender, possibly extending outward to include the other Gulf Islands and beyond are welcomed. Ideas emailed to islander@goodshare.org will be posted at www.goodshare.org/penderpossibilities.htm. A meeting of those interested and action plan will follow, given sufficient interest.

Ted Lumley, Pender Island

Letter of Resignation

The following letter was sent to US Secretary of State Colin Powell on Thursday, 27 February, 2003.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing you to submit my resignation from the Foreign Service of the United States and from my position as Political Counselor in US Embassy Athens, effective March 7. I do so with a heavy heart. The baggage of my upbringing included a felt obligation to give something back to my country. Service as a US diplomat was a dream job. I was paid to understand foreign languages and cultures, to seek out diplomats, politicians, scholars and journalists, and to persuade them that US interests and theirs fundamentally coincided. My faith in my country and its values was the most powerful weapon in my diplomatic arsenal.

It is inevitable that during twenty years with the State Department I would become more sophisticated and cynical about the narrow and selfish bureaucratic motives that sometimes shaped our policies. Human nature is what it is, and I was rewarded and promoted for understanding human nature. But until this Administration it had been possible to believe that by upholding the policies of my President I was

also upholding the interests of the American people and the world. I believe it no longer.

The policies we are now asked to advance are incompatible not only with American values but also with American interests. Our fervent pursuit of war with Iraq is driving us to squander the international legitimacy that has been America's most potent weapon of both offense and defense since the days of Woodrow Wilson. We have begun to dismantle the largest and most effective web of international relationships the world has ever known. Our current course will bring instability and danger, not security.

The sacrifice of global interests to domestic politics and to bureaucratic self-interest is nothing new, and it is certainly not a uniquely American problem. Still, we have not seen such systematic distortion of intelligence, such systematic manipulation of American opinion, since the war in Vietnam. The September 11 tragedy left us stronger than before, rallying around us a vast international coalition to cooperate for the first time in a systematic way against the threat of terrorism. But rather than take credit for those successes and build on them, this Administration has chosen to make terrorism a domestic political tool, enlisting a scattered and largely defeated Al Qaeda as its bureaucratic ally. We spread disproportionate terror and confusion in the public mind, arbitrarily linking the unrelated problems of terrorism and Iraq. The result, and perhaps the motive, is to justify a vast misallocation of shrinking public wealth to the military and to weaken the safeguards that protect American citizens from the heavy hand of government. September 11 did not do as much damage to the fabric of American society as we seem determined to do so to ourselves. Is the Russia of the late Romanovs really our model, a selfish, superstitious empire thrashing toward self-destruction in the name of a doomed status quo?

We should ask ourselves why we have failed to persuade more of the world that a war with Iraq is necessary. We have over the past two years done too much to assert to our world partners that narrow and mercenary US interests override the cherished values of our partners. Even where our aims were not in question, our consistency is at issue. The model of Afghanistan is little comfort to allies wondering on what basis we plan to rebuild the Middle East, and in whose image and interests. Have we indeed become blind, as Russia is blind in Chechnya, as Israel is blind in the Occupied Territories, to our own advice, that overwhelming military power is not the answer to terrorism? After the shambles of post-war Iraq joins the shambles in Grozny and Ramallah, it will be a brave foreigner who forms ranks with Micronesia to follow where we lead.

We have a coalition still, a good one. The loyalty of many of our friends is impressive, a tribute to American moral capital built up over a century. But our closest allies are persuaded less that war is justified than that it would be perilous to allow the US to drift into complete solipsism. Loyalty should be reciprocal. Why does our President condone the swaggering and contemptuous approach to our friends and allies this Administration is fostering, including among its most senior officials. Has *oderint dum metuant* really become our motto?

I urge you to listen to America's friends around the world. Even here in Greece, purported hotbed of European anti-Americanism, we have more and closer friends than the American newspaper reader can possibly imagine. Even when they complain about American arrogance, Greeks know that the world is a difficult and dangerous place, and they want a strong international system, with the US and EU in close partnership. When our friends are afraid of us rather than for us, it is time to worry. And now they are afraid. Who will tell them convincingly that the United States is as it was, a beacon of liberty, security, and justice for the planet?

Mr. Secretary, I have enormous respect for your character and ability. You have preserved more international credibility for us than our policy deserves, and salvaged something positive from the excesses of an ideological and self-serving Administration. But your loyalty to the President goes too far. We are straining beyond its limits an international system we built with such toil and treasure, a web of laws, treaties, organizations, and shared values that sets limits on our foes far more effectively than it ever constrained America's ability to defend its interests.

I am resigning because I have tried and failed to reconcile my conscience with my ability to represent the current US Administration. I have confidence that our democratic process is ultimately self-correcting, and hope that in a small way I can contribute from outside to shaping policies that better serve the security and prosperity of the American people and the world we share.

John Brady Kiesling, ex-US diplomat

Roads no good, say Magic Lake residents

Magic Lake residents have expressed dissatisfaction with the road surfaces redone following the installation of new water mains over the southern part of the subdivision. In order to replace leaky mains, a number of roads were dug up and eventually replaced with a 'chip seal' roadway. The work was done by the Capital Regional District.

The chip seal was supposed to have a service life of ten years, but over the winter a number of holes and soft spots have appeared. The Magic Lake Water and Sewer Committee met with CRD Director Rich Tamboline on January 16 to express its concern, but the Committee felt, at the end of the meeting, that the CRD was quite unsympathetic to the situation and was not planning to improve the roads.

John Pantlin, president of the Magic Lake Property Owners' Society, then wrote to Minister of Transportation Judith Reid explaining the situation (the Ministry is responsible for Island roads). A substantial number of Magic Lake residents also wrote to the Minister, the CRD, and MLA Murray Coell.

In response, a meeting between Ministry representatives, the CRD, representatives of MLPOS, Trustee Wayne Wright, and RCMP member Lyle Gelinis was held on March 20. Highways engineer Bob Webb admitted that the chip seal may not have been the right stuff, and felt that it had been applied too late in the season to bed down to a good surface. Bonnie Whipple, representing the Ministry, indicated that she was committed to some improvement to the chip-sealed sections.

Pantlin thinks that although Magic Lake residents have been successful in bringing the problem to the attention of the Ministry, more followup will be required. /

CRUSTS from page 6

encrusting bryozoan, also called kelp lace (illustrated), forms thin, white, circular colonies on kelp, floats and rocks in shallow water. Rosy bryozoan grows in patches up to two inches wide on stones or shells, with a distinctive rose-red to orange-red hat-shaped opening for each individual zooid. You might also see purple and orange encrusting bryozoans.

So, for a quick and easy guide: if it's a crust with no distinguishing holes or pores, it's likely an alga (soft or coralline), or a lichen (at the salt spray line only). If it's soft and fleshy with volcano-like pores, think sponge. If it has regular star-shaped holes, it's probably an encrusting hydrocoral, but if the holes are box-like, think bryozoan. If it's thicker and pale with two different types of pores, it's likely a colonial tunicate.

With this bit of knowledge and a magnifying glass, you might be able to identify some of these crusts on your next trip to the seashore. Or you might prefer just to marvel at the diversity of life in the natural world. Marine crusts are living beings that need to be respected, like all others at the shore.

For wonderful photos of crusts, check *The Beachcomber's Guide to Seashore Life in the Pacific Northwest*, by J. Duane Sept (Harbour Publishing, 1999).

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. /

Dear Eileen Tides,

My problem is an old one, what to wear, especially in these troubled times, with life an increasing social whirl of one war protest after another. I pulled out my old wardrobe from the last time I went to a protest about a war. I think it was Vietnam or somewhere. Apart from its not fitting any more, not even close, it has old stains from brown rice and so forth. Please help!

Penelope Dancing-Breathlessly

P.S. I found an old Rolling Stones concert ticket crumpled up in my tie-dyed caftan. Do you think it is worth anything?

Dear Penelope,

Yes, Indian bedspreads are passé. The chic Chomskyite will be in Pender Island theatre of operations camouflage. Earth tones are the theme, to show your connection with the Iraqi people etc etc, gray-on-gray, green-on-green, or brown-on-brown all work well. As with all high fashion, start with footwear first. Wellies, timeless, and practical, are a perfect foil for anything dark and loose. Jewelry should be along the suns, moons and stars theme in silver. Your partner, if male, could wear anything that John Ralston Saul might be seen in when not with his wife.

This all assumes of course that you are demonstrating against the war. If you are in favor of the war, or your host is, polyester is preferred. Colours are of course red, white and blue up to 'The Full Nanaimo' with white(ish) pants, a bit too small, and very shiny shoes. Accessories in this case should include at least half a dozen American flags. Use your

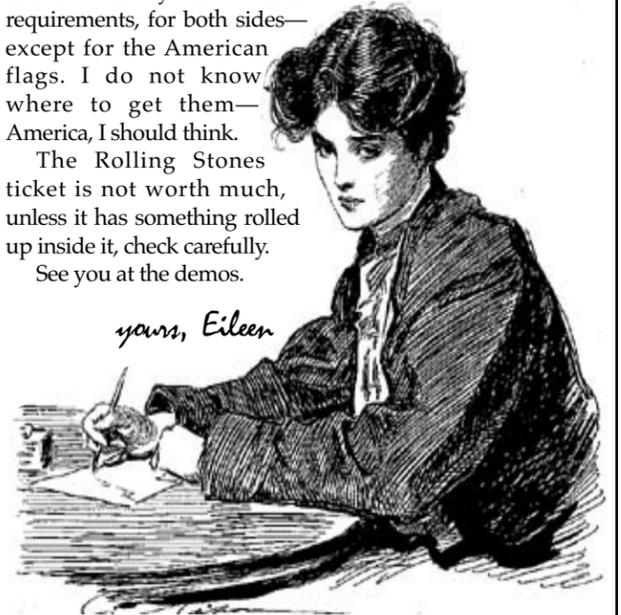
imagination here, they can be earrings or scarves, or even underwear. B52 or 'Dumb Bomb' earrings and tongue piercings would be a glance-catching touch, for both genders, and can be had by mail order from 'Soldier of Fortune' magazine.

'Nu-To-Yu' the island's fashion focus, can help with pretty much all your wardrobe requirements, for both sides—except for the American flags. I do not know where to get them—America, I should think.

The Rolling Stones ticket is not worth much, unless it has something rolled up inside it, check carefully.

See you at the demos.

yours, Eileen



Eileen invites your queries on Islands' etiquette.

APPENDIX B
to Order No. G-21-03

SIXTH FLOOR, 900 HOWE STREET, BOX 250
VANCOUVER, B.C. V6Z 2N3 CANADA
web site: <http://www.bcuc.com>

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FACSIMILE: (604) 660-1102

VANCOUVER ISLAND ENERGY CORPORATION
Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity
for the Vancouver Island Generation Project

NOTICE OF WORKSHOPS AND PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE

Date: Tuesday and Wednesday, April 22 and 23, 2003
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Coast Bastion Inn
Ballroom
11 Bastion Street, Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 6E4

THE APPLICATION

Vancouver Island Energy Corporation ("VIEC") has applied to the British Columbia Utilities Commission ("the Commission") pursuant to Sections 45 and 46 of the Utilities Commission Act ("the Act") for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Vancouver Island Generation Project ("VIGP", "the Duke Point Project"). VIEC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority ("BC Hydro"). The Application states that the VIGP is BC Hydro's preferred option for securing reliable electricity supply for Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands.

The VIGP consists of a combined-cycle natural gas turbine power generating plant at Duke Point near Nanaimo, a connection and upgrade to the existing transmission grid, a short gas supply pipeline and related works. It would provide 265 megawatts of power, has an estimated cost of \$340 million and an expected in-service date of July 2006. Environmental and other impacts of the VIGP have undergone an assessment by the Environmental Assessment Office.

The VIGP is integrally linked to the Georgia Strait Crossing Project ("GSX Project"), a proposed natural gas pipeline from Washington State to Vancouver Island. The Canadian portion of the GSX Project currently is under review by the National Energy Board.

THE REGULATORY PROCESS

The Commission will hold Workshops on the Application in Nanaimo on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 22 and 23, 2003 commencing at 9:00 a.m. The Workshops will address the following matters:

- Tuesday, April 22
 - Vancouver Island peak and annual demand and supply
 - Condition of HVDC cables and reliability of supply
- Wednesday, April 23
 - Feasibility of new transmission lines and other supply alternatives
 - Vancouver Island Generation Project and GSX Project

The Commission will hold a Pre-hearing Conference in Nanaimo after the conclusion of the Workshop on Wednesday, April 23, to address procedural matters which will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- scheduling,
- completeness of the Application,
- identification of principal issues,
- process (information requests, written or oral public hearing),
- location(s) of the proceeding, and
- other matters that will enable the proceeding to efficiently review all aspects of the Application.

After the Pre-hearing Conference, the Commission will issue a further procedural order and regulatory agenda for the review of the Application.

PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE DOCUMENTS

The Application and supporting material will be made available for inspection at the following locations:

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority

Head Office:	17th Floor, 333 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver, B.C.	604 623-4046
Regional Office:	400 Madsen Road, Nanaimo, B.C.	250 755-4700

British Columbia Utilities Commission

Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C.

The Application is available for viewing on BC Hydro's web site at www.bchydro.com/vigp.

INTERVENTIONS

Persons who expect to actively participate in the proceeding should register as Intervenor with the Commission, in writing, by Friday, April 11, 2003 identifying their interest in the Application, indicating if they plan to attend the Workshops and Pre-hearing Conference and providing an e-mail address if available. Intervenor will receive copies of the Application, all correspondence and filed documentation.

Persons not expecting to actively participate, but who have an interest in the Application, should register as Interested Parties with the Commission, in writing, by Friday, April 11, 2003 identifying their interest in the matter and indicating if they plan to attend the Workshops and Pre-hearing Conference. Interested Parties will receive a copy of the Application's Executive Summary and all Orders issued.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please contact Mr. Robert J. Pellatt, Commission Secretary, or Mr. Brian Williston, Manager, Engineering and Commodity Markets, as follows:

Telephone:	604 660-4700	Facsimile:	604 660-1102
B.C. Toll Free:	1 800 663-1385	E-mail:	Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com

A03-142

2003 Island Tides

Voluntary Subscriptions

Did something in this edition of Island Tides:

- inform you?
- pique your interest?
- amuse you?
- give you a warm, fuzzy feeling?
- make you a good contact?
- find you an opportunity?
- inspire you to take action?
- make a conversation topic?
- find you a good buy or a good service?

If you are already receiving *Island Tides* in your Island mailbox or if you pick it up from one of our 70 free boxes across the Gulf of Georgia, Victoria or Nanaimo, or if you read us on the web, you can show your support and appreciation by sending a voluntary subscription of (\$20 + \$1.40 gst = \$21.40) to:
Box 55, Pender Island, B.C. V0N 2M0

Thank You!

And a special 'Thank You' to those of you who have sent subscriptions and letters!

Saturna Notes - Priscilla Ewbank

Stand back! Every tree on the Island is just about to burst leaf bundles or flower buds. Remember biology basic?—all those little chlorophyll factories activated by light from the big daystar eating up carbon dioxide and producing oxygen. No wonder people hug trees!

The hummingbird contingent is out and about in full force. We have two male hummingbirds that have regular brawls on our back porch. I also love watching those big bumblebees, in the yard, trying to get airborne with a load of crocus pollen! And we have bats in the soft evening light—so silent, so quick. Driving out to East Point, which has more deer per square yard than a feedlot, I saw does in the late stages of pregnancy—time for the little spotted guys.

For me, it is the light that is exhilarating in spring. Before daylight savings time changes and the high-in-the-sky, light of summer, these long sunlit/rainy days with slanting light are so exuberant, so full of life made even brighter by the, still close to mind, cold days and engulfing nights.

Ferron Concert & Big Fat Greek Dinner

On April 12, Saturna Islander Ferron will give us a concert. Ferron closed-out the Talent Night two years ago, exhibiting a wonderful stage presence as well as great musical talent. Tickets are available at both stores.

On Easter Saturday, the Saturna Lions will be putting on 'My Big Fat Greek Dinner.' This will include entertainment, which, from the poster, looks like belly dancing. I'm not sure if the Lions are hiring performers or are looking for volunteers within the Club—whichever way it is bound to be entertaining!

Easter weekend's extravaganza, the Easter Bake Sale, will take place at the Community Hall on the Saturday from 1pm to 3pm. As well as the sale of delectable baked goods, this lovely event has a plant table; raffles; a formal tea, with tablecloths and table service; and the Cakewalk—an active participatory way to win one of a number of highly-desirable cakes. *Mind now, come right on time.* I've never heard of anything being still for sale at 3pm—you'll just get given a broom to help clean up for the Lions dinner.

Nancy Harrower

Long time Saturna Islander, Nancy Harrower passed away on March 26. Nancy Harrower and Bill were a part of the fun people at East Point who arrived in the late '50s and '60s, originally coming in the summer with their families, enjoying each other's company, kids, and lives, with few amenities, and then eventually retiring here. They created a little community for themselves within the larger fabric of Saturna.

Bill and Nancy came to Saturna in 1960 to help a friend put up an A-frame and they just kept coming! They rented a cabin at what is now the Money's Resort for two weeks and the five Harrower children Peter, Gordon, Barby, M'Lou and Jeannie loved it so much they just kept coming back for longer and longer stays until dear friends, Jim and Lou Money rented the cabin year round to the family. Nancy and the kids stayed all summer and Bill came every weekend and for the last two weeks in August.

Marie Mackie and her children spent lots of time with the Harrower clan, 'Nancy had water and I had a washing machine and an old truck. We never washed the kids clothes until the flies started following them down the beach! We spent lots of time on the beach, just playing, watching the kids, having fires on the beach and cooking dinner.'

Bill and Nancy counted the months, weeks and days until they could retire on Saturna. their son, Peter, relates that Nancy and Bill first met singing in a church choir in Montreal. They married in Vancouver and Nancy put Bill through his degree in engineering at UBC, nursing in the maternity ward at Vancouver General Hospital. Peter says Nancy was the glue that held the family together and Bill was the driving force. The Harrower clan ran the hot dog booth at the Lamb BBQ and last year is the first time they weren't represented. They participated fully in all things Saturna—bridge, Women's Club etc. Bill with his ready

wit and very handy self and Nancy with her practical get-it-done approach and good sense of humor—she was lots of fun. And very caring, she would do anything for you. Her mind was as sharp as a tack, she didn't forget.

Heather and Pete and Brodie Harrower are regular summer residents and keep the Harrower tradition up in fine style. Condolences to Pete and the Harrower family and an Island thank you for the richness that Nancy brought to the community.

Community Club Dues

Dig deep into your wallets, it's time for the annual dues, 50¢, to be paid to your Community Club treasurer, Melanie Gaines. This buys you the right to use the Hall for free if you are putting on a community event and for 10% if you are using it for a private venue. You can be president or fulfill a number of roles for public service and you can help decide how to spend the money that we make at the BBQ. At the Annual General Meeting we elected Dawn Wood as president, Joan Combes as secretary, and Melanie Gaines as treasurer.

Two New Seniors

Kenny Johnson turned 65, he had a wonderful celebration put on by his family. Kenny and Barry Crooks went to Beaver Point Elementary school on Salt Spring together. Kenny came over to Saturna in 1961 to log George Cudmore's land near Mount David, with Skippy Hall. Kenny and, then, wife Andy lived in Ralph and Maisie Newell's house where the 'Group of 30' had their meeting house. Kenny stayed, Saturna is home for him.

Mary (Gaines) Jones celebrated her 65th birthday on March 20. Mary has an even longer history on Saturna, she and John Gaines, her brother, rode to school from the Gaines family land. Congratulations, Mary!

Captain Bob Retires

Bob Wilson, or 'Captain Bob' as he is affectionately called, retired from BC Ferries on March 31, after 36.4 years of service—the last eight years on the *Mayne Queen*. His last watch was a glorious Gulf Island morning, his favorite kind of day. When the *Mayne Queen* pulled into Pender, the sign over the dock had been draped completely with a banner that said, 'Good Luck Bob!' One of the Pender ferry workers got on with a huge *Mayne Queen* 'ferry cake' with the deck covered with gumdrop cars and trucks, decorated in the traditional ferry colors. Lots of laughter drifted down the stairs from the bridge during the trip to Swartz Bay!

Bob started in Horseshoe Bay in 1967 and has done all of the runs, including the Inside Passage. A happy memory for Bob was when a baby boy was born on the *Howe Sound Queen* nine years ago. He has enjoyed the surprises that the job brings—rescues, weather and passengers! Our Route 5A (Swartz-Gulf Islands) is his favorite run, 'Here, we are all over the Gulf Islands, the tides, the weather, the docks—this is no bungee run!

'I like the *Mayne Queen* best. She was number three out of the gate (*Powell River Queen* and the *Bowen Queen* were the first two converted) and they worked out all the kinks when they put the new 'Z' drive in her. She is very hands-on, you can hear her and feel her in your hands. She is a knot faster than the *Bowen*—responsive and maneuverable like a Porsche.' Bob says he will miss his close camaraderie with his crew—'a good set of people work this boat' and with all the Islands' ground personnel at the ports of call.

Bob lived on Saturna for 6 months in 1987 when the *Vesuvius Queen* was home ported on Saturna and he has never lost his love for the Island. Bob's last run was the 'back door run' south of Pender, near Blunden where you inevitably pick up the bow-riding pod of porpoises and island splendour surrounds.

Bill and his wife Sandy (who ran the school boat for Gulf Islands Water Taxi for 18 years in these same waters that Bob knows so well) plan to travel.

'This is Lyall Harbor, Lyall Harbor, Saturna Island' thanking Bob for his good professionalism, his booming voice and his warm lively, nature. ✓

The Islands' Bulletin Board

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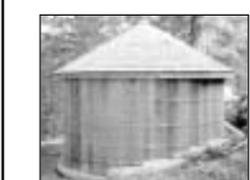
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PROTECTION from page 4

Dr. Geoff Scudder, author of the report. 'The current protected areas system is clearly inadequate if most of BC's rare and endangered species are unprotected'.

'BC's biodiversity is at risk, and to preserve it we need more protected areas in BC, better management of areas outside existing protected areas—the land the province has zoned working forest—and more scientific research' said Kate Smallwood, director of Sierra Legal Defence Fund's Endangered Species Program.

'The government has tried to convince British Columbians that 12% protected areas is enough and that the rest of the province should be open for business as working forest,' said Devon Page, staff lawyer. 'Rather than a wholesale development juggernaut across BC, the government should be ensuring that the province is managed in a sustainable manner'.

The Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas in British Columbia report is available at www.sierralegal.org ✓

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Duke Point hearings on the way

Closely following the conclusion of the federal panel's hearings on the Georgia Strait Crossing (GSX) gas pipeline will be the BC Utilities Commission hearings on the proposed gas-fired generating station at Duke Point, south of Nanaimo (see advertisement page 9).

The Vancouver Island Energy Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of BC Hydro, has applied for a 'Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity' for the plant, a key step in the Vancouver Island Generation Project (VIGP). The Utilities Commission order setting up the hearings says that the VIGP is 'integrally linked' to GSX, although BC Hydro argued at the GSX hearings that the two projects should not be considered together when their economic and environmental impacts are evaluated.

The proposed Duke Point plant (which is to produce 265 megawatts, cost \$340 million, and be in service by July 2006) may be built by BC Hydro. It has been suggested that Hydro will purchase greenhouse gas offsets to balance its emissions. However, provincial energy policy would dictate the sale of the plant to the private sector, possibly after construction. /

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