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Highway info sign for Duke Point and Departure Bay

A third BC Ferries electronic message board has been installed on the Island Highway near Lantzville, north of Nanaimo, to provide up-to-date sailing information for southbound travellers. The new message board informs motorists about current conditions and next available sailing times for both Departure Bay and Duke Point.

Similar electronic signs are already in use on the Pat Bay Highway approaching the Swartz Bay terminal and on Highway 17 near the Tsawwassen terminal.

Respect for fire danger

In August, Galiano Island sustained a serious human-caused fire which burned over 60 hectares of forest and required over 100 people to be evacuated from their homes. The Gulf Islands is home to the increasingly rare Coastal Douglas Fir ecosystem.

Fire danger has been extreme for weeks and remains so for most of coastal BC. The provincial *Wildfire Act* has regulations for extreme and high risk conditions which prohibit open fires and the use of engines. 'Use of engines' is defined as any internal combustion engine, which a person must not operate on forest land or grass land or within 300m of forest land or grass land, at a time when there is a risk of a fire starting or spreading.

The *Act* also defines prohibited 'high risk activities: mechanical brushing; disk trenching; preparation or use of explosives; using fire- or spark-producing tools, including cutting tools; using or preparing fireworks or pyrotechnics; grinding, including rail grinding; mechanical land clearing; operating a power saw other than while doing so on a road or a landing or in a log sort area; rock drilling; tree processing, including de-limbing; welding; portable wood chipping, milling, processing or manufacturing; log forwarding other than by logging truck on a road; skidding logs; yarding logs using cable systems; operating a vehicle equipped with metal tracks, chains or studs other than operating it for road construction, road maintenance or road deactivation, or on

FIRE DANGER, please turn to page 6



Photo: Brian Haller

Mayne Island faeries come out of the woods for their fall fair on August 19!

VITR decision appealed

Citizens' groups and power transmission competitor SeaBreeze have lodged three appeals of the BC Utilities Commission's (BCUC) July 7 approval of the BC Transmission Corporation's (BCTC) application to replace the existing direct current overhead power transmission line to Vancouver Island with a new alternating current transmission line. The appeals were lodged with the BC Court of Appeals.

The BCTC proposal, termed the Vancouver Island Transmission Reinforcement Project (VITR), met with substantial opposition from TRAHVOL (Tsawwassen Residents Against High Voltage Overhead Lines) and IRAHVOL (Salt Spring-based, Island Residents Against High Voltage Overhead Lines), as well as from SeaBreeze Victoria Converter Corporation.

SeaBreeze had proposed a completely underground and underwater alternative using 'HVDC Light' technology (without fluctuating electromagnetic fields), as well as an alternative underwater line (the Juan de Fuca proposal) linking Vancouver Island to Washington State's Olympic Peninsula.

The TRAHVOL appeal takes issue with BCUC's apparent definition of the 'public interest' as being the most cost-effective option for BCTC. The group argues that the BCUC panel gave little or no weight to health concerns regarding electromagnetic field (EMF) effects associated with overhead lines through the Tsawwassen residential area.

The IRAHVOL appeal also objects to BCUC's definition of the 'public interest' as strictly determined by dollars. However, even on that basis, it argues that BCUC failed to properly consider the possible monetary benefits of SeaBreeze's Juan de Fuca proposal. IRAHVOL also argues that BCUC erred in its conclusion that the overhead power lines would have no incremental impact on Gulf Islands property values, and also erred in holding that the existing right-of-way agreements would permit the construction of a new overhead power line.

In its argument, SeaBreeze also states that the BCUC panel had interpreted the 'public interest' too narrowly. SeaBreeze also claims the BCUC had incorrectly evaluated the costs and benefits of the Juan de Fuca proposal, particularly with respect to potential income to BCTC from power trading with the US.

Campaign launched to oppose new resorts in BC parks

A group of high profile BC conservationists have joined forces to deal with the challenge of maintaining the integrity and sustainability of BC Class A Parks. 'Right now we are faced with a surprise announcement (made at the end of July) by the BC government, who called for proposals for roofed accommodations in 12 provincial parks. We are all strongly opposed to the building of new for-profit accommodations, including resorts and hotels, in Class A provincial parks,' said leading environmentalist Vicky Husband.

'Our internationally renowned parks are a sacred trust for wildlife, nature and for our children and they must be protected. Resorts and hotels belong outside parks, not inside. We will continue to support environmentally sustainable tourism development outside of parks,' commented Husband.

Groups who oppose this government

initiative include the Western Canada Wilderness Committee, Canada Parks and Wilderness Society-BC Chapter, World Wildlife Fund Canada, the David Suzuki Foundation, Federation of BC Naturalists, EarthCare Society, Wildsight, Sierra Club of Canada-BC Chapter, Valhalla Wilderness Society, Transboundary Watershed Alliance, West Kootenay Eco Society and West Coast Environmental Law.

The BC Wilderness Federation also opposes the project and had offered in the past to work with government to find areas for resorts outside the boundaries of parks or on a road that currently runs through a park where lodges might be established.

'While we will oppose new resorts in parks, the Campaign for BC Parks will work with the

BC PARKS, please turn to page 2

Documents galore in Galiano's review

Three documents have now emerged from the *Phase I* meetings of Galiano's OCP Forest Policies Review. The 6-week long *Phase I*, presided over by a facilitator paid by the provincial government, was created to design the discussion process for *Phase II*—the actual substance of the review.

However *Phase I* ended with no warning on July 9 while community members in attendance were still working on a third draft of their report document. At the end of that meeting facilitator Gordon Sloane announced that there would be no more meetings and that he would complete and submit a 'Draft 3' to the Local Trust Committee.

A second big surprise greeted community members at a special LTC meeting on July 20. 'Draft 3' was accepted by Trustees Roy Smith and Michael Sharp as the Final Report document. However at that meeting the

trustees, while allowing no further community discussion, introduced new ideas for the governance of *Phase II* and instructed planner Brodie Porter to create a new report, reflecting these ideas, with which to govern *Phase II*.

The new document was presented to trustees, but not adopted, at an August 2 LTC meeting. The document, which had more than doubled in length, subsequently came in for a good deal of community criticism.

At the outset of the next LTC meeting on August 16, Porter re-presented his report but acknowledged at the outset that it was flawed. Later in the meeting, after hearing public comment, he suggested that LTC members abandon it, said that the original 'Draft 3' document should be the one used to guide the new facilitator for *Phase II* meetings.

GALIANO DOCUMENTS, please turn to page 2

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Supermarkets and service stations competing for grain

Lester R. Brown

Cars, not people, will claim most of the increase in world grain consumption this year. The US Department of Agriculture projects that world grain use will grow by 20 million tons in 2006. Of this, 14 million tons will be used to produce fuel for cars in the United States, leaving only 6 million tons to satisfy the world's growing food needs.

In agricultural terms, the world appetite for automotive fuel is insatiable. The grain required to fill a 25-gallon SUV gas tank with ethanol will feed one person for a year. The grain to fill the tank every two weeks over a year will feed 26 people.

Investors are jumping on the highly profitable biofuel-bandwagon so fast that hardly a day goes by without another ethanol distillery or biodiesel refinery being announced somewhere in the world. The amount of corn used in US ethanol distilleries has tripled in five years, jumping from 18 million tons in 2001 to an estimated 55 million tons from the 2006 crop.

In some US corn belt states, ethanol distilleries are taking over the corn supply. In Iowa, a staggering 55 ethanol plants are operating or have been proposed. Iowa State University economist Bob Wisner observes that if all these plants are built, they would use virtually all the corn grown in Iowa. In South Dakota, a top-ten corn-growing state, ethanol distilleries are already claiming over half of the corn harvest.

With so many distilleries being built, livestock and poultry producers fear there may not be enough corn to produce meat, milk, and eggs. And since the United States supplies 70% of world corn exports, corn-importing countries are worried about their supply.

Since almost everything we eat can be converted into fuel for automobiles, including wheat, corn, rice, soybeans, and sugarcane, the line between the food and energy economies is disappearing. As the price of oil climbs, it becomes increasingly profitable to convert farm commodities into automotive fuel, either ethanol or biodiesel. In effect, the price of oil becomes the support price for food commodities. Whenever the food value of a commodity drops below its fuel value, the market will convert it into fuel.

Crop-based fuel production is now concentrated in Brazil, the United States, and Western Europe. The United States and Brazil each produced over 4 billion gallons (16 billion litres) of ethanol in 2005. While Brazil uses sugarcane as the feedstock, US distillers use grain—mostly corn. The 55 million tons of US corn going into ethanol this year represent nearly one sixth of the country's grain harvest but will supply only 3% of its automotive fuel.

Brazil, the world's largest sugar producer and exporter, is now converting half of its sugar harvest into ethanol. With just 10% of the world's sugar harvest going into ethanol, the price of sugar has doubled. Cheap sugar may now be history.

In Europe the emphasis is on producing biodiesel. Last year the European Union (EU) produced 1.6 billion gallons of biofuels. Of this, 858 million gallons were biodiesel, produced from vegetable oil, mostly in Germany and France, and 718 million gallons were ethanol, most of it distilled from grain in France, Spain, and Germany. Margarine manufacturers, struggling to compete with subsidized biodiesel refineries, have asked the European Parliament for help.

In Asia, China and India are both building ethanol distilleries. In 2005, China converted some 2 million tons of grain—mostly corn, but also some wheat and rice—into ethanol. In India, ethanol is produced largely from sugarcane. Thailand is concentrating on ethanol from cassava, while Malaysia and Indonesia are investing heavily in additional palm oil plantations and in new biodiesel refineries. Within the last year or so, Malaysia has approved 32 biodiesel refineries, but recently has suspended further licensing while it assesses the adequacy of palm oil supplies.

The profitability of crop-based fuel production has created an investment juggernaut. With a US ethanol subsidy of 51¢ per gallon in effect until 2010, and with oil priced at \$70 per barrel, distilling fuel alcohol from corn promises huge profits for years.

In May 2005, the 100th US ethanol distillery came on line. Seven of these distilleries are being expanded. Another 34 or so are under construction and scores more are in the planning stages. The soaring demand for crop-based fuel is coming when world grain stocks are at the lowest level in 34 years and when there are 76 million more people to feed each year.

The US investment in biofuel production in response to runaway oil prices is spiraling out of control, threatening to draw grain away from the production of beef, pork, poultry, milk, and eggs. Simply put, the stage is being set for a head-on collision between the world's 800 million affluent automobile owners and global food consumers. Given the insatiable appetite of cars for fuel, higher grain prices appear inevitable. The only question is when food prices will rise and by how much. Indeed, in recent months, wheat and corn prices have risen by one fifth.

For the 2 billion poorest people in the world, many of whom spend half or more of their income on food, rising grain prices can quickly become life threatening. The broader risk is that rising food prices could spread hunger and generate political instability in low-income countries that import grain, such as Indonesia, Egypt, Nigeria, and Mexico. This instability could in turn disrupt global economic progress. If ethanol distillery demand for grain continues its explosive growth, driving grain prices to dangerous highs, the US government may have to

FARMING FOR SUVs, please turn to page 7

GALIANO DOCUMENTS from page 1

'The People's Report'

Meanwhile, between July 20 and August 11, a group of participants of *Phase I* meetings worked on 'Draft 3' to produce what they consider to be a true Final Report reflecting the public's ideas and input throughout *Phase I's* meetings.

This document is now being dubbed 'The People's Report.' It was formally submitted to LTC members for their consideration a few days prior to the August 16 meeting. Two essential community preconditions for engaging in the review were reiterated in the preamble to 'The People's Report': that the timeline be controlled by the community and that the process could be rolled over into next spring's full OCP Review. Participants at the August 16 meeting emphasized that these preconditions must be maintained. 'The People's Report' document was mentioned by several members of the public at the August 16 meeting but not discussed by the LTC.

Phase I—Good or Bad

At the meeting, attendees praised *Phase I*. Although it 'took a while to get going' because 'people came with misunderstandings,' but 'trust was built up' and 'it had showed

the community that productive debate was possible,' they said.

Trustee Smith on the other hand commented that *Phase I* had 'gone colossally wrong' and that it had 'appalled the daylighters out of me.' This, he said, had led to its abrupt close down. He wanted more controls on *Phase II*.

Attendees urged LTC members to respect the public process and to ensure that *Phase II* was not curtailed before a fruitful conclusion had been reached, even if the money provided by the provincial government proved to be insufficient. Attendees asked that a contingency plan for continuation be put in place. Trustee Smith replied that he was concerned about the possibility of filibuster (presumably delaying outcomes until next spring's full OCP Review process). LTC Chair Gisele Rudischer commented that intervention in the process which presupposed filibuster and failure was unnecessary, and, that there was value in the process itself.

Meanwhile, Porter went away to write another document to ensure ministry funding and to hire a second facilitator. This document, he says, is not under the control of the LTC, or the community, but he has arranged to have trustees view it.

Ed's Note: 'The People's Report' can be viewed at www.islandtides.com in our 'Trust Matters' archive.

BC PARKS from page 1

tourism industry and those operators who are interested in building environmentally appropriate facilities outside of parks, not inside. We all strongly oppose any new hotels and resorts in parks. We know that many tourism operators agree with this. This is not good for BC, local communities, tourism, BC's parks, or the wildlife that live there. Any threat to our world renowned parks and protected pristine wilderness will impact on our international reputation,' explained Husband.

'With these types of developments come parking lots, staff housing, logging for fire blocks, helicopter traffic, sewage, and electricity. Can you imagine how caribou or grizzly bears will react to daily helicopter traffic taking guests and staff to the resort? How will that affect the wilderness experience? When does a park stop

being a park?' remarked Ellen Zimmerman of Wildsight.

'What we need is a new vision for parks where well-managed parks result in thriving communities, healthy families and fit citizens. They are a priceless natural legacy that must be looked after for generations of British Columbians to come,' noted Chloe Loughlin of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society.

'We are launching the Campaign for BC Parks to rally British Columbians to join us in keeping the wild beauty and natural integrity of our world class parks system for the generations to come,' Husband concluded.

More information on the 'Campaign for BC Parks' is available at www.wildernesscommittee.org.

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Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.	Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.
22	0205 0950 TU MA	9.5 2.3 10.5 8.5	2.9 0.7 3.2 2.6	30	0256 1050 WE ME	3.9 8.5 8.2 9.8	1.2 2.6 2.5 3.0
23	0301 1025 WE ME	9.5 2.6 10.2 7.9	2.9 0.8 3.1 2.4	31	0342 1300 TH JE	3.3 9.2 8.9 9.8	1.0 2.8 2.7 3.0
24	0354 1057 TH JE	9.2 3.0 10.2	2.8 0.9 3.1	01	0435 1427 FR VE	3.0 9.8 9.5 9.8	0.9 3.0 2.9 3.0
25	0000 0448 FR VE	7.2 8.9 3.6 10.2	2.2 2.7 1.1 3.1	02	0535 1510 SA SA	2.6 10.2	0.8 3.1
26	0031 0544 SA SA	6.6 8.9 4.3 10.2	2.0 2.7 1.3 3.1	03	0638 1545 SU DI	2.3 10.5 9.5 9.8	0.7 3.2 2.9 3.0
27	0103 0644 SU DI	5.9 8.5 5.2 10.2	1.8 2.6 1.6 3.1	04	0737 1615 MO LU	2.0 10.5 9.2	0.6 3.2 2.8
28	0138 0751 MO LU	5.2 8.2 6.2 10.2	1.6 2.5 1.9 3.1	05	0018 0830 TU MA	9.8 1.6 10.5 8.9	3.0 0.5 3.2 2.7
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August is the month that everyone's family comes to visit. Lots of people with grey hair are being followed by short-statured, sticky-handed, ice cream lickers who, upon introduction, gaze up at you and say 'hello' with either gusto or shyness. Island business-political meetings and quiet meals with friends almost cease and events and places are mobbed because they provide fun and entertainment, with lots of room for social meltdowns, spilled drinks, and flexible departures and arrivals.

This week I met two people who live aboard their boat in the Seattle area and head north every summer until the 'weather turns'. They love Saturna. Their boat tied up at the government dock, they walk around the Island. The walk to Mount Warburton Pike is a favourite that they look forward to every year—so far East Point has eluded them, it's 'too far'. They walk up to eat ice cream at the Saturday market, socialize on recycling days, eat at the various eateries, visit and shop at the bakery and both stores, use the Internet Cafe, and sail away on some day that suits them.

Saturna is called *tixwelax* or 'facing out' in the Sencoten language of our Tsawout and Tseycum neighbours. This name alludes to the fact that Saturna's east-west grassy ridge (of which Mount Warburton Pike is the tallest point) can clearly be seen from Vancouver Island and mainland Canada.

Jazz Dance Coming Up!

Saturna holds two traditional events on Labour Day weekend, the Jazz Dance and the Dog Show.

On Saturday night, September 2, the 9th annual Jazz Dance, accompanied by 'New Orleans North', a recording and performing band led by trumpeter Alan Mathesons, will take place at the Community Hall. Also playing in the band are Lloyd Arntzen (reeds and vocals), Rob Mackenzie (trombone), Grant Simpson (piano), Craig Scott (drums), and our own Wes Knapp (professional tap dancer) performing to the jazz/swing accompaniment.

Paul White's annual jazz dances are catching on. Last year the event was held on Pender as well. This year Salt Springers will get to jazz dance as there is a conflict with a medical centre fundraiser on Pender.

Paul is a passionate musician and instrumentalist and long-time organizer of jazz events in Canada. The Gulf Islands' jazz dance grew out of Paul's Saturna jazz dinners, a favourite some years ago. The indefatigable Paul would give a talk on a certain era of jazz and cook a meal to compliment the talk.

Jazz and swing will be played for both dancing and listening. All ages are invited to hear and see these great 'first call musicians' from Vancouver, Vancouver Island and Whitehorse. (See 'What's On?' on page 5 and advertisement on page 4 for more details).

Dog Show

Our seventh 'Dogs and Dogs' event is on September 3 at Winter Cove Park. Not only is this a dog show but it is (another) Saturna Island Eating Event—fancy hot dogs of many kinds. The picnic tables and socializing are tons of fun and there is nothing like a dog to embarrass you to pieces (your own dog) or entertain you heartily (someone else's dog)!

All canine participants can be entered in many categories—dogs that: can drool, have four feet (at each corner or not), can wag their tails, have teeth, or stand and eat. There are also events for talented dogs—shaking a paw, staying clean for 5 minutes, and coming within 5 minutes. Then there are the elite classes for those who can perform tricks, be noticeably badly behaved, and put up with being dressed, like their owners or otherwise.

Under Milkwood Reading

Last week Brian and Jane Dixon Warren organized and hosted a reading of the radio play *Under Milkwood* by Dylan Thomas. Brian confides that it has been a dream of his to hear the play read aloud.

All we interested Islanders had to do was get the book and show up at the appointed time to read our parts and eat wonderful desserts made by Jane. Seventeen people read and most had a major part and three or four tiny parts—you never knew whose voice would jump out and forward the play's action. We did well by Dylan Thomas's inspired creation and shared for two hours the life of a Welsh fishing village.

Island Adventurer

Richard Blagbourne circumnavigated Vancouver Island in July and August, taking 6 weeks in his 26-foot sailboat the *Mary Rose*. Richard had the time of his life following the path of Charles Edward Bennett Lennard and Napoleon Fitzstubs. These two Englishmen wanted to be in on the adventures happening in England's latest colony. Richard's interest in their voyage was piqued by a newspaper article which described how Lennard Light, outside Tofino, got its name.

Richard, who loves to sail, knew that there were few yachts on the West Coast at that time. Lennard and Fitzstubs had loaded their 45' yacht, *Templar* onto a schooner that brought them round Cape Horn. After filling *Templar's* hold with trade goods for First Nations, they embarked from Esquimalt in 1860. *Templar* was sold at the end of the voyage. Fitzstubs stayed in BC. In 1862, Lennard returned to England and wrote a book *Travels in BC: A Voyage Around Vancouver's Island*.

Richard and the *Mary Rose* followed the same route and saw the contrast between then, provided by the book's descriptions, and now. The book's wealth of detail made this exciting time in BC's history come alive. Sailing in summer, rather than September to December, and with charts and an engine, Richard says he

SATURNA, please turn to page 6

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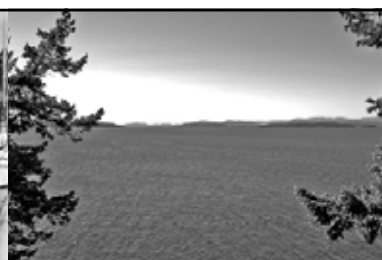
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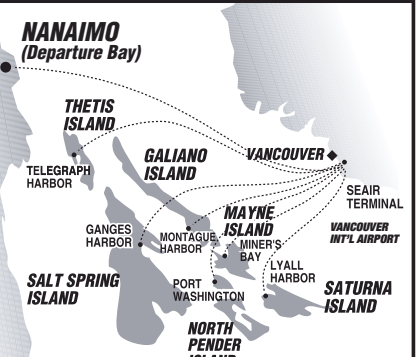
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Electricity Across the Border *- Patrick Brown*

Many years ago, British Columbia's WAC Bennett government built an electrical monopoly for BC, generating power primarily from massive hydro-electric projects. This power was to be used to encourage the development of industry in the province, particularly aluminum smelting and pulp mills, both energy-intensive and sensitive to electricity costs.

Bennett's strategy worked, and has given the province a legacy of abundant cheap power. Last week's announcement of the revitalization of Alcan's Kitimat smelter brings back those old memories.

In recent years, the Campbell government's policy has been to break BC Hydro's monopoly on power generation, and force it to purchase power from privately owned Independent Power Producers (IPPs). This power will now come from a variety of sources, including 'run-of-river' generators (hydroelectric without dams), wind, and coal. Although the prices to be paid are secret, it seems clear that it will cost more per kilowatt/hour than 'legacy' power from the dams.

The Power Business

Also in recent years, BC has profited a great deal from selling power to the US, particularly in times when US demand exceeds its domestic supply.

In fact, WAC Bennett's hydro dams turn out to have a new and even more valuable function for BC as a power trader. Electricity, after all, cannot be stored—the controllable transmission of power depends on supply equaling demand at any moment in time. But water can be stored, and hydro generators can be turned on and off easily at any time. Hydro dams are the only facilities that can be used as a sort of battery, and even they are sensitive to annual variations in rainfall and snow load.

Other sources of power may be irregular, or may require a steady load to be economic. Coal-fired generators cannot be turned on and off easily; wind powered generators may produce more or less power depending on the wind. BC Hydro has actually paid standby charges for cogeneration facilities not to produce power. But BC has made money buying coal-fired electricity from Alberta (they don't need it at night so it's cheap,

but they can't turn it off) and selling it to the US during the day (when demand is high, and we can get a good price).

So BC has evolved from a very simple power system using hydro power to ensure its own self-sufficiency and industrial development to a profitable power trader, drawing power from many sources, and balancing supply and demand using WAC Bennett's dams as a sort of power 'warehouse'. It isn't simple any more, and that's why pronouncements about BC being a 'net importer' of power need careful examination. Sometimes it's cheaper to import power than use our own inventory. Just because we import power doesn't necessarily mean we're short of it.

Much of BC Hydro's profit goes to the provincial government. Remember when Enron was manipulating the California electricity market, and the prices went sky-high? We profited (they sued, unsuccessfully).

So it's a business, and some of those profits are used to keep our own power rates lower than most places in North America.

Interconnections and Harmonization

Virtually all electricity transmission systems in North America are interconnected, but some of those connections aren't very robust—certainly not fail-safe. And there are very few places in North America that have the ability to store power behind hydro dams: BC, Manitoba, Quebec, and the Bonneville Power Authority in Washington State. The rest of the continent has a difficult time balancing supply and demand. The system is very sensitive, and overloads or imbalances can have disastrous consequences.

Almost exactly three years ago, there was a massive chain reaction blackout extending from Ohio through to Ontario. An investigation of how it started and how was it propagated led to a demand for a set of standards for the operation of transmission networks, and this in turn led to the recent authorization by the US government of the National Electricity Reliability Council (NERC), an industry body, as the guardian and enforcer of 'mandatory' operational standards. In February, NERC appointed more Canadian electric utility representatives

ELECTRICITY, please turn to page 7

Island Tides

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Readers' Letters

Advice Wanted

Dear Editor:

While surfing the internet this evening, I came across an article published by *Island Tides* in 2005 entitled 'Commons Sense on the Islands.' The article reminded me of the time I spent on my father's property on a rather undeveloped North Pender Island some thirty years ago, and I have decided to ask you for help. Allow me to give you some background:

Recently, I have had the good fortune to spend time on the islands of the Bocas del Toro region in Panama. In many ways this part of the world is reminiscent of the Gulf Islands I remember as a child. The residents lead a simple life which, for the most part, is harmonious with the natural environment in which they live. However, that is about to change. Over the last twenty years, billions of dollars have poured into development of the coastal areas of Mexico. Further south, Costa Rica has experienced massive development and the societal and environmental destruction that goes along with it. Now, in an effort to escape from each other, North American retirees and pleasure seekers are descending on the relatively unspoiled regions of Panama. Even Donald Trump is getting in on the act with a mega-project in Panama City.

The area of my concern is an island in the Caribbean Sea, close to the Costa Rican border, called Isla Bastimentos. Currently, the island is home to a small village of Afro-Caribbeans, indigenous peoples, some small resorts and a couple of eco-lodges which go to great lengths to preserve the natural heritage of the island. It is also home to a wonderful array of monkeys, sloths, amphibians, insects and birds that are thriving in a rainforest that is recovering from centuries of agricultural development, primarily corn, banana and teak farming. The

Panamanian government established the island as national park but has approved the development of about 800 residences on the island, a resort called the Red Frog Beach Club, fronted by a developer out of Salt Lake City. This came as a surprise to many, but now a proposal for Phase II is being presented to the government department of the environment which will include another 800 homes, a marina, restaurants, bars and a shopping centre. Many of us are rightfully afraid of the environmental and societal impact such an influx of foreigners and money will have on the region and to the coral reefs off Isla Bastimentos.

So why am I writing? I am asking for advice and resource materials. The people of the Bocas del Toro province in Panama are launching a campaign to stop further development of Isla Bastimentos. I wish to send my own letter to ANAM, the Panamanian environmental agency. As a Canadian, I probably don't have much right to complain about how Panama conducts its affairs. However, as a Canadian, I might be able to offer our insight into some of the problems that have been created by development of island property and increases in recreational boating in this country. Readers may also wish to look at a couple of websites, www.stopredfrogbeachclub.com and www.redfrogbeach.com.

Neil Edwards, Edmonton

The North Pender OCP Revision

Dear Editor:

In response to local discussion on the issue, I would like to clarify the province's role with respect to revising Pender Island's Official Community Plan (OCP). This process is in fact driven locally through consultations between Pender Island residents and your local government, the Islands Trust. To that end it is important to understand:

Of the three types of development permit areas being proposed for the revised OCP only riparian area protection must adhere to set provincial requirements, which fall under the

LETTERS, please turn to page 7

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Specialized sports management program to be offered in Duncan

In 2008 the Cowichan Tribes play host to the North American Indigenous Games, with an anticipated 7,000 athletes, 2,000 cultural performers, and at least 3,000 volunteers. And to organize this large event, there will be a need for specialized sports management staff.

Malaspina College-University's Cowichan Campus has stepped in to meet this need by offering a ten-course certificate training to support these positions in time for the games.

Starting this September, students in the 2-semester program will participate in a variety of courses leading to employment in tourism, business, education, recreation or sport. Graduates of the program will be eligible for diploma or degree programs.

Although students may attend the Duncan-based campus, some may opt for on-line study as part of the Events Management Certificate Program co-delivered by Malaspina University-College and Thompson Rivers University.

Youngsters show a way to peace

On August 19 and 20, ten Palestinian, ten Israeli, and nine Canadian teenagers showed the short films that they had created together. Screenings took place first at the Gulf Islands Film and Television School (GIFTS) on Galiano Island and then in Vancouver.

The films are the result of a two-week program called 'Peace It Together,' during which the 29 youth heard each other's stories and struggled to come to terms with the violence and stereotypes that impact their lives. After a cathartic process of compassionate listening, conflict resolution exercises, and both formal and informal dialogues, the youth were able to work in culturally-mixed teams and create films together.

At the program's outset, participants were eager for the opportunity to share their stories, feelings and perspectives about the history and current reality of the Middle East crisis. Toward the end of the process, youth were expressing gratitude for having learned about the suffering of others, and of finding common ground. 'I was so surprised to find how much we have in common. We are a lot more alike than we are different. We even like the same food!' says Alaa Abu Dawoud, a 17-year-old Palestinian girl who lives in Israel's Western Galilee.

Dawoud was one of seven students working on documentaries. Her group recorded an actual profound friendship that developed quite instantly between two of the program's participants. Venturing into docu-drama territory, the film ends with a likely future scenario which finds the two

friends meeting at a military checkpoint—one as a soldier, the other as a civilian.

As a result of the dialogue and the film-making process the participants developed many friendships that they are certain they will keep and maintain, despite all challenges, after going back to their home countries. 'Even though I will have to do my mandatory army service next year, I now feel personally obligated towards my Palestinian friends to stand up to my human values when faced with challenging situations,' says Ofir Vaknin, a 17-year-old Israeli boy.

Vaknin was one of eight students collaborating on two short animation pieces: one concerning two rabbits vying for the same carrot; the other stars two onions gradually revealing their complex layers of pain and suffering.

Three short drama pieces have emerged from the process, one a forbidden love story between a Palestinian man and an Israeli woman. Another depicts a group of Israeli and Palestinian children who, after having been stranded on an island, have some advice to the world about the conflict.

When reflecting on the 'Peace It Together' process, Reena Lazar, a Jewish Canadian, and an executive director of the Creative Peace Network Society said, 'The marriage between conflict transformation and film creation is very powerful, because the film-making process provided a way for the youth to collaborate and express themselves in a way that dialogue alone cannot.'

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School is open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for registration of new students. Pick up of Student Schedule Packages and collection of Student Fees will take place on Wednesday, August 30 and Thursday, August 31 from 9:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Student Fee is \$25 for everyone. Students may pay fees and purchase a yearbook for a total of \$60.
OPENING DAY ONLY, Tuesday, September 5 will be early dismissal (9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.).
Principal: Mr. Mike Bell
- **SALTSPRING ISLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL** 537-1159
School will be open **August 28 to September 1**, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for registration of new students.
OPENING DAY ONLY, Tuesday, September 5, will be early dismissal (8:25 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.).
Principal: Mr. Kevin Vine

PLEASE CONTACT THE PRINCIPALS FOR THE FOLLOWING SCHOOLS:

- **GALIANO SCHOOL** Mr. Glenn Goring 539-2261
Office will be open for registrations **August 30 and 31**, - 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
First day of school, September 5, students will attend from 9:00 am to 10:30 a.m.
- **MAYNE SCHOOL** Dr. Ty Binfet 539-2371
Office will be open for registrations **August 29, 30, and 31** - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
First day of school, September 5, students will attend from 8:50 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- **PENDER SCHOOL** Mr. Martin Blakesley 629-3711
Office will be open for registrations on **August 29, 30 and 31** - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. **Opening day only**, Tuesday, September 5 will be early dismissal (8:50 to 10:30 a.m.).
All students, including kindergarten, will begin September 5.
- **SATURNA SCHOOL** Mr. Steve Dunsmuir 539-2472
Office will be open for registrations **August 30 and 31** - 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
First day of school, September 5, students will attend from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

SATURNA from page 3
has a deep appreciation for the skills of those who sailed without these conveniences.

Memoir Launched
Born in the Lap of the Dragon: a Memoir, an autobiography by Dwight Peretz, was launched at Saturna's Public Library on August 12. About 20 people came to congratulate Dwight on his fine efforts and buy the book.

A renowned cardiologist with long years as a consulting practitioner and professor at UBC, Dwight has 'retired' and written this fascinating book of his birthplace and life during the Sino-Japanese War and World War II where he grew up.

Dwight contributed to the CBC series 'Sin City,' about Shanghai in the 1930s and 1940s. The process of digitalizing and sorting through the huge collection of photos and documents for the CBC series, sharpened, expanded and deepened his interlocking memories. Dwight saw a book he needed to write for his family, and for the rest of us.

Until recently, Dr Peretz, who is fluent in Chinese, returned regularly to China to consult and teach cardiology. Available at both stores, all proceeds are being donated to the Library, the Rec Center and other worthy Island causes.

Congrats Erle Nelson

A number of Islanders heard long-time Lyall Harbor/Vancouver resident Erle Nelson interviewed on CBC radio about his becoming a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Erle pioneered a method of cutting a sample size down 10,000 times for carbon 14 dating. Anthropology is Erle's field and this kind of breakthrough meant that minute samples could be used for dating of artifacts, preventing disturbance of sites under study. This breakthrough has had major implications in medical forensic work as well as the field of anthropology. Students of Erle's have refined this technology even further. Erle is looking forward to upcoming discussions with fellow inspired thinkers.

FIRE DANGER from page 1
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Morning Run

Location	Depart	Location	Arrival
Ganges Harbour	0650	Sturdies Bay	0740
Sturdies Bay	0742	Miners Bay	0750
Miners Bay	0752	Ganges Harbour	0845

Afternoon Run

Location	Depart	Location	Arrival
Ganges Harbour	1630	Sturdies Bay	1720
Sturdies Bay	1722	Miners Bay	1728
Miners Bay	1730	Ganges Harbour	1820

Sturdies Bay = Galiano Island Miners Bay = Mayne Island

THE GRADUATE **Route 2**

Morning Run

Location	Depart	Location	Arrival
Ganges Harbour	0645	Lyall Harbour	0740
Lyall Harbour	0742	Port Washington	0805
Port Washington	0807	Ganges Harbour	0845

Afternoon Run

Location	Depart	Location	Arrival
Ganges Harbour	1630	Port Washington	1710
Port Washington	1712	Lyall Harbour	1732
Lyall Harbour	1733	Ganges Harbour	1835

Lyall Harbour = Saturna Island Port Washington = Pender Island

Passengers are to be at the dock 5 minutes prior to departure.

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In the swim—Islanders compete in provincials in Kamloops

Pender Otters Swim club has done well in provincial championships this month. Six members went to a regional meet in Nanaimo on August 5 and 6: Amelia Harris (8 years old), Bryce Gauer (10), Evan Moore (11), Breanna Gauer (12), Alex Johnston (14) and coach Rick Gauer. They did so well that three members, Amelia Harris (butterfly), Evan Moore (breast stroke) and Rick Gauer (medley and breaststroke), went on to the provincial championships in Kamloops on August 18.

The Otters have achieved this success by training twice a week in Peter and Tessa Emmings' pool. Charmaine Harris says the club could not exist without their generosity. Currently there is a move to explore the possibility of creating a community lap pool at Pender's community hall.

LETTERS from page 4

Ministry of Environment.

The provincial government may offer advice or guidance around proposed development permit areas involving hazardous situations, but there are no set provincial requirements.

Guidelines around form and character of development are entirely subject to local discretion.

Once a final draft of a revised OCP is agreed upon it will then come to my attention for ministerial approval.

Upgrading your Official Community Plan is important to ensure a balanced and thoughtful approach to the future of Pender Island. I encourage all residents to actively take part in the process. Ida Chong, Minister of Community Services

FARMING FOR SUVs from page 2

intervene in the unfolding global conflict over food between affluent motorists and low-income consumers.

There are alternatives to using food-based fuels. For example, the equivalent of the 3% gain in automotive fuel supplies from ethanol could be achieved several times over—and at a fraction of the cost—simply by raising auto fuel efficiency standards by 20%. Investing in public transport could reduce overall car dependence.

There are other fuel options as well. While there are no alternatives to food for people, there is an alternative source of fuel for cars, one that involves shifting to highly efficient gas-electric hybrid plug-ins. This would enable motorists to do short-distance driving, such as the daily commute, with electricity.

If wind-rich countries such as the United States, China, and

those in Europe invest heavily in wind farms to feed cheap electricity into the grid, cars could run primarily on wind energy, and at the gasoline equivalent of less than \$1 a gallon.

Lester R. Brown is president of Earth Policy Institute and author of 'Plan B 2.0: Rescuing a Planet Under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble' which outlines a plan, a budget, and a timetable for rescuing our twenty-first century civilization. The plan includes eradicating poverty, stabilizing population, protecting and restoring soils, forests, rangelands, and fisheries, and conserving the earth's biological diversity. The above article is © 2006 Earth Policy Institute and printed with permission. For more information: www.earth-policy.org

ELECTRICITY from page 4

to its board, and reported on April 4 that it has applied to eight provinces and the National Energy Board for authority to enforce these transmission standards in Canada. (In BC, it would appear that the logical place to apply would be the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) but no such application has yet been recorded.) On June 20, these plans were explained to the Canadian industry at the Energy Council of Canada 'Energy Forum 2006' at Mount Tremblant, Quebec.

The US government has also forced the creation of co-operative Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs); British Columbia and Alberta are included in the western network, along with eleven states and part of northwest Mexico. The Canadian Electricity Association (CEA), an industry body, has expressed its support for the participation of Canadian electric utilities in RTOs, and the enforcement of mandatory reliability standards by, presumably, NERC.

The CEA has also proposed 'increased focus on harmonizing market rules', and a North American strategy to manage greenhouse gas emissions.

The Questions . . .

There is clearly considerable pressure to integrate BC's power production, water storage, and transmission facilities with the US and Alberta networks. There is also clearly an economic opportunity for BC in producing and trading of electrical power.

It has been suggested that electricity rates in BC should be raised to encourage conservation. It has also been suggested BC residents should pay the US market price for power. After all, the IPPs in BC could sell their power to the US instead of to BC Hydro.

On the other hand, there is clearly an advantage to both British Columbians and the BC economy in maintaining cheap power. And the conservation of power has turned out to be one of the cheapest ways of augmenting supply.

All this raises major policy questions for the provincial government. So far, it looks as though there is a certain reluctance to debate this. BCUC is asked to make decisions on the regulation of BC Hydro and BC Transmission Co, without any clear policy framework. Isn't it about time we had some clear leadership?

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Serious car accidents on Pender—two weekends in a row

In the early morning hours of August 13, The Outer Gulf Islands Detachment of the RCMP responded to a single motor vehicle accident on Canal Road, on North Pender Island.

The vehicle was carrying four occupants when it left the roadway heading south and struck a hydro pole around 1am, leaving much of Pender Island without power.

Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services personnel responding to the incident had to use the 'Jaws of Life' to extricate two of the four occupants, none of whom were Pender residents, all in their mid-to-late twenties.

Three of the occupants were airlifted to hospitals in Victoria and Vancouver with serious injuries. Subsequently two of the three: the driver Jennifer Hanson, aged 24; and front seat passenger Lowell Monagle, aged 29, passed away in hospital. The accident is still under investigation.

The late the previous Saturday night, August 5, a 1-ton pickup with four occupants heading north on Bedwell Harbour Road, left the road after failing to negotiate a steep curve. The vehicle overturned, ejecting the two 21-

year-old male occupants who were riding in the box (a dangerous and illegal practice!). One was seriously injured and airlifted to hospital. The driver and his son, the other 21-year-old, were water-taxed to medical assistance. The wife of the driver was also seriously injured and heli-evacuated. The four were residents of Delta and on the Island doing landscaping work. Alcohol was involved and a 24-hour roadside suspension was issued.

The public are warned that driving on any Gulf Island road is hazardous; steep hills and bends, narrow roads, uneven pavement, no shoulders, ditches, pedestrians and cyclists on the roadway, and trees and rocks close to the road all present driving challenges. This is especially true for those unfamiliar with the roads. Driving slowly and cautiously, especially at night, is highly recommended.

Incidents like these put a strain on Islands' emergency services personnel (most of them volunteers) who are being called upon increasingly frequently, especially in summer, to respond.



Photo: Christa Grace-Warrick.

Youngsters growing food is an emphasis of this year's Penders fall fair.

Local food gets spotlight at fair

'For the last few years, the Pender Island Farmers' Institute has really concentrated on promoting the importance of buying locally produced food—good, fresh food is the basis of health,' says Farmers' Institute President Ellen Willingham.

'This is a crucial time in our community's development. We recognize the social importance and economic impact of local agriculture and encourage the preservation as well as the growth of a sustainable local food system.' She added, 'Safe food and good nutrition are important to all of us.'

Evidence of this can be seen by enthusiastic response to local produce at the Saturday Farmers' Market and the proliferation of week-round roadside produce stands on the Island. In recent questionnaires about favourite activities at the Community Hall the farmers'

market has ranked first. On recent Saturdays, over 50 vendor tables could be counted under the trees outside the hall. Among the many craft stalls are an increasing number of gardeners, whose produce sells out very quickly.

'Cultivating Community, Growing for Ourselves' is the theme for the August 26 Penders Fall Fair. The keynote address will be 'Feed the Family and Trade the Left-Overs,' by Cathleen Kneen, coordinator of the BC Food Systems Network. 'We're focusing on linking the farm to the table,' says exhibits coordinator Sue Bailey. 'Special displays concerning the potential for organic farming and the myriad of healthy, products grown on Pender Island will be showcased.'

A particular aim of this year's fair to encourage children in the food-growing process.


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Photo: Paul Hutcheson

Inter-Island a-affairs—the Pender Highlanders Pipe Band performing at the Mayne Island Fall Fair on August 19. The band led Mayne's large and colourful opening parade and also performed on the fair grounds beside the Agricultural Hall (pictured above). The band was well received by the crowd and was invited to return next year.

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