

Salish Sea Island Tides

Giving The Coast A Community Voice For 25 Years

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Photo: Tim Marchant

Waiting for their mailbags? Is it pigeon post for Fulford Post Office's mail deliveries on Salt Spring?

Herring and Heiltsuk - Patrick Brown

'If you don't have authority ... we do,' that's what Heiltsuk First Nation Chief Marilyn Slett told Fisheries & Oceans Canada. The Heiltsuk, based at Denny Island in the heart of the Great Bear Rainforest, have won a battle with Fisheries & Oceans to prevent commercial roe fishing of specific herring runs on the Central Coast. An agreement was reached on April 1 with Regional Director General Pacific Region Sue Farlinger following the Heiltsuk 3-day occupation of Fisheries & Oceans office near Bella Bella, many hours of negotiations, and Farlinger's discussions with Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries & Oceans.

Herring: Conservation Versus Harvesting

There are two major differences between the First Nations fishery and the Fisheries & Oceans concept of a commercial fishery. The first is fundamental: in their traditional roe-on-kelp fishery, First Nations harvest herring roe eggs once they have been deposited by the female herring on seaweed (or cedar branches) in the water, leaving some eggs to hatch into young herring, and the female herring to spawn again next year (or possibly to be eaten by salmon, sea lions, wolves, or other creatures further up the food chain). On the other hand, the commercial herring roe fishery nets both male and female herring, extracts the herring roe from the females, and then sells the remainder of the dead females, and the dead males, to a processor for reduction to herring meal, which is a valued protein source for aquaculture or animal feed. This, of course, leaves nothing for salmon and wild animals to eat.

The second major difference relates to local knowledge of the quantity of spawning herring. First Nations estimate the quantity of eggs available through observation of the spawning herring, run-by-run, channel-by-channel. Year-by-year variations affect the amount of roe available for harvesting from sea-plants and cedar branches placed in the water. Fisheries & Oceans, on the other hand, locates spawning runs by observation from the air, then samples

the runs through 'dive surveys'. The quotas that commercial fishers may net from each run are then calculated on the assumption that a similar percentage of each run may be harvested. Statistically, this can lead to erroneous results, particularly for smaller, local runs.

Fisheries & Oceans is also expected to ensure that the commercial roe fishery is 'sustainable' *from the point of view of the industry*, so the quotas set represent a balancing act between the herring found to be available, and the quantity required by the industry.

In summary, First Nations herring roe fishery on the BC coast focuses on conservation, and the determination of a sustainable egg harvest for each inlet, each channel. The commercial herring roe fishery focuses on market-driven rough estimates of overall fish stocks, and the sustainability of the fishing industry itself, to determine how many herring may be taken. Since Fisheries & Oceans has been 'managing' the herring fishery, there have been numerous areas where herring stocks have been completely destroyed.

Heiltsuk Direct Action

This year, Fisheries & Oceans authorized a commercial seine net fishery on the Central Coast, following several years of fishery closure. The fishery, which was opened at short notice, was guarded by RCMP launches, and was over very quickly. A gillnet opening was expected to follow quickly, but the Heiltsuk then occupied the Fisheries & Oceans office.

After a couple of days, Farlinger arrived. According to reports, following negotiations with the Heiltsuk, Farlinger admitted that she did not have the authority to close the commercial herring fishery. As quoted in online news source *The Tyee*, Chief Marilyn Slett told her, 'You don't have the authority to close Area 7, we do.'

Farlinger consulted Ottawa; as a result, the commercial herring roe fishery on the Central Coast was closed for the season. The commercial boats left, escorted by the Heiltsuk, on the afternoon of Wednesday, April 1.

Canada fails to set climate targets

Canada, Japan, and Australia were prominent among the nations that failed to come up with Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) before the March 31 deadline set by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). INDCs are formal statements of greenhouse gas emissions targets. Canada's usual excuse—that 'we can't until the US has'—no longer works. The US and China, the world's largest GHG emitters, both announced their targets together last November.

The US went on to submit its target—a reduction of 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2025—formally to the UNFCCC. China committed to reach peak emissions by 2030, and to increase its share of non-fossil-fuel energy consumption to around 20% by 2030. The European Union pledged to reduce emissions 40% by 2030; and Mexico announced that its net GHGs would peak by 2026.

On March 31 Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May said in the House of Commons:

'Mr Speaker, today is the deadline for those nations that are ready to do so to table climate commitments with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in advance of COP 21. Yesterday in question period the minister confirmed that Canada was not ready and would miss this deadline. The excuse that was offered was that we were a federation and we were checking with the provinces and territories.

'Of the 33 nations that, as of today, have met this and have filed their intended nationally determined contributions with the UN, the European Union had 28 separate nation states with which to consult, confer and develop a plan, and it met the deadline.

'The minister said yesterday that we had until December. That is not correct. By October, the UN system will have calculated the cumulative total of all commitments to see if it is sufficient to avoid 2°C.

'At this point, we are missing our obligations to the world, to Canadians and to our children.'



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● South Duncan - Sun Valley Mall

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● Mill Bay - Island Highway @ Frayne Rd

● Nanaimo - VI Conference Centre

● Nanaimo - Beaufort Centre

● Nanaimo - Corner Island Hwy @ Hammond Bay Rd

● Nanaimo - South Parkway Plaza

● Parksville - Heritage Centre Mall

● Courtenay - Southgate Centre, Cliffe Avenue

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● Campbell River - The Village, Willow Point



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ROUND THE ISLANDS

Another Orca Baby

A fourth new baby orca was spotted by whale-watchers on March 30, near Active Pass. It is travelling with J-pod, but the identity of its mother is not known. Photos have been taken, and the new baby whale has been given the identifier J-52.

This has been a good year for new babies in the Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) group. Providing this baby survives—and reports are that it appears healthy and active—it will bring J-pod to 27 individuals, and the SRKW total to 81 (including K- and L-pods).

Thetis Islanders Give Their Bellies An Airing

No, it's not the sunny weather; Thetis Island Marina is hosting a Shimmy Mob performance on Saturday, May 9. Thetis' members of Gypsy Dancers of The Salish Sea will perform in this fundraiser for Cowichan Women Against Violence Society. Marylyn Pegg, Myla Frankel, Char Aaberg, Cecilia Inness, Janice Young,



Nicole Chiasson and Kelly Bannister (not pictured) will all be part of the shimmying.

For more information about Cowichan Women Against Violence, email Char at halakidance@gmail.com or Janice at jeyoung@uvic.ca.

BC Arts Council Study Scholarships

British Columbia residents attending a full-time arts degree or diploma program this fall are eligible to apply for up to \$6,000 per person through the BC Arts Council's scholarship program. Professional half-day dance programs in conjunction with high school are also eligible.

The program, designed to develop professional BC artists by assisting with post-secondary education, entails a highly competitive, adjudicated process including assessment of individual portfolios. Recognized disciplines include arts administration, community-based arts practice, museology, conservation, dance, media arts, theatre, music, curatorial practice, visual art, and creative writing.

BC students attending a recognized college, university, institution, or academy in any country can apply. Applications will be accepted until April 30, 2015, so hurry.

With government funding, the BC Arts Council has again allocated \$750,000 towards the scholarship program this year.

For more information, guidelines and application forms: https://www.bcartsCouncil.ca/guidelines/artists/youth/scholarship_awards.html.

Down On The Farm

Ruckle Heritage Farm on the southern tip of Salt Spring Island is gearing up for its big day-out. Part of Ruckle Provincial Park, with its sunbathed camping sites and colourful tents clearly visible from southern routes ferries, the historical farm is also one of the oldest working farms in BC.

On Sunday, May 3—in a day geared to the whole family—educational booths will be demonstrating such old crafts as spinning, weaving, basket-making, and fruit-tree grafting and propagation. Blacksmithing and leathercrafting activities

are alongside the old forge building. Ice cream & butter will be churned fresh at the milkhouse with the Jersey cow nearby.

Salt Spring's 4-H Club members provide information and present their animals—as well as sell baked goods. Also on hand are the farm's turkeys and bottle-fed lambs.

Salt Spring Lions Club will be making BBQ'd burgers and hotdogs while the kids are getting their faces painted, or trying their hand at log sawing, or nail hammering, or the fish pond, or the tug-of-war!

Alongside the old heritage barn are farm product displays such as wool, hide items, and an antique tool display. Quilters will be busy on a project while finished works will be on display.

Inside the barn is the old farm equipment and film showing of 'The Making of Ruckle Park', featuring interviews with Lotus Ruckle. The fire department will display their old and new trucks and 'then and now' tractors will be on view.

The farm manager will run his border collies through their paces in a sheep-herding demonstration. If all this weren't enough, local music groups will also play for you! Who could resist such a start to the good weather season?

It takes a lot of volunteers to make the day go smoothly. More are needed and can contact Marjorie Lane at 250-653-4071 or rucklefarm@shaw.ca.

New Pipeline-stopping Chocolate Bar

Good news, chocolate fans! Now you can eat chocolate to help protect BC's salmon rivers and drinking water from oil spills. The 'Simply Dark Pull Together' bar, a joint project of Sierra Club BC and Denman Island Chocolate, proceeds from each bar sold go to Pull Together, a fundraising campaign supporting First Nations legal challenges seeking to overturn the federal approval of the Enbridge pipeline and tankers proposal. 'Simply Dark Pull Together' bars will be sold from April until June 30 in select retailers, including Mountain Equipment Co-op. The bars can also be ordered online.



Denman Island Chocolate is Canada's first organic chocolate company, making dark chocolate since 1998. 'I am proud to support the Pull Together campaign,' says Daniel Terry, president of Denman Island Chocolate. 'First Nations deserve our full support in their legal battles against Enbridge's proposed pipeline and tanker project. They are fighting for their survival and for ours too and it is essential that we do everything we can to bolster their efforts.'

The Pull Together campaign was launched last year by Sierra Club BC and RAVEN Trust and in just a few months raised almost \$350,000. 'Pull Together is sending a powerful message that communities across BC are pulling together to stop this tarsands pipeline and tankers from being pushed on an unwilling province,' says Caitlyn Vernon, Sierra Club BC campaigns director. 'With businesses like Denman Island Chocolate coming on board, it demonstrates the broad and diverse support for the First Nations in court to stop Enbridge.'

Proceeds from each Simply Dark Pull Together bar will go directly towards the legal defense of seven nations in court to stop Enbridge: the Gitga'at, Gitxaala, Haida, Heiltsuk, Kitsoo-Xai'xais, Nadleh Whut'en and Nak'azdli First Nations. All funds are divided equally between the nations involved and help pay for legal research, expert science, legal arguments, disbursements for days in court, and filing fees.

A portion of the proceeds will go to Sierra Club BC to offset some of the costs of coordinating the Pull Together initiative. Visit pull-together.ca for more information about the campaign.

YQQ Says 'Be On Time' & 'Go to Hawaii'

Comox Valley Airport CEO Fred Bigelow reminds passengers to adhere to the recommended check-in times to avoid the disappointment of being turned away from their flight. 'Often, people will ignore the recommended check-in time because they feel like the rules shouldn't apply to a smaller airport,' Bigelow explains. When a passenger checks in late, it is not just a matter of whether

ROUND THE ISLANDS continued on page 10

Readers, look at the amount of news! Paying for your *Island Tides* makes all the difference! If you get an unaddressed copy in your mailbox, or pick one up at one of our racks or yellow boxes, have you sent in your \$30 annual voluntary subscription? Additional amounts joyfully accepted!

Unist'ot'en Healing Centre campaign kicks off on Galiano Island - Dave Ages



On March 26 two leaders of the Unist'ot'en Camp, Freda Huson and Dini Ze Toghestiy, came to Galiano Island to kick off the fundraising drive for the Unist'ot'en Camp Healing Centre. At a well attended meeting at the Community Hall, they talked of their close connection to their land and of the responsibility of all of us to future generations. They emphasized the unity of grassroots Unist'ot'en people, through their hereditary chiefs, to stop pipeline construction and to protect their land. They also talked about their own experience and that of their people in dealing with the ongoing issues of colonization, racism and marginalization. This is why the Healing Centre is so important. Healing of the people and protection of the land must go hand in hand.



Photos: Akasha Forest

substantial portion of this financial support and labour came from Gulf Islanders. The bunk house makes camp occupation possible in reasonable comfort through all seasons.

But, people who visit the camp quickly realize that it is much more than just a pipeline blockade. It is a place of learning, of healing, of connecting with nature, of breaking with the legacy of colonization. Now this work will be expanded and consolidated through the construction of a Healing Centre.

A Simple Message

The Unist'ot'en stance is straightforward and clear. Their claim to their land is not based on their thousands of years of occupation (for which there is ample evidence) nor on their continuing use through trapping, hunting and other traditional practices (although

this certainly goes on). It is simply that they are there. And, with regard to dealings with the fossil fuel industry, they are not looking for negotiations, or treaties or money. Again their message is clear—there will be no pipelines built on Unist'ot'en land.

With such a compelling message, its not surprising that people on Galiano Island, on the Gulf Islands generally and, indeed, across the country, are standing in solidarity with the Unist'ot'en Clan.

Getting Involved

Construction of the Healing Centre is slated to commence next month (as soon as the ground thaws). Fundraising is well under way, but more funds are needed.

For information about the Unist'ot'en Camp check out their website at <http://unistotencamp.com/>. You can make a contribution to the construction of the Healing Centre at that website. If you'd like to have a meeting in your community regarding the camp or would like to join the construction crew, email to daveandvirginia@gmail.com.

Standing Against All Fossil Fuel Pipelines

As many *Island Tides* readers are aware, the Unist'ot'en clan of the Wet'suwet'en Nation has for many years been in the forefront of opposition to the construction of fossil fuel pipelines across northern British Columbia; this includes bitumen, fracked gas and diluent lines. Of particular concern is the fact that the Pacific Trails fracked gas pipeline could be converted to dilbit after only five years, according to contracts being pushed on band councils in the area.

The Unist'ot'en Camp, located directly in the path of many of these proposed pipelines, is the physical embodiment of the opposition to pipeline construction. The Camp is also a beacon of strength to the many people across Canada and elsewhere committed to the transformation away from an economy based on fossil fuels.

Last year, with the financial support of hundreds of individuals and relying totally on volunteer labour, a secure insulated bunk house was constructed at the camp. A

Solar Colwood powers down - who's next?

March 31st marked the completion of the Solar Colwood program which, thanks to support from the federal government's Clean Energy Fund, supported energy efficient and renewable energy technologies for homes and businesses in Colwood since June 2011.

'Solar Colwood has been a great accomplishment: we've reduced our energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, improved our community's resilience, supported local clean energy jobs, and gained local and international recognition for our energy and climate leadership,' explains Mayor Carol Hamilton.

More than 500 Colwood residents collectively accomplished over 1,000 energy saving or renewable energy upgrades. Excellent quality assurance results have been achieved, along with high participant satisfaction.

'If you walk down any street in Colwood, it's likely that at least one household on the block is now enjoying more affordable energy bills, more comfortable heat, and more control over their energy future thanks to Solar Colwood,' says Glenys Verhulst, Solar Colwood Participant Energizer.

A report about the results of the Solar Colwood program, including energy and greenhouse gas savings and economic investment in Colwood, will be released in the coming months.

The Solar Colwood program allowed Colwood residents to access free energy-saving kits, expert energy saving advice, and incentives for energy efficient and renewable energy technology,

including ductless air-source heat-pumps, solar hot-water systems, electric-vehicle charging stations, solar photovoltaic systems, and smart home monitoring systems. Innovative point-of-sale rebates and a list of registered installers made the process easy for participants.

Colwood residents were also encouraged to participate in other government and utility energy efficiency programs to improve lighting, building envelope, and mechanical system efficiencies.

'We'd like to send a huge thank you to everyone involved—to all participants, to the energy champions who opened their homes to their neighbours and the media, to all of Solar Colwood's partners and funders for their many contributions, and to the installers whose hard work made these energy upgrades possible,' says Verhulst.

Going forward, Colwood will encourage energy efficiency in new construction and development. Colwood is one of many solar-ready communities where all new single-family homes must come equipped for easier and more affordable solar hot-water system installation.

March 31 was also the end of the Solar CRD program, which provided incentives for solar hot-water systems throughout the Capital Region. Incentives are still available from BC Hydro and FortisBC for a number of energy saving measures for homes and businesses.

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We need more readers to send in their \$30 annual voluntary subscription each and every year or, if they live outside our Canada Post delivery area, to buy a \$57.75 addressed subscription. *Island Tides* is a lot of work and a lot of bills, please help us to keep going to this unique standard.

If you haven't before, subscribing is easy and friendly; give us a call with your credit card number or mail us a cheque. Every one of you is appreciated, we remember your names and bless you every day. Never think that it's so little it doesn't matter—it does. There is no 'angel' looking after us—it's all of us together that have created our publication and who can keep it going strong—and developing. Through voluntary subscriptions we

are gradually becoming a paid-for newspaper—which *Island Tides* deserves to be.

We note that election fever has already started. This is a very encouraging sign—perhaps Canadians are turning into the political animals they need to be to preserve this remarkable country of ours. In this election, *Island Tides* key aim is to turn out the vote and we are thinking hard about how best to encourage that. We're starting with a coastal electoral districts map on page 9, to help get you oriented to the new ridings.

We are creating a new email, election2015@islandtides.com, and encourage readers to let us know what their election concerns are and help keep us up-to-date with election news from all political parties in all the electoral areas in which we circulate. This newspaper is truly a cooperative effort and, on our budget, we need you to be our eyes and ears. We'll do our best to live up to you.
—Christa Grace-Warrick

Readers' Letters

Living Like They Do—For A Cause

Dear Editor:
I'm not looking forward to the end of the month. As part of a global antipoverty fundraiser, I've vowed to take part in a program called Live Below the Line. The unfortunate reality is that 1.5 billion people live on \$1.75 a day or less. As a plump and well-fed Westerner, I've been challenged to do the same and see how it feels. I have to live for 5 days on less than the cost of a cup of coffee each day—pretty much rice and beans.

I've done it before, and it's very hard. No more food or drink for pleasure, for comfort. Eating just to stay alive. Profoundly bland. No variety. Think how often you enjoy the taste of your food, look forward to your meal. Now imagine an amorphous lump of cooked grains 2 or 3 times a day. Nothing green, no meat, no fruit. Day after day. This is the reality for far too many, and it'll be mine for 5 days.

Find someone doing Live Below the Line and be generous, because while they endure this for 5 days, for 1.5 billion it's never-ending; a preventable reality. Nathaniel Poole, Victoria

Missing Fish

Dear Editor:
I remember the great Fraser River oolichan runs of the past. The many oolichan feeding birds do not even bother to come to the North and Middle Arms of the Fraser any more looking for the spawned-out fish, they somehow know there will be none every year now. It's year-after-year of missing the hunting cries of oolichan feeding birds that I miss the most—it's now a Silent Spring.

Even during the dirty polluted lower river of the 1950s, I can still remember that all the Lower Fraser River salmon marshes were full of dead oolichan by June 10. Drying mud and sand flats were a sea of silver. What was not eaten was a natural fertilizer for marsh plants.

There was a small in-river surface trawl used in the North Arm to harvest only the spawned-out dying oolichan. The recreational river shoreline dip netting that was the preferred way for families to catch their Fraser River spawned-out Oolichan in those days.

The gull poops came down like a heavy rain and was thought to be a natural way to help prevent male balding. I can remember dogfish or mudsharks moving into the mouth of the North and Middle Arms to also feed upon the tons of dying oolichan. This time of oolichan made gillnet spring salmon fishing in the lower river estuary next to impossible!

My family has fished for salmon and oolichan on the North Arm of the Fraser River since 1930 and we will continue to look for ways to restore a much-needed oolichan spawning habitat in numerous parts of the river. In this arm of the Fraser River, 95% of oolichan habitat has been lost over time. Without oolichan habitat restoration in the few remaining place where it can still be done, my grandchild will never see these ancient fish. In Vancouver, myself and other local citizens in the Cambie Street area are trying to obtain the riverfront property for a park for oolichan and juvenile salmon habitat restoration. Over the past about 70 years, 100% at this 22 acre riverfront habitat has been destroyed.

I am determined that will not lose North Arm Oolichan on my families 'river watch'.

Terry Slack, from the North Arm of the Fraser River
Ed's Note: The eulachon (Thaleichthys pacificus), also oolichan, or candlefish, is a small smelt found along the Pacific coast of North America from northern California to Alaska.

Voting For What We Want Is Voting Strategically

Dear Editor:
Although I have been an NDP supporter for many years, I have decided to switch to the Green Party. In the run-up to the last federal election I was attracted to the Greens and felt that they were on the right track, but felt constrained to vote NDP for fear of splitting the vote. I now realize this fear will arise at every election. It will always seem too dangerous to vote for what we actually want.

My initial attraction to the Green Party was their brilliant leader, Elizabeth May. Researching their principles and policies made me feel that here was a party I could support. Finally, reading recent statements by Paul Manly, clinched the matter.

By nipping at the heels of the Liberals and the Conservatives,

the NDP has been a great benefit to Canada. If it weren't for the NDP, Canada would be just like the USA, where Democrats or Republicans trade power more-or-less alternately. But lately, the NDP is veering towards the market as the most important issue and seems not really aware that the survival of civilization is at stake. Sheila Malcolmson is a fine person and would be a credit to the NDP, but sending new Green MPs to Ottawa will strengthen Elizabeth May's ability to affect the direction of this country, which is urgently needed.

I feel that if we are to address the crisis that is facing us today, we need to go beyond what any of the three main political parties are promising. The Conservatives, Liberals and NDP all seem to favour expansion of the tar sands, which will push our climate beyond tolerable levels. What we need instead is a grassroots movement, rising from the bottom up, to stop this expansion. I think the Green Party is that grassroots movement.

Ted Wilson, Gabriola Island
Ed's Note: I recently came across this very good reason not to vote 'strategically': 'If you are thinking that the Harper Conservatives could win because the anti-harper vote is split between the Liberals and the NDP, vote for Elizabeth May and for Green Party candidates. If Harper is in a minority position, and the combined opposition outnumber him, Elizabeth May, with proven support from all sides of the House, is best positioned to put together a consensus coalition government. In fact, a green vote is the strategic vote.'

Languages Canada

Dear Editor,
Bill 7, *The Private Career Training Act*, just introduced in the BC Legislature, will not meet the objectives of protecting international language students nor will it create an environment of growth and innovation for BC's accredited language programs as the BC government seems to think it will.

The BC Chapter of Languages Canada includes 52 private and 13 public ESL or English Language 'Educational Tourism' schools. In 2013, these programs welcomed 52,823 international students to BC. The direct export revenue generated for the province is \$535,000,000, with \$33,000,000 going to government in sales taxes derived from the students' activities. Additionally, 30% of these language students go on to post-secondary programs in BC, staying on for another one to four years.

For language programs in BC the new legislation does not go far enough in some areas and leaves others in the unstable environment of interpretation. The sector welcomes the introduction of Bill 7, yet as it stands the legislation leaves gaping holes that need to be addressed.

First of all, it is hard to understand why the government chose not to accredit or oversee all language programs in BC. If that step is not taken, anyone can open a 'school' and offer inferior programs that leave students high and dry when the program fails.

Secondly, government is trying to address the very different needs of various educational segments without recognizing their distinct realities and the needs of their students. Language programs, even those in the private sector, are not career colleges. Most students use ESL Schools as a form of Educational Tourism. However, 30% of international language students in BC do go on to college or university programs.

If we are to come under the same legislation as career colleges, flight schools, theology programs, and others, it should be in a separate section that addresses the needs of our students and institutions. In the past two-and-a-half years, government has three times proposed regulations that attempt to cram all segments into one neat category, and three times it has failed.

Thirdly, legislation and regulation should also aim at fostering an environment of growth and innovation. Until 2013, BC had always been the leader in Canada in the language education sector, with the highest number of international language students and with innovative pathway and other programs. It lost that first place standing to Ontario because potential students, partners, and governments overseas were uncertain about coming to a province that did not provide a guarantee of protection for and a stable environment for its institutions. While the global trend for language education travel grew by 7%, BC lost 7%. It is interesting how Australia grew by 12% during the same period.

If government is going to foster growth and innovation, BC



Photo: Martin Blakesley

Looking down from Salt Spring's Mount Erskine summit, as a tug and boom make their way into Sansum Narrows.

LETTERS from previous page

will need legislation that recognizes the balance between oversight and burden. The proposed legislation leaves the door wide open for bigger government, more unneeded costs and an unnecessary burden on institutions. BC is already the most expensive jurisdiction in which to operate in Canada. We understand the costs associated with providing quality and assurance but do not support red tape and bigger government in exchange for absolutely no improvement of the situation of BC institutions and their students.

Languages Canada has created a framework that is respected worldwide and that works. All members are accredited by an independent body. Not a single student has been lost. And much of our advancement in quality assurance and student protection that benefited all of Canada was created here, in BC, where we worked with government and signed an MOU which seems to have been forgotten.

We need legislation. We need to protect students. We need quality assurance.

We do not need more red tape. We do not need a bigger government. We do not need to fix what isn't broken.

All BC language programs should be legislated to be accredited by an independent and expert body, and legislation should clearly address the needs of the very distinct segments of education in BC—but most of all, the tinkering should end. BC schools need certainty so they can plan to grow in the years to come.

Gonzalo Peralta, Languages Canada/Langues Canada

Deforestation In The Gulf Islands

Dear Editor:

In the '50s and '60s our family would pass a large tree at the intersection of N^o5 Road and Cambie Road in Richmond; similar to a western red cedar. According to our father, it is, or was, a Cedar of Lebanon.

Years later a cousin became a forester. I asked him why Mediterranean landscapes in photographs show few trees; why forests of these Lebanese cedars weren't photographed.

Brian's explanation was that in the last ten thousand years human populations have increased. Humans keep goats and sheep which nibble at the seedlings and suppress the natural propagation of the forest. As the forest is suppressed, erosion increases with the consequence that establishment of new seedlings is even more difficult. Much of the forest which existed ten thousand years ago is gone.

Recently I asked a graduate student, who went to school in Cyprus, about the forests. In school they were taught that the forests were depleted by colonizers and invaders who used the wood for fuel, boatbuilding and other construction.

I conclude that animal browsing, forestry and desertification have all contributed to deforestation. Wikipedia articles mention various small conservation efforts.

The Gulf Islands are undergoing a similar deforestation on a time scale compressed from ten thousand years to a century. What are the forces at work? Some browsing by deer, some forestry, some settlement. The most drastic process in the next one hundred years will be drying associated with climate warming. The red cedars will die first. Then the firs and arbutuses. Undergrowth will become thinner and sparser. Native species will be replaced by more drought tolerant species. Erosion will increase.

What is to be done? Federal and provincial governments will not help. They are promoting use of fossil fuels. We must take

individual personal responsibility to reduce consumption of fossil fuels. Minimize use of fossil fuels for heating. Minimize use of motor vehicles for transportation. Minimize use of electricity generated by burning fossil fuels.

This factor deserves more emphasis by the Islands Trust. For example, a category of avoiding or reducing use of fossil fuels can be introduced as a Stewardship Award category.

Peter Easthope, Pender Island

Bill C-51: Threat To Freedom

Dear Editor:

Prime Minister Harper's proposed Bill C-51 (*Anti-Terrorism Act, 2015*) is by all appearances a very real threat to Canadian civil liberties—most notably, freedom of expression.

Researcher/writer Joyce Nelson cites several provisions in Bill C-51, including these examples. One, the bill lowers the threshold for 'preventive arrests.' Another is that it would allow a judge to impose up to a year of house arrest on someone who has not been charged or convicted of a crime.

The Canadian Civil Liberties Association declares that the bill significantly broadens the powers of CSIS (Canadian Security Intelligence Service) and 'may criminalize legitimate speech.' The result? 'A potential chilling effect on academics and journalists and bloggers,' who could face up to five years in prison, according to the CCLA.

I agree with Elizabeth May, who is urging her fellow Members of Parliament 'not to allow the Conservatives to turn CSIS into a secret police force.'

Jack Thornburgh, North Saanich

Returning Bank of Canada To Its Original Purpose

Dear Editor:

A comment on the article on this topic on the front page of your last edition: the Bank of Canada warns on its website that financing government programs would undermine the growth of the economy.

Yet Canada's recent Economic Action Plan included measures to provide up to \$200 billion of government lending support to the private sector. The federal government needs to explain why bailing out big banks, credit card issuers, retailers and car dealers is beneficial—whereas lending modest amounts to provinces and municipalities for vital public infrastructure is somehow dangerous.

Instead of lending directly to government and relieving charges to taxpayers as its charter allows, the Bank of Canada provides cheap money to financial institutions who then profit by on-lending money back to government. The late economist John Hotson accused the Bank of Canada of betrayal, and stated that provinces and municipalities 'should borrow at the government owned Bank of Canada, paying near zero interest rates—just sufficient to cover the Bank's running expenses.'

Larry Kazdan, Vancouver

More On The Bank Of Canada

Dear Editor:

I read Patrick Brown's article on the Bank of Canada court case with interest. I commend the simplicity of expression of what is most certainly a complex issue. Does a government have the right to surrender sovereignty in the form of monetary control to outside parties (including the International Monetary Fund)?

The problem in the Bank of Canada case is in the assumption that nations can control money. Money stopped being a

LETTERS , please turn to page 7

Maxine LEICHTER

For
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MaxineForFireTrustee.wordpress.com

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Another Look Back!

There comes a time in every undertaking
To call a timely halt just for the making
Of an assessment—just how have we done?
And look at all the aspects, over coffee and a bun.
So now that the economy has staggered to a halt
Let's look at Harper's record—is it good or p'raps at fault?
For now our land of Canada ain't what is used to be
P'raps 'Harperland' would fill the bill—with less democracy.

It's very interesting to compare
What we have now with what was there.
Before those Harper days began
And all that stuff had hit the fan;
At that time, several years ago
We had a thriving DFO
With research, knowledge, innovations
We were the envy of all nations.

Now all is gone—the libraries too.
So we can put those pipelines through;
A decision, this, all set to shame us
And label Canada ignoramous.
There's plenty to look back and see
Why would we starve the CBC?
They criticized what Harper said
And now you see them in the red.

We used to have a Budget once, put out by Parliament
We do not seem to have it now, by accident or intent.
And as for the Elections Act, contested every way,
The Cons just simply pushed it through—we've got it anyway!
We used to have a Diplomatic Corps for many years,
Ambassadors and consuls, all expert in their careers;
Well, politics has infiltrated this department, too—
But never mind, the PM's frontal office will make do!

One thing also is plain to see—as long as Harper's there,
We all of us should have concerns regarding Medicare.
So, first we must oust Harper and his autocratic law;
Then re-instate our parliament the way it was before.
I really think those Tory hordes
Have been too long as overlords.

—H Barry Cotton



Photo: Patrick Brown

Canada Shipping Lines' Plumper Sound gypsum transfer (from *MV Tecumseh* to a barge) took place at night on April 7. Residents around the small Sound say that night time transfer offers no improvement in noise and light pollution.

BC political party financials available

The 2014 annual financial reports for registered political parties and registered constituency associations are available for public inspection at the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Suite 100–1112 Fort St, Victoria and on the Elections BC website.

The deadline for filing the annual financial reports for the 2014 fiscal year with the Chief Electoral Officer was March 31, 2015. The reports are required to contain the following information on the 2014 financial activities of each registered political party and constituency association: political contributions accepted; assets, liabilities, surplus, or deficit as of December 31, 2014; total dollar amount of income tax receipts issued; transfers of money, goods or services received and given; fundraising function information; other income received and expenditures made; and loans and guarantees.

A total of 147 reports were required to be filed by the March 31, 2015 deadline. All entities filed the required reports by the deadline, except Kamloops-South Thompson Constituency Association BCNDP, and The Platinum Party. Due to extenuating circumstances, an extension to the filing deadline was granted for North Vancouver-Seymour Constituency Association BC Conservative Party. These organizations may file their reports by June 29, 2015, if they are accompanied by a \$100 late filing fee and, if required, an auditor's report.

Elections BC's Financial Reports and Political Contributions system allows the public to search and download political contribution data and view scanned images of financial reports filed under the *Election Act and Recall and Initiative Act*. ☞

BRITISH COLUMBIA ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

Tell us your views on our Preliminary Report before May 26, 2015.

In a Preliminary Report to the Legislative Assembly, the British Columbia Electoral Boundaries Commission is proposing changes to the area, boundaries and names of electoral districts in B.C.

Read the Preliminary Report at www.bc-ebc.ca/reports.

Tell the commission your views on the Preliminary Report online at www.bc-ebc.ca, at a public hearing during April and May, or by email at info@bc-ebc.ca.

All submissions and presentations to the commission must be made before 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2015.

For a schedule of public hearing locations and dates, and more information, visit www.bc-ebc.ca

Now is the time to have your say and shape your province.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA
ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES
COMMISSION

If you wish you had been reading *Island Tides* for years—you can! Visit our online archive at www.islandtides.com



Photo: Mike Yip

Building a comfy nest—hummingbird captured on the wing. A sure sign of spring, hummingbirds arrive on the islands for their nesting season around the equinox, March 21. Ounce-for-ounce the rufous hummingbird is one of the most spectacular birds on earth. It would take about twelve of them to make up the weight of this newspaper. The rufous has the longest migration route of North American hummers, from its wintering grounds in Mexico. For more, check out <http://www.fws.gov/pollinators/features/rufous.html>. (It's a world of wonder!)

Denman Notes - Perri Gorrara

Accidental Farmers Doing Well

Tracy and Shayne are well on their journey to becoming 'accidental farmers'. They are eating 'real food' and having 'real experiences'. As conscious carnivores, they butcher, smoke and preserve their own meat. Tracy and Shayne's morning starts with 'The Barn Walk' from their strawbale home, past the animal areas (turkeys, ducks, cows and pigs) to the barn where the 'mama pigs' are nursing their young.

In addition to the animals, there are numerous permaculture garden beds full of herbs, veggies and edible weeds. Tracy loves to cook and, while not always practicing the 100-mile diet, takes great pride in serving up 0-mile dishes to their 'Farm-Stay on Denman Island' guests. Check out their 'Farm-Stay B&B' venture. I can personally attest to the joyous, friendly atmosphere at the farm and the delicious food, too.

Field to table, snout to tail 'there is no taste like home' at RubySlipperRanch.ca

Denman Palooza

Denman Islanders turned out in great numbers to pack our community hall for the annual community programmes fundraiser. It is a wonderful showcase for our community choir,



our community school students and their ace principal, our ukelele group, drummers, dancers and backstage heroines and heroes. The event was a great success in every way. It is a joy to watch our young islanders grow into confident, sensitive and responsible people, well supported by the island at large—community at its best.

Bottom of the Barrel Potluck & Film Night

Lee Andra Jacobs hosted the Transition Denman Island event at The Back Hall on March 13. People brought offerings to share from their gardens, pantries and freezers and enjoyed sharing them at the potluck. The film *The Wisdom to Survive* was shown. It explores how 'unlimited growth and greed are destroying the life support system of the planet, the social fabric of the society, and the lives of billions of people' and asks the question 'will we have the wisdom to survive?'

From my experience, Denman Island, with its 'sharing and caring philosophy' will be a good place to be if the system falters and, perhaps, even fails.

Peace Garden Presentation

On Mothers Day Weekend, Saturday, May 9 there will a Gratitude Celebration and Fundraiser at 1720 Northwest Road. Donated art, treasures, services and lightly used items will be available for sale. All the proceeds from this event will go towards establishing more 'Peace Gardens' for those who need them most. There will be a presentation about wonderful developments with 'The Children's International Peace Project' around the world. These Peace Gardens are now feeding

children around the developing world. A link to that project can be found at www.lindaweech.com.

Please call Fiona (250-335-1535) to volunteer, offer services and/or drop off treasures, art and useful items. Thank you! Looking forward to seeing you all on May 9.

Creative Threads Conspiracy

This October, we will, once again, have a show of Wearable Art, as part of the Creative Arts Conspiracy, a fabulously successful annual weekend of fibre arts exploration. The limits are none, the materials are your choice, and the ideas are up to you. We can provide models for your creations (if you are shy). Help with ideas, technical info, and hand-holding are also available and will be freely given. Go for it! You can wear your heart on your sleeve, created from hand-embroidered crystal seed beads or welded lawnmower parts—go wherever your fantasy takes you. To register email caonden@gmail.com or call Miss Swiffer at 250-335-0314.

The Ferry Situation

A 1.9% cap on annual ferry fare increases is welcome news, but there is still a fundamental failure to address crippling high, existing fares. The extraordinary fare increases of the past

decade have resulted in ferry traffic collapsing to its lowest level since 1990. Ironically, BC Ferries has used this decrease in traffic as a reason to raise fares significantly and, in so doing, they have caused traffic to decline further—cause and effect at its finest.

A reasonable balance needs to be struck between provincial funding for the system and the fares paid by those who use the ferries. BC coastal ferry users are currently paying 100% of their ferries' operating costs. That percentage is much higher than in comparative systems, including the Washington State Ferries and the Marine Atlantic Ferries. As ferry users, we need to send letters to our Ferry Advisory Committees, Provincial MPs and other provincial political parties, in order to push for structural change that will help islanders and the economies of the islands to prosper; specifically, a reduction in current fares and increased provincial funding for our ferries. Thanks to our local Ferry Advisory Committee and Island Trustees for the work they are doing on our behalf.

Herring Spawning

Sometime Saturna-dweller Emily Guinane reports that at the last full moon in March the herring came to spawn on Denman. She said she had never seen such a sight—from the eagles lining the shore in the trees, to the sea lions roaring, and the sea gulls screaming and tumbling diving into the water. Partner Dylan Gale said the little tide pools were turquoise with milt and the eggs were everywhere. A Denman lady videoing the scene, said it was majestic and awe-inspiring. For more about Emily and Dylan see Saturna Notes, page 11.

Until the next time, ciao for now from Denman Island in 'oh-so-beautiful' British Columbia. ☺

What's On?

VANCOUVER ISLAND & ALL THE GULF ISLANDS

Sunday, April 19th

'Directly Affected', Responding to Kinder Morgan's Proposed Pipeline/Tanker Expansion—presentation and commenter workshop, co-sponsored by Friends of Brooks Point and Raincoast Conservation Foundation • Pender Community Hall • 1:30-3:30pm • Info: pmpetrie@shaw.ca • **PENDER**



Wednesday, April 22nd

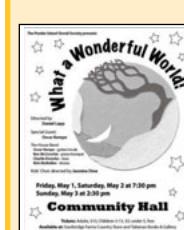


Earth Day Celebration in Ganges, Planet Earth—Fresh air event with live bands, speakers, info booths (still time to call for a booth), all-day yoga, lots of activities for all ages; learn, connect, sing, dance, create change, have fun, respect the planet • Centennial Park • 11am-5pm • Free event, everyone welcome •

Info: Al's Gourmet Falafel and Fries, 250.538.7573 • **SALT SPRING**

Sunday, April 26

Flourishing In A Green Economy: Alternative Energy, Conservation, Food Security/Production & More—exhibitors, panelists, and organizations will share products, services, and ideas; presented by Communities To Protect our Coast • Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, 747 Jones Street • 9:45am-3:30pm • Admission by donation • **QUALICUM BEACH**



Friday, Sat & Sun, May 1, 2 & 3

What a Wonderful World!—Pender Island Choral Society concert; Daniel Lapp directing; Pender House Band with special guest soloist, Oscar Kempe, and the Kid's Choir directed by Jasmine Jones • Community Hall • Friday and Saturday 7:30 pm, Sunday 2:30pm • Tickets: Adults \$15, Ages 5-15 \$5, Under 5 free • Info: 250.629.2026 • **PENDER**

Sunday, May 3

Ruckle Heritage Farm Day—geared toward children and educational farm-related themes; heritage farming and crafts; animals, orchard, farm products displays, classic machines, demonstrations, exhibits, activities, food • 10am-3pm • Beautiful Ruckle Farm • Volunteers still needed, contact Marjorie Lane 250-653-4071 or rucklefarm@shaw.ca • **SALT SPRING**

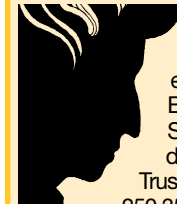


Sat and Sun, May 9 & 10, 2015

33rd Annual Mothers Day Garden Tour—Gorgeous gardens, early Victoria spring; two-day pass to ten hand-picked, enchanting private oases; enjoy Victoria



Conservatory of Music students and faculty music; gardening questions answered; plant sale and silent auction; proceeds support the Victoria Conservatory of Music • Info: www.vcm.bc.ca • **VICTORIA**



Sunday, May 24

20th Annual Bob Dylan Birthday Party—an evening listening to, or performing your favourite Bob Dylan tunes • Galiano Community Hall • Show at 7pm, Bob's cake at 8:30pm • Admission: donation to Galiano Community Land & Housing Trust • Performers' or general info, please call Tom 250.359.2960 • **GALIANO**

Next Deadline: April 22

250.216.2267, islandtides@islandtides.com

LETTERS from page 5

national entity even before the move away from the gold standard. Simply put, money crosses borders and governments can't control what happens next door.

By the start of World War II, Germany had proved the mistake of allowing governments to 'borrow' from itself at zero interest rates (effectively printing money).

The Deutschmark collapsed over a staggering amount of borrowing/money-printing required to meet the war reparations requirements that followed World War I. The economy was flooded with Deutschmarks, prices went up while wages did not, leading to catastrophic inflation and suffering.

Since then, other countries have made the same mistake, printing money (by borrowing from themselves) to the point where their economies collapsed.

The conversion to borrowing at market interest rates did have an effect on sovereign authority: it caused governments to consider the cost of borrowing, resulting in a bit more thoughtfulness—though this didn't prevent many countries from borrowing themselves into profoundly deep debt. Greece has become the prime example though there are many other countries that have got themselves into the same hot water.

There's no doubt that a certain amount of borrowing can help ease a financial crisis—in the short term. Not all governments have developed the monetary discipline required to keep their finances in good shape under such circumstances. Given history and the expectation of sovereignty in the minds of citizens, this isn't altogether surprising. Decision-makers are under considerable public pressure to reduce taxes while

LETTERS, please turn to page 10



Photo: David Manning

Eagles are nesting. All bald eagle pairs that are going to lay eggs will have done so by mid-April.

News shorts

Impromptu Landing Near Tsawwassen

A Harbour Air floatplane made an unexpected landing on the morning of April 2, just off the BC Ferries terminal at Tsawwassen. The pilot was reported to be feeling faint, and the precautionary landing was without drama.

The weather was sunny, the water was dead flat calm, and rescue boats from BC Ferries vessels were quickly on the scene, followed quickly by the Coast Guard hovercraft. A second Harbour Air plane arrived in twenty minutes to take the passengers to their destination.

84 Dead Frogs on Road

Biologist Kristiina Ovaska, along with the help of volunteers, found 84 dead and 34 live pacific treefrogs in an hour of looking. The study was examining a short stretch of the Prospect Lake Road, which borders a wetland.

Scientists and researchers from Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) have been examining local roads and have counted hundreds of road-killed frogs in the last few weeks. Salamanders and rough-skinned newts have also been facing high mortality rates. Biologists say that they are dying as they head to wetlands to breed, and since their habitat is reduced, they are forced to travel.

Biologists are hoping that, with the help of citizens of the area, they can discover the worst sections of road for amphibian mortality and can work to reduce deaths by establishing culverts and tunnels under roads.

Court Rejects Challenge To Texada Coal Shipments

The BC Supreme Court has rejected a request for a judicial review of the March 2014 approval of the use of a Lafarge Canada facility on Texada Island for storage and shipping of US coal destined for Asia.

Voters Taking Action on Climate Change had challenged the MEM decision on the basis that the facility was not a mine; and that the BC Ministry of Environment should have required Lafarge to obtain a permit for the operation.

Since US ports have rejected shipment of the coal headed for Texada, which originates in

Wyoming, proposed construction of new shipping facilities has also been opposed in Washington and Oregon. The current plan is to ship the coal by rail through White Rock and Surrey to the Fraser Surrey docks, where it will be loaded onto barges, which will then be towed down the Fraser River and up Georgia Strait to Texada Island, where they will be unloaded and the coal stockpiled on a Texada Island wharf. The coal will then be transferred onto bulk carriers for shipment to Asia.

The complex shipping proposal must still undergo legal challenges to the use of Fraser Surrey docks for trans-shipping the US coal.

Compliance Borrows \$200,000

Compliance Coal Corporation, which recently withdrew its application for a proposed coal mine in Fanny Bay on Vancouver Island, has borrowed \$200,000 from its corporate parent, Compliance Energy Corporation.

The loan bears interest at the rate of 10% per annum, calculated monthly and compounded monthly. Principal and interest are payable to the lender on December 15, 2015. The loan will be used for working capital.

Flawed Pipelines Still In Use

Pipelines manufactured up to the late sixties using low frequency electric resistance welding (LF-ERW) may have flaws in the steel that could cause them to split open along the lengthwise seams.

In the US, there are approximately 48,000 miles of this type of pipeline carrying oil, gasoline, and other hazardous liquids. There are also gas pipelines with similar flaws, but there is no requirement for gas pipelines to report how much of the vintage pipe they have.

This manufacturing method was phased out by 1970, but was used in Exxon's Pegasus pipeline, which ruptured in Arkansas a couple of years ago.

US regulators are now requiring more rigorous testing on pre-1970 pipelines. Some of these older pipelines have been repurposed, and operate at higher pressures and carry more hazardous products than their original use.

Our natural environment is no place for household hazardous waste.

Bring your hazardous waste to the **Galiano Island Recycling Depot**
220 Sturdies Bay Road, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

May 3 2015

Household hazardous waste defined.

Household hazardous waste is any waste from your home that you consider to be dangerous or are unsure of. It includes any leftover household products that are marked with the following symbols:

Flammable Corrosive Explosive Poison

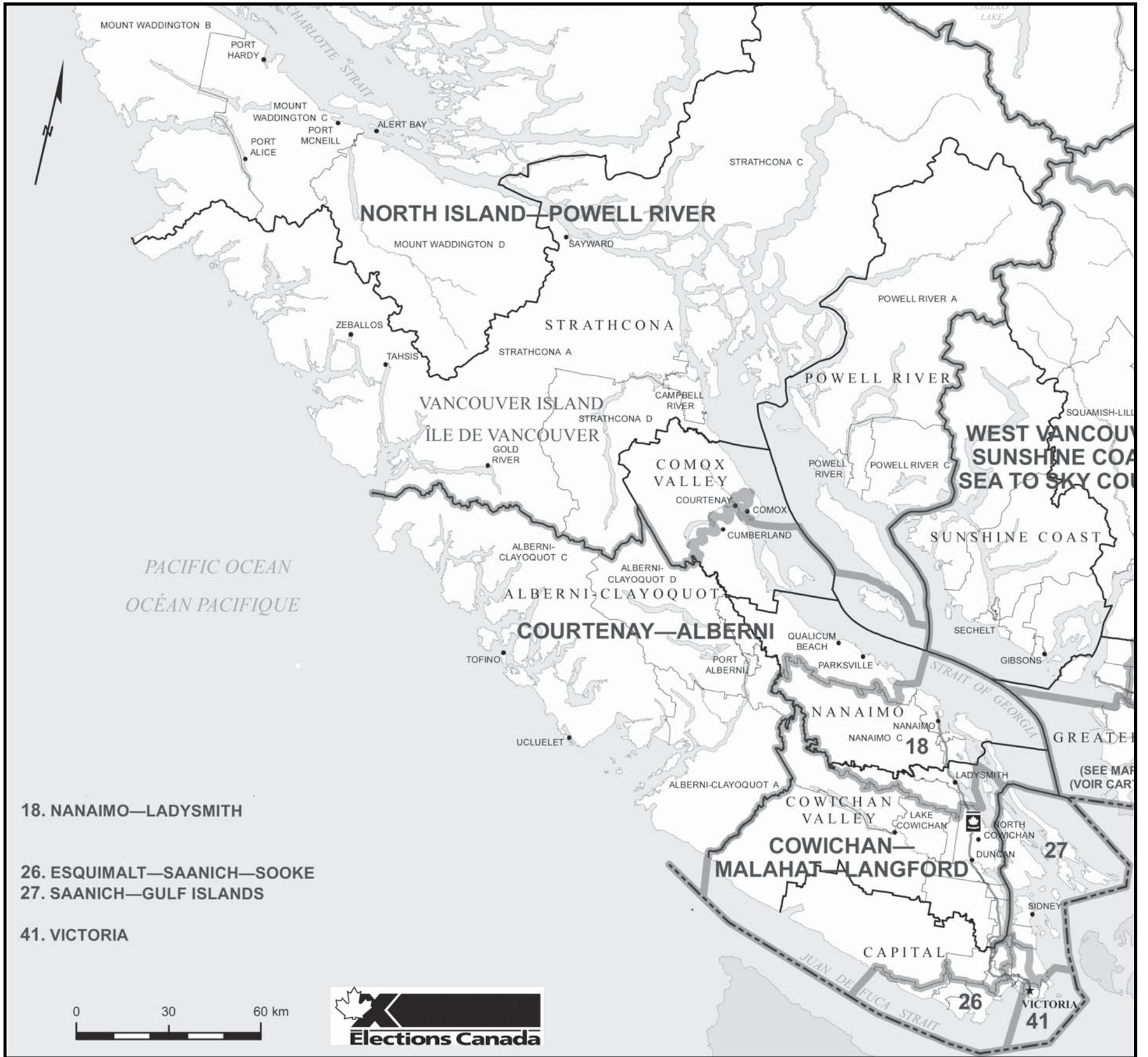
Common examples include pesticides, varnishes, paints, cleaners and pool chemicals. Please remember this collection is for household waste only, no industrial waste from commercial businesses.

For more information call the CRD Hotline 1.800.663.4425
Email: hotline@crd.bc.ca or visit www.crd.bc.ca

NEWS SHORTS, please turn to page 10

SOUTH-WESTERN BC ELECTORAL DISTRICTS MAP

More and detail maps at www.elections.ca



Can we stop C-51? - Elizabeth May, MP

The struggle to amend C-51, the so-called Anti-Terrorism Act, ended after a forced march through the Green Party's 60 amendments (all defeated), as well as the NDP's 28 amendments, Liberals' 13 amendments and ten from the Bloc Quebecois—all defeated.

It was a grueling ten hours (8:45am- 12:45pm and 4pm till 10pm on Tuesday, March 31.)

It was the most anti-democratic treatment of legislation yet under the Harper Conservatives, and that's saying something. I didn't think anything could be worse than C-38. At least in other committees, I was allowed to ask questions. Not once in the Public Safety committee was I allowed to ask even one question. And the witnesses were treated abominably. The *Globe and Mail* editorial got it right when it referred to the witnesses not as being able to testify as witnesses 'allowed to be abused by the committee'.

The process by which Green MPs submit amendments to committee is one created by the Prime Minister's Office to deprive me of my right to present substantive amendments at Report Stage. I had used this right effectively in opposing Bill C-38 in spring 2012, submitting over 400 amendments resulting in a 24-hour voting marathon. Since fall 2013—due to identical motions passed by Conservatives in every committee—we are required to submit our amendments to committee 48 hours before the committee gets to clause-by-clause.

Since we are not allowed to be members of the committee, even temporarily, Green amendments are deemed to have been moved at committee. Bruce Hyer and I were given roughly one minute per amendment to present the rationale for the change.

Throughout the process, as I presented concerns, the Conservative MPs would often accuse the Green Party of

'privileging the rights of terrorists' over those of Canadians or allege that we were in favour of terrorists. When I would ask for the floor to rebut, I was denied. It was a pretty brutal process.

The Harper Conservatives did back down on one point. Having pretended for weeks that they did not understand when I pounded away at the problems created by saying the act did not apply to 'lawful advocacy, protest, dissent, and artistic expression', it was a Conservative amendment that removed the word 'lawful'. This should serve to better protect non-violent civil disobedience.

The other government amendments repaired some of the damage complained about by the airline industry in mandating that it be prepared to do 'anything' requested by the Minister of Transport to enforce the 'no fly' list.

There was also a bizarre Conservative amendment that actually further confuses the role of the CSIS powers to 'disrupt' potential threats to the security of Canada. The new amendment says the CSIS agents do not have the power of law enforcement. None of the bill's critics had ever suggested they had. The refusal of the PMO to allow any amendments to rule out CSIS having 'powers to detain' confirms that they *will* have such powers.

As of the evening of March 31, the bill was through the committee and new hearings had started in the Senate. On April 2, 2015, before the Senate Committee, Joe Fogarty, a man with 25 years of security service experience—former security liaison from the UK to Canada, and classified experience with both SIRC and UK ISC—testified that C-51 will not make us safer. He outlined the weaknesses in Canada's current anti-terror efforts and then explained how C-51 cures none of it. In fact, like many witnesses before the House committee, he testified it will increase security risks. Bill C-51 will make us less safe. And, at

the same time, it will trample on our rights.

The bill still needs to be brought back to the House for Report Stage and Third Reading. That cannot happen now until after the Easter parliamentary break. We resume on April 20.

We can stop C-51. The Bloc Quebecois had initially supported it. Watching public support for C51 slip away, they now oppose it. That makes the Greens, the NDP and the Bloc voting 'no'.

We need to pressure the Liberals to join us. The Liberal position is, transparently and unapologetically, unprincipled. Wayne Easter, Liberal MP, was forceful in committee pointing out the bill was unconstitutional and was dangerous without oversight. Yet, Liberal spin-doctors have decreed that to avoid Harper accusing them of being 'soft on terrorism' in the election campaign, they will vote for the bill.

It's time for Liberals to oppose it. It is shocking they would even consider voting for such a deeply dangerous piece of legislation. Once the Liberals come to their senses, it will create the opportunity for Conservative MPs to find their backbone. With Conservatives like Conrad Black, who said this bill would make Canada 'an unrecognizable despotism', it is not only progressive voices that are rising in opposition. C-51 is now opposed by the editorial boards of the *Globe and Mail* and the *National Post*.

Please do whatever you can to pressure the Liberal Party to stand up for the Charter. By far the best outcome is to defeat the bill in the House. If not, we need to pressure both Mr Mulcair and Mr Trudeau to be committed to repealing it if they form government. So far, their positions are remarkably similar versions of 'We will fix it later'.

It's not fixable. Stop it. Repeal it. ☞

News shorts, continued from page 8

Oil Dispersant May Damage Lung Cells

Researchers at the University of Alabama at Birmingham think that Corexit EC9500A, an oil dispersant widely used in the Gulf of Mexico following the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill, can damage epithelium cells in the lungs of humans and the gills of marine creatures. Exposure to the dispersant can lead to swelling of the airway, and an inflammatory response in the epithelium, exacerbating pre-existing respiratory diseases such as asthma.

The researchers also identified an enzyme that has protective properties against Corexit-induced damage. They say that if a way could be found to boost production of the enzyme, heme oxygenase-1 (HO-1), it might prevent lung damage in future cases of exposure to oil dispersal agents.

The *Deepwater Horizon* spill (which began on April 20, 2010) spewed 205.8 million gallons of crude oil in three months from a wellhead blowout. To 'degrade and break down' the oil, it took 1.84 million gallons of Corexit EC9500A.

Think Tank Proposes Carbon Pricing

A new organization—Canada's Ecofiscal Commission—has published its first report, and it's a kick in the pants for both federal and provincial governments. The commission, which consists of twelve economists backed up by an advisory board representing all sides of the political spectrum, says that each of the provinces should initiate carbon pricing as the core of its climate change strategy.

The commission suggests that the provinces need not all use the same tax rate. Commission Chair Chris Ragan has headlined his blog 'Economic and Environmental Prosperity? Yes. We Can Have Both.'

Carbon pricing has been proposed by the NDP; but it has been attacked by Prime Minister Harper as 'job-killing'. The commission says no, it isn't. Each of the provinces has a different mix of industries which would be affected by a carbon tax, and 'provinces should customize details of policy design based on their unique economic context and priorities.' The commission

also recommends gradual increases in carbon taxes to create stronger incentives over time for emission cuts, and move towards national co-ordination.

The fourteen member advisory board includes Jean Charest, Mike Harcourt, Preston Manning, Paul Martin, Jack Mintz, and Bob Rae.

The *National Post's* Terence Corcoran described the proposal as a 'Green Taxapalooza'. He comments: 'While the commission has no authority, it comes with lots of green ideological baggage and an economic heritage that eschews markets and property rights in favour of government-manipulated prices to achieve certain central objectives.'

CBC Cuts 244 Jobs, Adds 80

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation appears to be taking advantage of government-mandated job cuts to restructure much of its local TV and radio programming. English-language services would lose 25 positions in BC, 37 in Alberta, and 30 in Ontario; French-language operations would lose about 100 positions. But 80 positions would be added in 'digital news'.

As previously announced, many of CBC's supper-hour local newscasts will be cut to 30 minutes. However, Jennifer McGuire, general manager and editor-in-chief of CBC News and Centres, anticipates shifting resources to quicker-reacting mobile news sources. She described a 'mobile service' that is 'active and hot 18 hours a day, 7 days a week'. The CBC, she said, would be 'touching base' with viewers and listeners 'less long, but more frequently'.

Marc-Philippe Laurin, president of the Canadian Media Guild, representing CBC's English-language employees, said, 'Canadians have been clear that local news is very important to them, and CBC plays a huge role in that. These cuts are a major blow to Canada's biggest, independent news organization.'

New Ridings, New Candidates and Offices

The federal election is coming to life early this time. If the election is in October, not a snap election in June, this gives people enough time to get to know their candidates and be

excited enough to go to the polls. The Green Party of Canada has been hot off the mark and in the news in BC with Electoral District Associations electing candidates and opening campaign offices and launching campaigns since the end of last year.

On March 28, Green candidate Fran Hunt-Jinnouchi's campaign launch took place at the Quw'utsun' Cultural and Conference Centre in Duncan. Hunt-Jinnouchi will be seeking election in the Cowichan-Malahat-Langford Electoral District. Known as a fighter for social justice, she is the federal Green Party's Status of Women critic.

Today, Elizabeth May MP for Saanich-Gulf Islands and Frances Litman candidate for the new district of Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke opened a joint office at 3550 Saanich Road on the Saanich border of the two redrawn districts. Part of Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke used to be in Saanich-Gulf Islands. The event features 'meet the campaign teams' and a sign-up to volunteer.

Last week, Claire Martin, former weather forecaster for CBC, announced her Green Party candidacy in Vancouver North.

Please send us news of candidates from any party who is running in your electoral district (see map page 9) and also drop election2015@islandtides.com an email telling us what are key issues for you in the upcoming election to help us as we create our election news coverage.

Alberta Oil Magazine National Survey

Alberta Oil Magazine recently published its National Survey on Energy Literacy. The survey is the collection of data from 1,396 online interviews conducted with a representative sample of Canadians.

The survey found that opposition to the proposed Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline is just as serious, if not more so, than opposition to Enbridge's proposed Northern Gateway pipeline. Furthermore, the survey found that the more educated citizens are, the less likely they are to support pipelines.

Fewer than one-in-ten post-graduates find the oil and gas industry associations credible and trustworthy when it comes to carbon emissions, and only 9.3% of people aged 18-34

NEWS SHORTS, please turn to next page

LETTERS from page 5

providing more services, and re-election can often swing on whether or not they bend.

The problem here is in defining the general benefit to people. Citizens understandably want to maintain local control, but we live in an environment in which whole national economies rise or fall depending on what's happening elsewhere in the world. The general benefit of people now extends past borders just as money does.

Consequently, the court case is attacking the wrong end of the problem with the wrong tool. The problem lies in the system itself and how it is developed and managed. If the stated problem (as expressed in the article) is that control is handed over to non-democratic institutions, then we need to fundamentally rethink how nations work together and consider how to ensure that these institutions are accountable to the people of the world, regardless of borders.

Roy Smith, Galiano Island

Shawnigan Contaminated Soil Dump

Dear Editor:

Shawnigan Lake residents and CVRD taxpayers have thus far spent \$1 million in the fight to have the Ministry of Environment revoke a CHH/SIA quarry permit to allow 5 million tonnes of contaminated soil to be dumped in our watershed.

It is unheard of to dump contaminated soil on a site in a community watershed where no contamination exists and there is an active quarry with on-going blasting. And yet, apparently, this BC government's Ministry of Environment, Ministry of

Health, and the Environmental Review Board believe this to be just fine.

South Island Aggregates Ltd opened their main 50-acre quarry on Stebbings Road (south of Shawnigan Lake) in 2006, in response to a dwindling local aggregate market. Now suddenly, there is a push for a commercial opportunity for SIA, based on the favourable economics of reclaiming an existing quarry with contaminated material. The CHH/SIA quarry proposes to take contaminated soil material at the third level of risk—industrial grade but with more noxious levels of contaminants and a hazardous waste level at the top of the pyramid. These materials would command much richer hauling charges than the innocuous domestic grade soil that was specified in their existing mining permit. Not only would this site fail in the case of contaminated soils, it would not even pass as a suitable location for the first level risk of a municipal waste landfill. The consequence of a system failure is a serious risk to public health.

Both before and during the EAB hearings, concluded on July 25, 2014, SIA's model of the quarry bedrock geology was repeatedly called into question by qualified hydrogeologists. It has been concluded that the bedrock is actually fractured and that water moves easily within the fissures. That should have been the end of it. And yet, with the collapse of the SIA's engineer's site model, SIA and the Ministry fell back on the idea that a fully engineered facility would be an acceptable substitute for the absent naturally suitable conditions originally used to justify the project. Thus the third level risk was transferred conveniently from a naturally suitable condition of impervious bedrock that would persist in perpetuity to a man-made system with a finite lifespan, dependent on continuous monitoring and maintenance only during the life of the project and a few years beyond. Then what?

I do not believe that the Ministry of Environment was elected to protect the financial interests of SIA over the protection of

thousands of current and future BC residents, who are being told to accept the obvious risks.

Nor should they ignore their mandate to protect the environment. Zoning Bylaw restrictions of the area in question have been disregarded, and the Ministry of Environment has ignored the CVRD's offer to work together to find a suitable site in the region and the Tervita site has been proposed as an example of an existing alternative dumpsite within the CRD.

Everything about this issue is completely incongruent with our provincial government's professed principles that 'BC is proud to be a leader in sustainable environmental management—with air and water quality that ranks among the highest in the world. Effective waste management procedures and solutions contribute a great deal to preserving our environment.'—Government of British Columbia (Spring edition of 'Stream Talk' newsletter' (2015).

The 'RBC Blue Water Project' concurs that 'Canada possesses nearly 6.5% of the world's supply of fresh water, making it one of the nation's most valued treasures. Canada has the second-best water-quality ranking among selected industrialized countries.'

Why would our BC Ministry of Environment deliberately jeopardize the protection of this valued resource? Most importantly, my family is now faced with risks to our drinking water, our environment, and especially, our health. The loss of confidence in both our future freshwater supply and in our elected provincial government officials to protect us is a reality I never would have believed possible in Canada.

Please continue to ensure that the BC electorate is kept informed of this serious situation. Victoria and Vancouver drinking watersheds are protected, as all drinking watersheds in BC should be. If this is allowed to happen in our watershed, then obviously no watershed in BC is guaranteed secure and protected.

Sylvia Gray, Shawnigan Lake

ROUND THE ISLANDS from page 2

passengers themselves make it through security and onto the plane, luggage must be screened and loaded onto the plane, which can cause further delay. Waiting for even one passenger can sometimes mean the loss of a landing slot at the destination airport.

Check-in times for YQQ's airlines are: Central Mountain Air: recommended 60 minutes before scheduled departure, deadline 45 minutes before; Pacific Coastal Airlines: recommended 45 minutes before scheduled departure, deadline 20 minutes before; WestJet: recommended 60-90 minutes before scheduled departure, deadline 45 minutes before.

Allow time for parking or taxis in your check-in schedule. 'The last thing we want is for passengers to be turned away from their flights because they haven't given themselves enough time,' said Bigelow.

YQQ New Service

And there will be more flights for which to be on time. On April 1st Comox Valley Airport Commission announced a twice weekly non-stop service from Comox to Honolulu beginning next winter onboard Fly YQQ, the nation's first ultra low cost carrier (ULCC).

The Fly YQQ is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Comox Valley Airport Commission and the airline has been successful in a race to raise sufficient capital to commence a ULCC service in Canada.

'The Comox Valley Airport Commission has raised \$20 million to fund the operation of Fly YQQ, including the purchase of one Boeing 737-700 series jet,' confirmed Frank van Gisbergen, Chair of the Comox Valley Airport Commission. 'With a focus on low-price air fares and a genuinely innovative operating model, we are confident we can make this airline work and change the way airports approach air service development in the future.'

Saturna Notes

Priscilla Ewbank

Missing all of Saturna's inspired, fun Easter activities, I went East, beyond Hope, to Kelowna, to be with my eldest daughter and grandchildren. We had a grand time and the importance of Easter Dinner slid into a blur of small, local adventures.

We on the Gulf Islands are blessed with old and new communal traditions that bring us together—with some shared around effort—to celebrate. We hardly miss an occasion from New Year, Robbie Burns, Easter, Earth Day, Summer Solstice, Canada Day, Labour Day, Thanksgiving, Halloween, Winter Solstice to Christmas. How fortunate we are; all of the traditional times provide our community with opportunities for the affirmation of our common ideals, our history, and our desire to be together, to welcome each other, and to play, eat, and talk.

Over the Mountains To Kelowna

A jump back from the coast in the springtime blooming schedule, Kelowna was just in the first flush of daffodils and magnolias. Some of the smaller species tulips were out, the deciduous trees are pretty bare and still tight-budded. Land was ploughed and bare but nothing is up. The days were warm for Easter but the nights were right cool.

Flying over the mountains and back in a dead-straight line from Kelowna to Victoria, it is easy to see the big picture for logging—the snow outlines the logging roads, cut blocks and the small bits left. Surprisingly to me, right up to the tree line and the peak, even the mountains in the center of the ranges which are far from easy access are much more intensely industrialized than I had thought. Travel has its benefits; no picture or words can replace experience and questioning what you see.

Genni's family and I are great appreciators of local food and the Kelowna Farmer's Market is a joyful community place, right in downtown Kelowna. Besides crafts, I was curious as to what they could possibly be selling since our grandkids had reported this year's snow to be a meter at least where they live in town, necessitating *two* Snow Days!

Potatoes, leeks, carrots, squash and apples from last year were the big sellers. For fresh veggies, a few vendors had watercress, pea shoots, arugula, kale, parsley, morels and stinging nettle. Yes, stinging nettle, bagged and selling for under \$10. I did not see one living nettle plant in the city, outskirts or mountains—obviously a specialty item from secret places!

It takes ingenuity to make a living or even augment a living from grown or foraged vegetables. Everyone who participates in these markets—like the Saturna Saturday Market or sells through places like Saturna General Store has their own enterprising spin on what to grow and how to market it.

Inter-Island Nettle Harvesters

At home, Emily Guinane and Dylan Gale are growing an agricultural business with Saturna Nettle Pesto. Saturna does



have nettles in abundance and they grow all by themselves! Emily and Dylan lived here fulltime for a couple of years and now visit regularly from Denman Island. Both have education and experience in market gardening and orchard fruits and most importantly love the farming process.

They started several different products under the mother company Wild Nettle Foods; a range of herbal teas foraged from Saturna and the Saturna Nettle Pesto. The nettle idea came from local chef, Hubertus Surm's Saturna Nettle Fest held around this time of year. Emily and Dylan made up the pesto for the event—to rave reviews.

The teas proved too energy intensive for a longer seasonal span but the pesto product found a ready market. Now in their third year they have doubled production from last year. Each year they have refined their production process, and marketed differently adapting to feedback and with innovative shifts they have decided upon.

Because the product is created and frozen when the nettles are at their peak, it occupies a small part of the year for total production. Nettle Pesto is marketed in stores and Farmer's Markets in Vancouver and Victoria and from Cortez to Saturna Island the product has found wide acceptance.

Emily credits Saturna Community for helping them get started; from showcasing the product at local eateries to lending



Photo: Toby Snelgrove, SNELGROVEIMAGES.com

Fawn lily season—these ones are at Winter Cove, Saturna Island.

machinery and expertise. They were able to get into production with a small amount of capital and meet all of the many regional and provincial regulations.

Local Food Products Appreciated

In the last couple of years, our island is seeing a shift to local food products. The General Store sells more and more pasture-raised lamb and beef from Campbell's Farm and is just starting to offer pork raised on Money's Farm. Several local veggie growers are growing to supply the Café, Lodge, and Wild Thyme Bus this year. These changes are possible because of a new appreciation of local food by islanders and tourists and providing local agriculturalists with a market and the money to

invest in experimenting with plant varieties and innovative infrastructure improvements.

All of this local agricultural effort makes our food businesses much more appealing and our lives richer. Every year, families and visitors come to Haggis Farm to 'pick eggs' just as they come to Campbell's Farm to feed lambs and to help make hay at Breezy Bay Farm. Haggis Farm has been around long enough that children of the children now want to come and pick warm eggs from under fluffy hens to fill their 'own' carton of eggs and screw up their faces at 'that smell'.

Who knows where it will lead—an egg-picker or lamb-patter may keep a few hens or grow some tomatoes. It's a start!

NEWS SHORTS from previous page

described the oilsands as essential, as compared to 18% overall.

Lastly, the survey found that opposition to the oil and gas sector, while previously strongest in BC, is now greatest in Quebec, where the proposed Energy East pipeline is located.

Export of BC Raw Logs Increasing

The controversial practice of raw log exports—shipping unprocessed tree trunks overseas without adding any value here in BC—has reached all-time record levels in the last few years.

The most recent data from BC Stats indicates that 2013 was the record year for raw log exports, with 6.6 million cubic metres (m³) of timber sent abroad (one m³ equals roughly one city telephone pole). That is more than six times the amount that was being exported in the mid-1990s, when raw log exports averaged less than one million m³ per year.

While 2013 was the record year overall, 2014, 2012 and 2011 came in close behind with more than 5.4 million m³ of wood exported raw each year. If the logs exported in 2014 alone were loaded onto logging trucks and those trucks were lined up end to end, they would cover the distance from Vancouver to Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Nearly 97% of raw log exports in Canada come from BC. As a result, BC gets fewer jobs and less economic benefit from its forest resources than any other province. To create one full-time job for a year, Ontario must harvest 292m³ of wood. To create that same job in BC, it takes 1,312m³.

Earth Hour Results in BC

8:30-9:30pm on March 28 was Earth Hour, an international initiative to save power by turning off the lights for one hour. Lights on key landmarks across the globe such as the Eiffel Tower are turned off every year. In BC this year we saved 15

megawatt hours of electricity on March 28, reducing provincial electricity load by 0.2%.

While this is the equivalent of 680,000 LED light bulbs, it isn't much when compared to results from previous years. In 2014 BC saved 1% of our electricity load, and in 2013 1.95%. 2008 was our best year, in which there was a 2% reduction in the provincial electricity load.

Welfare Rates Remain Frozen

April 1 marked the eighth year that welfare rates in BC have not increased. Single people on welfare are currently allotted \$610 each month, and people with recognized disabilities receive \$906 a month. A group of BC agencies, such as the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition, the Carnegie Centre, the Aboriginal Front Door, Atira Women's Resources Society and Hasting Crossings Business Improvement Association, have come together to urge the government to increase welfare rates, concluding that they are simply not enough to survive on.

There are currently approximately 174,772 living on social assistance and disability.

Energy East Climate Impacts

At the initiative of 350.org and Greenpeace, hundreds of Canadians applied to participate in the Energy East pipeline hearings, each submitting an almost identical letter demanding that the National Energy Board (NEB) consider climate change impacts as part of their approval process. The letter, along with step-by-step instructions on how to apply, was posted on Greenpeace and 350.org websites, and members of 350.org estimated that over 1,600 applicants applied to the NEB in regards to climate change.



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Photo: Toby Snelgrove, SNELGROVEIMAGES.com

Perhaps the Bonaparte's gulls have arrived to attend Festival Active Pass (April 17-19). Here they are resting and feeding on Boiling Reef on the south point of Saturna Island. For festival details visit festivalactivepass.com.

Opposition Parties Must Work Together - Doug Carrick

If the Canadian people don't stand back and have a clear look at our political system, we could get another Harper government.

This problem can easily be overcome if the opposition parties recognize the need to work together for a common cause. To the right are the results of the last Canadian election, in 2011.

The result was that the Conservatives with support from only 39% of the voters got

Party	Seats Won	% of Votes
Cons	166	39%
NDP	103	31%
Lib	34	19%
Bloc Q	4	6%
Green	1	4%
Other	0	1%
Totals:	308	100%

a large majority of the seats—which means 100% of the power. And the opposition with

the combined support of 61% of the voters has no power. Democracy?

But we can learn from the past. There was exactly the same situation in British Columbia after the 1972 election—with Dave Barrett and the NDP in the power position, also with 39% of the vote. Here was the situation then:

Party	Seats Won	% of Votes:
NDP	38	39%
Socreds	10	31%
Lib	5	16%
Cons	2	13%
Other	0	1%
Totals:	55	100%

It is amazing the similarity of the 2011 federal election and the 1972 provincial election. In both cases, the lead party won a majority with only 39% of the votes. In both cases, the second party got 31% of the votes, and in both cases the combined opposition parties totaled 61% of the vote—resulting in no power.

This is where we can learn from history. Bill Bennett saw the danger of the opposition being split into separate parties. He convinced many of the Liberals and Conservatives to join the Social Credit party, with himself as leader. And here are the results in the following election in 1975:

Party	Seats Won	% of Votes:
NDP	18	39%
Socreds	35	49%
Lib	1	7%
Cons	1	1%
Other	0	1%
Totals:	55	100%

Note that the NDP didn't lose any support from one year to the other—39% in both years. The difference was that the Liberals and Conservatives unified with the Social Credit party. Even then, it wasn't a complete coalition—a number of Liberals and Conservatives refused to change over. But it was more than enough. A total of 18% of votes did leave the Liberals and Conservatives and went to the Social Credit. This 18% added to the 31% the Social Credit had in the previous election gave them 49% and easily a majority.

The lesson is simple and clear. If you don't like the party in power, consolidate the opposition, and victory is handed to you on a platter. Especially if the party in power has only 39% of the vote.

Never in my time has a governing party been so despised as the Conservative Party of Canada. And never have opposition parties had so much in common—about the environment, about climate change, about taxation policies, the distribution of wealth, issues of peacekeeping and war-making, about the CBC, diversifying the economy, about governmental deceptiveness, secrecy and spying... and so on.

The opposition parties have far more in common than differences. For the good of Canada, they should be striving to cooperate in every way possible. Not only that—the people of Canada should demand that they do so. A monumental change is just sitting there, waiting to happen. Bill Bennett showed us the way. ☺

Did you appreciate this article? Help *Island Tides* pay for publishing it! Mail or phone in your \$30 subscription today. 250-216-2267. Thank you!

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Connecting Islands, Small and Large

Recently a reader asked if we couldn't distribute the entire Vancouver Island by Canada Post. It was a very flattering and heart-warming request but would require more than a million dollars yearly! Even though we can't do it, that enthusiastic request demonstrates people's desire for good print news, both national and local, and their belief in its effectiveness.

We do keep adding islands and Canada Post post-codes to our unaddressed deliveries, however, there is another way for more Vancouver Islanders to get their hands on *Island Tides*—an addressed subscription cost \$57.75. Not to mention, people can pass on their print copy to their friends when the household has read it.

Reading *Island Tides* online is free. For a free email reminder about the new edition, every second week, just email islandtides@islandtides.com. You can simply put 'subscribe' in the subject line, though we'd love to know a bit more about you. Though we don't have a 'gateway' subscription to the website, online readers can send a \$30 annual voluntary subscription.

In February, our Vancouver Island newspaper boxes and rack distribution crew retired—thank you Gordon and Charlene, we miss you. It's another challenge, Christa is back on deliveries and may see more of you in the next months—she looks forward to that.