

Strait of Georgia **Island Tides**

Uniting The Salish Sea ~ From Coast to Coast to Coast

Every Second
Thursday
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Photo: Derek Holzapfel, www.naturediver.ca

Dining locally beneath the waves. Sunflower starfish (*Pycnopodia helianthoides*) consuming a jellyfish.

Water rights: 'tradable?' ~ Patrick Brown

Buried in the latest working paper to come out of the Water Act Modernization (WAM) process is a list of 'economic instruments' that might be used as 'incentives for improving water use efficiency'. And in that list is one that has raised a great deal of concern: 'Tradable permits—eg: water markets.'

Under that heading are two paragraphs, reproduced here in full:

'Expanding the range of economic instruments that are available will allow flexibility to protect water province-wide, incent conservation in known and chronic problem areas, and help achieve a number of different water management objectives, such as encouraging water conservation, allocating water efficiently among different users, and recovering the full costs of supplying water;

'If economic instruments are used, licensees will continue to pay fees and rentals and the onus will remain on licensees to use water beneficially and comply with the terms and conditions of their licences.'

Not very clear. In fact, a completely separate document, a 'blog', on the 'Living Water Smart' website says, in block letters: We are not proposing the privatization of BC's water.

Restricted Trading of Licenses?

From the two paragraphs above, it would appear that water rights would continue to be expressed as licenses to use water owned by the Crown. (See *Island Tides*' October 28, 2010 is, page 2 and Nelle Maxey letter page 4.) The blog goes on to explain:

'Water rights trading and transfers could occur among existing water licensees in areas where water is in short supply on a short-term basis. Trading and transfers could be restricted to a particular sector where the water conserved could be traded within the sector among existing users (eg: agriculture). In another example, other water conserved could be used to improve water flows and protect ecosystems.'

'We acknowledge that to be successful water markets need to be supported with a robust system of water rights administration, effective measuring and reporting, water use planning and clear ground rules. If we go there, water markets would only involve existing licenses in limited areas of the Province where water is in short supply. They would be carefully controlled and regulated.'

WATER TRADE, please turn to page 3

Salt Spring's Highland water system contaminated

Homeowners on Salt Spring Island's Highland water system have been advised by the Capital Regional District not to drink the water or use it in food preparation.

The water comes from St Mary Lake. The lake has been invaded by blue-green algae, and the water purification process used for the Highland system has proven ineffective in removing the resultant microcystin toxin. Boiling the water also has no effect on the toxin.

The CRD emphasizes that the Fernwood and North Salt Spring waterworks purification system have been shown to deal effectively with the toxin, and the water from those systems is safe to drink.

As for the Highland water supply, the water

is safe to use for showering, bathing, dishwashing, but not cooking.

CRD officials say that it is difficult to predict just how long the algae blooms will persist.

Staff are working to explore treatment alternatives for the Highland system. Dr Stanwick, Chief Medical Health Officer, Vancouver Island Health Authority, advises that this notice is precautionary and errs on the side of safety.

Drinking water is being obtained from a water truck provided by the CRD at Portlock Park; for schedule and any update, contact Ted Robbins, CRD Water Management, 250-360-3061, Cell 250-217-9084; or Stewart Irwin, CRD Water Quality, 250-474-9603, Cell 250-727-5995. ☎

Legal action over STVR

In a move to enforce its land use regulations, the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee has initiated bylaw enforcement action against the owners of more than two dozen properties operating as short-term vacation rentals (STVR).

The zoning bylaws for North Pender Island indicate that the properties are in a residential zone, where commercial guest accommodation use is not permitted.

'The community has said time and again that neighbourhoods should be for neighbours, and we want people to be aware that we will enforce the community's bylaw,' said Miles Drew, Islands Trust Bylaw Enforcement Coordinator. 'This is an ongoing issue of concern that we have had many, many complaints about.'

Twenty-seven property owners have
STVR, please turn to page 2



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● Nanaimo—Across from the Hospital

● Nanaimo—Hammond Bay Rd

● Nanaimo—South Parkway Plaza

● Mill Bay—Island Highway @ Frayne Rd

● South Duncan—Sun Valley Mall

● Duncan—Cowichan Commons Mall

● Nanaimo—Hammond Bay Rd, CO-OP

● Parksville—Heritage Centre Mall

● Courtenay—Southgate Centre, Cliffe Ave

● Port Alberni—Shoppers Drugmart Plaza, 10th Ave

● Campbell River—Island Highway near Larwood Rd



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Island Tides AT POINT ATKINSON FEBRUARY

Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.	Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.
9 WE	0226	8.9	2.7	17 TH	0523	15.1	4.6
	0843	14.1	4.3		1056	9.8	3.0
	1559	5.9	1.8		1603	14.1	4.3
	2245	11.5	3.5		2256	2.3	0.7
10 TH	0303	10.2	3.1	18 FR	0550	15.4	4.7
	0909	14.1	4.3		1140	8.5	2.6
	1646	5.6	1.7		1703	14.1	4.3
11 FR	0026	11.8	3.6	19 SA	0618	15.7	4.8
	0354	11.2	3.4		1226	7.2	2.2
	0940	13.8	4.2		1802	14.1	4.3
	1740	4.9	1.5				
12 SA	0158	12.5	3.8	20 SU	0019	4.3	1.3
	0514	11.8	3.6		0648	16.1	4.9
	1021	13.5	4.1		1312	5.9	1.8
	1839	4.6	1.4		1903	13.8	4.2
13 SU	0304	13.1	4.0	21 MO	0101	5.6	1.7
	0709	12.1	3.7		0719	16.1	4.9
	1118	13.1	4.0		1400	4.6	1.4
	1939	3.9	1.2		2010	13.5	4.1
14 MO	0350	13.8	4.2	22 TU	0146	7.2	2.2
	0834	12.1	3.7		0753	15.7	4.8
	1231	13.1	4.0		1451	3.9	1.2
	2036	3.3	1.0		2125	13.1	4.0
15 TU	0426	14.4	4.4	23 WE	0235	8.9	2.7
	0928	11.5	3.5		0828	15.1	4.6
	1348	13.5	4.1		1544	3.6	1.1
	2127	2.6	0.8		2251	13.1	4.0
16 WE	0456	14.8	4.5	24 TH	0336	10.5	3.2
	1013	10.8	3.3		0908	14.4	4.4
	1459	13.8	4.2		1641	3.6	1.1
	2213	2.3	0.7				

Island Tides AT FULFORD HARBOUR FEBRUARY

Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.	Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.
9 WE	0139	6.9	2.1	17 TH	0517	10.8	3.3
	0816	10.5	3.2		1017	8.2	2.5
	1538	4.6	1.4		1501	10.2	3.1
	2257	8.2	2.5		2211	1.6	0.5
10 TH	0206	7.9	2.4	18 FR	0540	11.2	3.4
	0835	10.5	3.2		1100	7.2	2.2
	1625	3.9	1.2		1611	10.2	3.1
11 FR	0856	10.2	3.1	19 SA	0540	11.2	3.4
	1716	3.6	1.1		1146	6.2	1.9
					1721	9.8	3.0
					2332	3.3	1.0
12 SA	0922	10.2	3.1	20 SU	0627	11.5	3.5
	1811	3.0	0.9		1236	4.9	1.5
					1835	9.5	2.9
13 SU	0340	9.8	3.0	21 MO	0014	4.6	1.4
	0614	9.8	3.0		0653	11.5	3.5
	1007	10.2	3.1		1327	3.9	1.2
	1905	2.6	0.8		1953	9.2	2.8
14 MO	0405	10.5	3.2	22 TU	0057	5.9	1.8
	0812	9.8	3.0		0721	11.5	3.5
	1120	10.2	3.1		1420	3.0	0.9
	1956	2.0	0.6		2119	9.2	2.8
15 TU	0430	10.5	3.2	23 WE	0146	7.2	2.2
	0902	9.5	2.9		0752	11.2	3.4
	1238	10.2	3.1		1515	2.6	0.8
	2044	1.6	0.5		2257	9.5	2.9
16 WE	0454	10.8	3.3	24 TH	0246	8.2	2.5
	0939	9.2	2.8		0825	10.8	3.3
	1351	10.2	3.1		1613	2.6	0.8
	2128	1.6	0.5				

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On Time & On Budget

Art & Music Review ~ Andrea Spalding
Mae Moore, a True Folkie

'I've always considered myself a Folkie,' says Mae Moore, 'Despite side trips into Jazz, and other musical directions, I'm a Folkie at heart.'

I was asking Mae about her new project—a groundbreaking book/album that combines the two sides of her enormous talent—the music and the art.

Titled *Folklore*, the small hardback, full-colour book is in two sections. The first half showcases Mae's vibrant homeplace Pender Island—in paintings.

'I've had the great fortune to live in many places in Canada, and to travel in all provinces and territories. My paintings are a tribute to this beautiful country that inspires me on a daily basis.'

The second half of the book contains the poetic lyrics from Mae's new album, also titled 'Folklore', and is accompanied by photos of Mae, journeying through her musical life.

'I believe that everyone has an interesting story—their own personal folklore, so that's what I tried to do here, I see this book as a window into my personal folklore.'

The refrain in the title track *Folklore* sums up her philosophy: 'You are the author of your own folklore... what are you waiting for?'

What makes this project groundbreaking is found on the last page of the book—a code. On Valentines Day, I will be able to punch it into my computer

and download her new album. I will finally be able to hear the music accompanying the lyrics.

I was surprised by this concept. Mae doesn't own a MP3 player... she prefers her skookum stereo system.

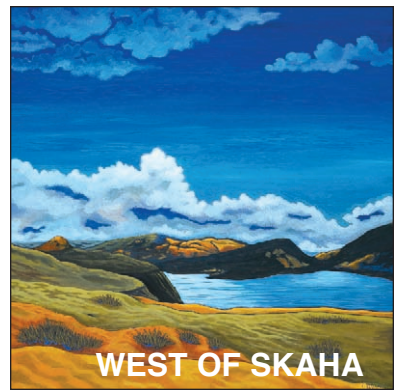
Mae laughed. 'I know, I know! I'm not really into cutting-edge technology, but so few people are buying CD's. Also downloads are more environmentally friendly, and that matters. Plus I thought it would be an interesting element to add to the book.'

Already available on Pender, *Folklore* will be launched into the wider world, first in Victoria, at the Belfry Theatre on March 3, then Vancouver on the fourth followed by Saltspring on the fifth Then Mae goes riding the rails.

She will board the Vancouver to Halifax Via Rail train, where she will sing and play to the passengers, stopping off for gigs in Winnipeg, Halifax and Toronto, while enjoying a beautiful trip through the country that so inspires her.

'It will be a great adventure,' Mae said. 'I'll just pack my dulcimer and lots of copies of *Folklore*.' There was a pause. 'And a few clothes!'

Now there speaks a true Folkie! 'Folklore' is available online through 'Outside Distribution' and www.maemoore.com. Also at Mae's concerts. If you live on Pender you can purchase it through Talisman Books and Red Tree Gallery. ☺



School District #64 (Gulf Islands)

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Any child who will be five (5) years of age on or before December 31, 2011 (born in 2006) should register for the 2011/2012 school year at the school office **February 14 to 17, 2011.**

Galiano Community School (February 14, 15 & 16 only)
9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Mayne Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Pender Islands Elementary Secondary School
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Saturna Elementary School (February 14, 15 & 16 only)
11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Parents or Guardians:
Please bring with you the following documentation:

1. Verifications of the child's birth date and citizenship status (birth certificate, passport or Landed Immigrant authorization)
2. Care Card, and
3. Immunization records.

CROSS BOUNDARY REQUESTS

Parents/guardians who wish to transfer their child to a school out of their catchment area, must register their child in the home school first, then request a transfer, in writing, to the Superintendent by **March 31** with a copy to the Principals of both schools involved.

Refer to Policy and Procedure #530 online at: <http://sd64.bc.ca/policies.html>.

This does not apply for normal grade transitions to the next level at another school.

STVR from page 1 received letters. They have until March 11 to comply. Drew indicated the matter could be resolved before the start of next summer's tourist season.

Operating a short term vacation rental on a residential property is considered a violation of the bylaw and may be subject to legal action. The bylaw provides for fines up to \$5,000 per day for each day that an offence continues.

The bylaw does not affect legal bed and breakfasts, or legal resorts, hotels and motels in commercial zones, all of which are widely available on the island, says the Trust. People may also continue to rent their residential properties for periods longer than 30-days as a long-term residential use.

Recently, the Courts supported these sections of the North Pender Land Use Bylaw by issuing an order to comply to a rural property owner who was operating an unlawful resort in a rural zone. ☺

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Photo Susan Banjavich

Atmospheric day for walking and canoeing.

New Saturna trustee

On January 24, Dian Sandra Johnstone was elected by acclamation to fill the office of Local Trustee of Saturna Island Local Trust Area for the balance of a three year term ending December 2011.

Johnstone the only person to submit nomination papers. In accordance with the requirements of BC's *Local Government Act*, as there was no challenge, the Islands Trust's Chief Elections Officer acclaimed Johnstone. A by-election by voting had been scheduled for February 19 but is cancelled.

The position became vacant in last October when former Saturna Island Local Trustee John Money submitted his resignation. Johnstone will fill the position until the current term ends. Local General Elections take place in November.

Johnstone is retired and has been living on Saturna Island since 1998. She had a 20-year career in tax administration at BC's Ministry of Finance, and served more recently as a consultant to the World Bank and other agencies in Kosovo, Mongolia, Afghanistan, Tanzania and

Macedonia. Johnstone is also an active community volunteer, serving on the Fire Protection Society Board, Arts and Concerts Society, Saturna Women's Service Club, Community Club, Recreation Society Board as well as being a member of the Lions Club. She also founded the Meals on Wheels program on Saturna Island.

WATER TRADE from page 1

The blog adds, 'we need to proceed cautiously'. It would seem that trading of water rights is only to occur in limited circumstances. There's no absolute victory for the believers in market solutions to every problem of resource allocation.

Sold to the Highest Bidder?

Nevertheless, Ecojustice.ca asks 'BC's water to be sold to the highest bidder?' Pointing out that the rights to the largest flows of water are in the possession of power producers, oil and gas companies, mining companies, and agriculture, Ecojustice asks whether, at some point in the future, anyone wishing to use these flows (or part of them) will have to buy or rent the rights they need from these owners. And these may be valuable—and expensive.

The proposed Water Sustainability Act does not include 'water as a human right' and does not appear to provide legal protection for

environmental flows.

Nelle Maxey (quoting 'Eau Canada', page 197) says 'Water is a Commons; it should be organized as a 'water democracy [with] ... Decentralized, community based, democratic management.... Water conservation is politically, socio-economically and culturally inspired rather than economically motivated through 'incentives'.'

If you can trade licenses (not the water itself) under any circumstances, they become an economic good with a value and/or a price.

Not Enough Safeguards for a Trading System

Commenting on the idea of water license trading, Oliver Brandes (author of a Conference Board of Canada report on water) writes: 'A far better option than pursuing water markets would be to address the underlying concerns in the current allocation system. Entrenching the Public Trust concept and

identifying priorities of uses in times of scarcity is better than relying on a trading system when many of the fundamental governance safeguards and mechanisms may not be in place.... Instead we need to focus on a system that protects watershed function and ensures water for basic human needs as a priority and having users 'share the pain' during times of drought is a far more equitable and ultimately more robust approach.'

Finally

Just part of the WAM working paper deals with water's possible economic value. In fact, it could be that the paper leans more to the human rights argument than the idea that water, provided by nature, has price and value in the economy.

But the paper doesn't come out and say that water is a commons, a human right; and that decisions about it should be collective rather than economic. Maybe that is a bridge too far.

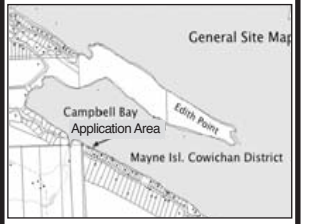
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The Lands File Number that has been established for this application is File #1413471. Written comments concerning this application should be directed to the Section Head, Ministry of Natural Resource Operations at 142 - 2080 Labieux Rd, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6J9, or emailed to: **Authorizing Agency.Nanaimo@gov.bc.ca**. Comments will be received by MNRO until **April 4, 2011**. MNRO may not be able to consider comments received after this date. Please visit the NMRO website:

www.al.gov.bc.ca/clad/land_prog_services/programs.html under the link: **Applications & Reasons for Decision** for more information.

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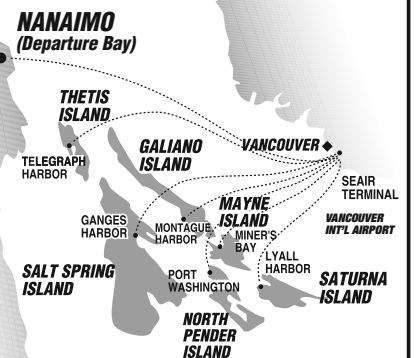
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Owner, Publisher & Editor: Christa Grace-Warrick

Assistant Publisher: Jill Moran

Contributors: Patrick Brown, Priscilla Ewbank

Andrea Spalding, Elizabeth May, Brian Crumblehulme

Derek Holzapfel, Susan Banjavich

Tel: 250-629-3660 • Fax: 250-629-3838

Email: news@islandtides.com & islandtides@islandtides.com

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Editorial: Failed Party Politics

The current political circus has paralysed much of BC's economy over the past couple of months. It has some unique features:

1. The Legislature rarely sits
2. Two parties are conducting leadership elections. The BCLiberals vote on February 26; the NDP votes on April 17.
3. The elected leader of the BCLiberals immediately becomes Premier.
4. In order to vote in the party leadership elections, individuals must be party members, at a nominal cost of \$10. This has led to leadership candidates carrying out sign-up campaigns for new members, with deadlines of January 17 for the NDP, and February 4 for the BCLiberals.
5. The BCLiberals estimate that the sign-up has resulted in a doubling of party membership, to 70,000; the NDP estimates a doubling of party membership, to 25,000.
6. Both parties accuse the other of mass sign-ups of new members from ethnic groups; the implications being that the individuals listed are not really committed to the party; that they are committed to vote for certain leadership candidates; that they did not pay their own membership fees; and that they may have received other incentives to lend their names to the sign-up.
7. Any mass sign-ups by either party would be concentrated

in a very few Lower Mainland constituencies.

8. The BCLiberals will vote February 12 on whether to adopt a new constituency weighted voting system that would give each constituency association an equal vote in choosing a leader. (This is equivalent to a parliamentary election, and would eliminate the advantage of mass sign-ups.) A two-thirds vote of delegates is necessary to adopt. Delegates representing a constituency need not live in the constituency.

9. The NDP is sticking to the 'one member—one vote' system.

Failed Party Politics

In the middle of all this infighting and confusion, what we do know for sure is that party politics is not working for BC.

Some 70,000 BCLiberal party members will elect a new premier, on behalf of over 2.8 million registered voters. Seven weeks later, some 25,000 NDP members will elect a new leader of the opposition on behalf of the electorate. Registered voters who have not joined a party, may not vote in either election.

Once we have our leaders, uncertainty will continue: not only are the Liberals and NDP parties polarized, the electorate does not know even know if a fixed date 2013 election will be adhered to. Then there's the HST.

No wonder BC is at a standstill. Our elected representatives have failed us. ☹

Readers' Letters

Some Success In Plumper Sound

Dear Editor:

I am delighted to relay this shipping advisory, issued February 2, asking ships' masters to be more neighbourly while anchored in Plumper Sound. It has been issued in response to the letter from Keith and Tilly Smith that you published. It is the result of a joint effort between the Chamber of Shipping of British Columbia and the Pacific Pilotage Authority.

Islands Trust staff have been working on building positive relationships with the shipping industry and shipping regulatory agencies as part of our marine advocacy program. We look forward to further successes.

Pacific Pilotage advises residents that should there be cause for concern in the future, they should feel free to call the Pacific Pilotage Authority Dispatch in Victoria, telephone number 250-363-3878, and ask that the agent for the vessel concerned to be advised of the complaint.

Clare Frater, Trust Area Policy Analyst

Memo To Masters Of Vessels Using Plumper Sound Anchorages

Dear Captains:

Your vessel has been assigned to Plumper Sound Anchorage, an area of outstanding natural beauty on the coast of British Columbia. The residents on the surrounding islands have brought to our attention the issue of noise and lights that affect their peaceful surroundings, especially at night.

The marine industry is sensitive to these issues and wishes to be a good neighbour to the local community.

We would therefore request that the following steps be taken during your time at anchorage.

Noise: Minimize all forms of noise by: limiting the use of the ships whistle, except as required under the *Collision Regulations*; limiting the use of deck side loud hailers; keeping the use of power tools and chipping hammers to a minimum and never during the hours of darkness; and keeping the number of generators running to a necessary minimum.

Light Pollution: Ensure the deck-lights be kept at a minimum consistent with the safety and security of your vessel; ensure that the deck lights are projected down onto the deck and not at the islands into the residents' homes.

We thank you for your cooperation.

Capt Stephen Brown, President, Chamber of Shipping of BC
And On The Other Hand...

Dear Editor:

Ever since we purchased Plumper Sound waterfront property some 23 years ago we have marvelled at the goings and comings of ocean-going vessels. There is a somewhat mystical

and romantic fascination in recognizing that these same ships have traversed all of the seas and oceans and have been in all the foreign ports of the world. The sounds of a few foghorns, gensets and anchor chains are just part of that nautical ambiance.

Plumper Sound is a temporary respite from the rigours of the North Pacific. Where do these vessels go from here? It is fascinating to plot the movements of these ships at: www.marinetraffic.com. This captivating website gives a purpose and further intrigue to these same ships that we see anchored in front of us.

Garth & Lillian Liseth, South Pender Island

Free Range Chickens

Dear Editor:

My friend remembered an article in your paper about a type of chicken that doesn't disturb the garden plants? She can't remember when the article came out. I would like to have a small flock of chickens but as I am an avid vegetable and flower gardener I do not want to have a breed that would scratch up the garden. My other alternative is to have a chicken tractor but would prefer free range. Does anyone know which breed they are?

Alpen Kelley, Hornby Island

P3s Imposed An Economic Rent On The Province

Dear Editor:

The more I think about the Sea-to-Sky highway rebuild and the Olympic Village project, the more certain I become that the public-private-partnership (P3) model is a form of shadow taxation benefiting private interests.

P3s allow a financial 'rent' to be imposed on the public by private interests. 'Economic rent' is a formal term used to describe a financial obligation that is not matched by real value. It is one form of 'skimming'. This undermines the capacity of affected societies to be economically competitive in the broadest sense.

Vancouver's Olympic Village experience demonstrates the serious consequences that can result—when the private partners run into trouble, the project was abandoned and taxpayers were left to assume the financial risk they had failed to recognize in the first place.

Such risks not only compromise the ability of local governments to find funds they need to finance the services they are mandated to provide, they also mean there are fewer dollars left in the economy to invest in new enterprises and job creation.

LETTERS, continued on next page

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Just under the environmental radar

There isn't to be an environmental assessment for a proposed Texada limestone quarry. It's just a smidge under the environmental radar.

But the Friends of Davie Bay (FODB) have asked for a judicial review of the BC Environmental Assessment Office's decision that an environmental assessment is not required for the proposed Texada South Quarry at Davie Bay on Texada Island.

Mining giant Lehigh Hanson plans to open a 74.6 hectare limestone quarry with mining reserves greater than 100 million metric tonnes. A loading ramp is to be built over Davie Bay with a loading capacity of 2,500 tonnes per hour.

However Lehigh says in its application that it estimates production of just 240,000 tonnes per year, just shy of the 250,000 tonne production that would trigger an automatic environmental assessment.

Just a smidge. But at this rate, the mine would be producing for over 400 years.

Friends of Davie Bay argue that BC's Environmental Assessment Office has incorrectly interpreted the regulation by relying solely on Lehigh's estimated annual production of 240,000 tonnes. The decision of the Court will depend on the meaning put to the term 'production capacity' in the Regulation

(370/2002, Part 3, Table 6: 'during operations, will have a production capacity of >250,000 tonnes/year of quarried product').

FODB contends that 'capacity' should mean what the mine of this scale is capable of producing, not just what the company says it will produce.

'A quarry in the Davie Bay area would devastate a unique area of forest, open grassy bluffs, limestone caves and streams and waterfalls, and the fragile marine habitat, says Texada Island resident John Dove. 'This should not happen without a detailed examination of the social, economic and environmental consequences, with full public input.'

FODB also points out that Canada's largest limestone quarry, TQL on the north end of Texada, is operating well below capacity, taking out 1.5 million tonnes per year, mostly for Lehigh. They question the need to open any new mine.

The Davie Bay proposal would also impact an extensive karst cave system, load barges in a rockfish conservation area, impact an area recognized by a recent Powell River Regional District study as important to a future parks and greenspace system, and affect provincially designated recreation and camping sites in Davie Bay. ☞

LETTERS from previous page

Another example can be seen in the huge financial premium we must now pay, so that BC Hydro can recover the cost of its provincially-imposed agreements with independent power producers. The financial record of the past five years continues to show decreasing productivity at Hydro.

If we extend the notion to other parts of the natural-monopoly economy, it is easy to see that the portion of GDP now being directed to private interests for no value could be as high as 5% and growing.

Citizens would be well-advised to ask BC Auditor-General, John Doyle, to fast-track his evaluation of the P3 process, before a new government adds any more of these long-term debt obligations onto the taxpayers.

Erik Andersen, Gabriola Island

Selling Raw Products At Their Right Price—A Strategy For Canada

Dear Editor:

In regard to Patrick Brown's commentary on CETA (*Island Tides* January 27 edition), a raw products exporter may be a better choice than conventional manufacturing.

Manufacturing seems like a no-brainer when you deal with wood, water and food production because with care they will always be there and you will always have them to use or sell.

I'm doubtful the same is true with exhaustible things like petroleum, coal, and minerals. Funny about non-renewable resources: they run out. If you have built up the infrastructure and population to turn them into can-openers and pantyhose and medicines, the transport industry to move them around the world, and the educational institutions to teach people how to make and market them; then you are the one left holding the bag when they do run out. The folks once busy turning raw stuff into finished widgets are out of work and have to be taken care of.

I argued against that strategy in the '70s in Alaska after the big oil finds. 'Building sandcastles in the top half of an hourglass,' I called it. Today those big oil finds are drawn way-down below the halfway mark. They might or might not be replaced with new discoveries.

Except for a couple of very small refineries making locally-sold fuel, the stuff was (is) shipped raw.

And, Alaska (population still under 700,000) got a decent share of their value, spent a lot on things, like schools, that people wanted and could pay cash for, and banked a bunch in a permanent fund sitting now at a healthy \$39 billion. People and corporations pay no state income taxes. Individuals get a nice check yearly from the Permanent Fund merely for being residents. (It's okay—say it if you think it—'People have to be bribed to live there.')

The crucial steps to making this strategy work are, first, making sure that the 'state' (read province, nation, whatever) never undersells a non-renewable resource. The days are gone when we have to beg and bribe to get companies to take away coal and copper so that we could get a few jobs.

Second, that fair return has to be the means by which the ever-diminishing resource is turned into an immortal one by means such as education, health, and an untouchable endowment of socially conscious market investments.

Bob Weeden, Salt Spring Island

Voting For Elizabeth May


Dear Editor:

I agree with the letter writers in January 13, *Island Tides* that the upcoming federal election is of immeasurable significance: hat we have a rare opportunity to make much needed changes in the direction Canada is headed.

I have previously mostly by-passed the Green party although their platform exactly aligns with my hopes for the country. I thought that it was wiser to vote for a party that had a chance of being elected rather than 'throwing my vote away'. This time we have a candidate who is too wise, articulate, broadly informed, and spunky to pass up.

I will vote for Elizabeth May, as both the best candidate and as someone who has a chance to win and to provide a sane and powerful voice for BC in Ottawa. If all of us who find her message compelling put our vote where our values are, we can do it!

Judith Rees-Thomas, Saturna Island ☞



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Pot Luck With Elizabeth May—All are welcome to join Elizabeth May, federal Green Party candidate; an opportunity to bring up any issues of concern and enjoy a meal together • United Church, 111 Hereford Ave, Ganges • 6pm • Info: Jan 250-537-5251 • ON SALT SPRING ISLAND

Commentary by Elizabeth May

Why corporate tax cuts don't guarantee jobs

The Harper Conservatives are facing a serious communications challenge on what is shaping up to be an election issue. Nearly every year since 2000, the federal government, whether Liberal or Conservative, has reduced taxes paid by corporations. The logic of doing so was to ensure the Canadian economy was competitive.

If taxes are a lot lower in the US than in Canada, it can lead to a loss to our economy. Of course, it's comparing apples to oranges—as our business leaders well know. Canadian social programmes are a boon to business. Universal health care, for example, is a real savings to Canadian employers versus US employers. One of my favourite friends in the forest industry, Frank Dottori (former CEO at Tembec) once argued that Canadian forest companies were happy to ignore that useful subsidy to their operations—access to reliable unemployment insurance which allowed them to lay off workers seasonally—without having to risk their unavailability later on.

Back in 2000, the general rate of taxation on corporate profits was 29.1%. By 2006, when the Harper government came into office, the corporate tax rate had fallen to 22.1%. At that time, we all remember our budgets consistently posted surpluses. In those days, it was part of the cut and thrust of Parliamentary debate to accuse the finance minister of hiding away the size of a surplus so as to have a surprise windfall.

No longer. Canada moved into a deficit just before the global economic meltdown in September 2008. Due to cutting the GST, cuts to corporate income taxes and increased spending, the Harper government had eradicated the surplus just in time for a recession. With an empty cupboard, Canada has moved further into debt to fund the stimulus package. The latest estimate is that we are now running a \$45 billion deficit.

Meanwhile, all through the recession, the corporate tax rate has continued to fall. Last year the rate fell to 18%. As of January 1, 2011, it is 16.5%, with a further cut to 15% planned for next year.

As is becoming clear, the Opposition Parties will oppose further cuts to corporate taxes. The Green Party is proposing that we return to the taxation level of 2008—19.5%.

Reframing Corporate Tax Cuts As Jobs

So, in a nutshell, here is Mr Harper's communications challenge. How do you convince the electorate that it makes sense to keep cutting the taxes of large profitable corporations: while increasing EI deductions on every paycheque, when there has been no income tax cut for four years, and while facing a daunting \$45 billion deficit?

In *Don't Think of an Elephant*, US political strategist George Lakoff described how the Republican Party had persuaded US voters to vote against their own interests. It was all about 'framing' the issue—so, don't say 'cuts to social programmes,' say 'tax relief.' It's all in the (re)framing.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty has come up with the way to 're-frame' tax cuts for corporations. Corporate tax cuts are now framed as support for the 'job creators.' This is not to say that job creation is a new concept—job creation is a priority. And

government policies have major impacts on the private sector's ability to create jobs. There is no question that corporations employ people. But there is absolutely no evidence that cutting the corporate tax rate will cause corporations to create more jobs; despite Prime Minister Harper's claim that a further 1-1/2% reduction in corporate taxes will create 100,000 jobs.

As some economists have pointed out, the reduction of tax rates in Canada is irrelevant for corporations headquartered in the US. Any increase in corporate profits in Canada must be taxed when repatriated to US head office at the rate of 35%. For those companies, cutting Canadian taxes is essentially handing Canadian tax dollars over to the US Treasury. For Canadian-based companies, the reduction in taxes may or may not be used to expand the workforce.

Just as in the HST debate provincially (when we were told manufacturers receiving reduced taxation would pass those savings on to consumers), Canadians have a right to be deeply sceptical of claims that reduced taxation will be a job stimulant.

A prudent CEO may have many other plans—re-invest in equipment, increase dividends to shareholders, increase compensation for the top staff, make a play for another company, put cash down for mergers and acquisitions....

The idea that increasing corporate profits will result in more jobs reminds me of John Kenneth Galbraith's explanation of the trickle-down effect: 'If you feed grain to the horse, the sparrows will find something to eat in the manure.'

Doing The Math

As there is no empirical evidence that lowering corporate taxes increases employment, let's look for a moment at Finance Canada's own math. The stimulus effects that the government calculated in 2009 are based on multipliers (www.budget.gc.ca/2009/plan/bpa1-eng.html (Table A1.1)). So in 2009, for instance, \$1 spent by the government on corporate tax cuts resulted in 10¢ in real GDP growth, that same \$1 spent in infrastructure leads to \$1 in real GDP. The government goes on to calculate that a 1% increase in real GDP leads to a 2% increase in employment.

Let's assume we plan to spend \$3 billion to create employment and our choice is to either spend it on tax cuts to corporations or for new infrastructure. Using the government's own multipliers for the stimulus plan, that \$3 billion in year one would create 6,500 jobs in infrastructure or 650 jobs if spent on tax cuts to corporations.

My friend the economist (who helped me do the math) agrees that we really do not entirely trust Flaherty's model but it seems fair to use the government's model to judge the effectiveness of cutting corporate taxes to create jobs. And, by that measure, the term 'job creators' should be expunged from Flaherty's vocabulary as failing the tests for 'truth in advertising.'

Elizabeth E. May, O.C. is the nominated candidate for the Green Party in Saanich Gulf Islands and was named by Newsweek magazine in November 2010 as 'one of the world's most influential women.'

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Saturna Notes ~ Priscilla Ewbank

I found a snake skin in the driveway this morning. The dogs are shedding like spring run-off. In the occasional shafts of sunlight, soft clouds of downy underfur and long outer hairs swirl and twirl, momentarily airborne and drift lazily to the floor. This shedding seems to promise spring!

Stinging nettle is almost ready to be picked, violets are perking up even with intervals of freezing weather. Lorraine and Jim Campbell have a huge show of snowdrops both the small variety and the big hybrid ones.

For growth and shift of the seasons, south-facing has all the news. South-facing and your bulbs are pushing up, the weeds are coming on strong and some bits of garden dirt are workable. Sunrise? Sunset? Not until March say the Islanders who live on the north slopes facing Vancouver and the Strait of Georgia!

The big rain that came on a Sunday in late January has done damage to some of the Parks Canada trails. Trails make perfect water channels but conversely a drying river-bed isn't a great hiking trail. Both the waterfall trail and Narvaez Bay have some washouts and trees down. Parks cuts back on maintenance in the dead of winter—this spring they will have a lot to do to repair the trails damaged by the freakish amount of water that

rocketed down the slopes from any spring or overflow that ever existed on the Island.

The eagles are starting to housekeep down at Winter Cove. There are several active nests by Boat Passage, the stone's throw channel between Saturna and Samuel Island, where the tides runs like a river into and out of Georgia Strait. The eagles build nests in big Douglas firs: strong enough to hold huge nests, tall enough for keeping an eye on the dinner opportunities around them.

Robbie Burns Night

The Lions had their Robbie Burns Supper at the Rec Centre. About 80 attendees had a fine time, enjoying the traditional fare and ritual; it's amazing how many Islanders have all the elaborate gear. Listed in the Saturna phone directory are 7 Campbell's, 11 Mac-Something's, and 4 Robertson's (related to orange marmalade) as well as many singular names that for sure are based in the land of heather, moors and land clearances.

My partner is in between kilts. The \$20 McGregor tartan that he bought 40-years-ago in Edmonton has been so

SATURNA, please turn to page 7

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Serving the Gulf Islands

SATURNA from page 6
 thoroughly filigreed by moths that you wouldn't have to guess whether he was going Scottish or Canadian underneath.

He has ordered (delivery 3 months) a new non-wool one that the Victoria specialty fitter assured him did not require ironing before wearing—so Jon saves time and the kilt moths that live at Haggis Farm are denied a favoured dinner!

The date of Saturna's Burns Night is fixed around the schedule of the Pender Highlanders. The bagpipes add so much to the festivities that all the Islands vie for the pipers to bring in the haggis and to play some lively and loud bagpipe and drum tunes.

Build, Cutting, Drilling

Under the direction of the Saturna Fire Protection Society many trades people are close to completing the new firehall. At



this point they are working on the inside—plumbing, flooring—and the outside area directly surrounding the building. The society intends to vacate the old firehall by late February as its ownership changes to private hands.

BCHydro has four trucks on the Island for an estimated 4-to-6 weeks clearing the powerline rights-of-way. As a cost-

saving strategy, BCHydro has a new policy to cut more and come less often. If you have an area that you don't want cut for some reason tell the tree trimmers and they will have you deal directly with BCHydro.

For the last two weeks, another contract business, Pole-Tec is on Island drilling into the power-poles checking for rot and treating most of them. There are about a thousand poles on Saturna, three poles for each of us! The two men process about 30 poles per day. They drill 5 holes per pole, 3 underground and two about 3 feet from the ground. About half a litre of 'less poisonous than we used to use' liquid is pumped in. Somehow the stuff penetrates the pole within 48 hours and stops the pole from deteriorating. Out of the several hundred poles they have done so far about 10 are completely punky and will be replaced.

Parks Canada is installing a ramp and wharf off the old jetty in Winter Cove. A crew has been working for weeks installing



the ramp and putting in concrete foundations to secure the ramp and rigging to keep the wharf in place. They plan to install at least four other dinghy docks at other Park locations in the coming months.

Art and the environment



This month's Arts Denman' Secret Tree Festival is another example of an emerging trend—art with a social heart. It asks, how can the arts sustain the sustainability movement?

Not only that, how can the arts focus that groundswell; becoming newly relevant to the destiny of mankind?

Since 1985, Arts Denman has had a long and ambitious history. In the early noughties, the members worked hard to create a homeplace, buying an old former residence and renovating it as a tiny arts centre. Each summer since 2006, Arts Denman has been bringing art skills to the public. Now this first Spirit Festival is aiming to model the power of the arts into the community in a new way.

'Through art, we acknowledged the splendour of the natural world,' says festival artistic director Cynthia Minden, 'Experiencing the world aesthetically and socially through art is not only meaningful but is a biological necessity—art being relevant in every human civilization on the planet. Art matters. It give hope.'

Denman's unique festival will bring together Denman Islanders of all ages, performing, presenting, and participating with guests from across North America.

It will be a whirlwind exploratory weekend of sharing. The Audio Arts Collective kicks off the festival with their now famous Open Stage and the infamous Vegan pot-luck supper will wrap it all up.

For details, see What's On? page 5 and also go to www.artsdenman.com.

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Chocolate Season ~ Brian Crumblehulme



Xocoatl by it's original name, chocolate is iconic the world over for sensuous luxury. For true believers you only have to think about it.

Pure chocolate, also known as bitter or unsweetened, consists of 50-58% fat, 10% protein, 29% starch and 2% theobromine, meaning 'food of the Gods.' Resembling caffeine, theobromine stimulates muscles, especially the heart, is a diuretic and anti-hypertensive—and it's that combination of properties that hits some people right between their endorphins.

Before it reaches the store shelf as semi-sweet, the fat content is reduced to 27% and sugar is added. Cocoa powder is further reduced to 10-20% fat which is why recipes tell you to add butter when using cocoa for baking.

Chocolate reached Europe in the early 17th Century and was heavily taxed by the Spanish to maintain its exclusivity. Not until later in the century did the Dutch, French and English break this monopoly and along with tea and coffee, chocolate became fashionable. Tea was, and is, considered a domestic beverage better suited to the private parlor. Coffee was a thinker's drink and coffee houses appeared everywhere for men to meet, drink coffee and talk.

Chocolate became a breakfast drink for ladies and a salon favourite. And in London two chocolate houses, White's and the Cocoa Tree, became political clubs for the Whigs and Tories respectively. In Spain the demand by ladies of the court was so strong that as Brillat-Savarin exquisitely expressed it, the ever astute Father Escobar 'whose spiritual reasoning was as subtle as his moral doctrine ... declared that chocolate made with water [and sugar] was not contrary to the rules of fast days.' Thereafter, society ladies had chocolate served to them in church!

The fats that constitute the bulk of chocolate melt at

different temperatures and the refining process seeks to narrow this property down so that a high quality chocolate will not melt in your hand but on your tongue with a 'true flavour of chocolate... that is neither greasy nor sticky.'

Drink of the Gods:

250 grams semi-sweet chocolate, 1 Liter whole milk
About 2 Tbsp vanilla sugar

Break the chocolate into small pieces and melt gently in a saucepan. As the chocolate begins to melt add the sugar and 1 cup of milk. Stir constantly until all the chocolate has melted. Gradually add the remaining milk and beat thoroughly with a whisk to make the chocolate foamy. Pour into pre-warmed glazed cups and serve immediately.


Bacchus:

Two days before, place 2/3 cup raisins in a saucepan and gently dry cook until they are hot. Add a liqueur glass of white rum and flambé, rotating the pan until all rum is burnt or absorbed. Cool, cover and store for two days.

Make two meringue bases with whisked egg white and icing sugar and a cup ground almonds. Bake slowly until just firm.

Make a chocolate sponge cake. Make a whipped chocolate ganache. Make a syrup with equal parts water, rum, and sugar.

Soak the chocolate sponge with the syrup. Add 2/3 raisins to the ganache. Place one almond meringue on a platter, add a layer of ganache and raisins. Add the chocolate sponge and another layer of ganache. Top with the second almond meringue and pour the remaining ganache and raisins over the top. Chill until set.

Feed Bacchus to your lover by the spoonful with alternating sips of champagne. 

SAVE OUR SURGERY Ad hoc Committee

I strongly urge the resumption of general surgical services at Lady Minto Hospital as necessary for the health and safety of the residents and visitors of Salt Spring Island and the Southern Gulf Islands.



SOS SALT SPRING
www.sossaltspring.ca

E-mail: info@sossaltspring.ca

Representatives from Salt Spring Islands' Save Our Surgery Committee, which is campaigning to have surgery restored to Lady Minto Hospital will meet with Health Minister Colin Hansen on February 22.

Meanwhile the enterprising group has created 4,000 postcards (front side pictured above) for Islanders to sign and mail in to support the campaign.

Look for them in stores, banks, restaurants etc or find them through the www.sossaltspring.ca



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MAYNE ISLAND NEW FIRE HALL REFERENDUM ELECTOR QUALIFICATIONS AND VOTING OPPORTUNITIES

Take notice that the assent of the electors is required for borrowing for construction of a new fire hall. Owners of real property on Mayne Island will be asked to vote on the following:

"Do you approve the borrowing of up to \$3,400,000 for a New Fire Hall?"
Yes or No.

VOTING OPPORTUNITIES

ADVANCED VOTING:

Wednesday, March 2, 2011, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

VOTING DAY:

Saturday, March 12, 2011, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Agricultural Hall, 430 Fernhill Rd, Mayne Island, B.C.

MAIL IN BALLOT OPPORTUNITY FOR PROPERTY OWNERS

NON RESIDENT PROPERTY OWNERS: Commencing the week of January 24, 2011 mail in ballots will be mailed via Canada Post to all Mayne Island off island property owners.

MAYNE ISLAND RESIDENT VOTERS: unable to attend the polls either Advance or Voting days, may request an Absentee mail in voting package, in writing, to the Returning Officer, Site 9, Comp 50, Mayne Island, BC, V0N 2J0 between December 1, 2010 and February 15, 2011.

Each mail in package will contain 1(one) ballot, 1 (one) Declaration of Qualification to Vote, which must be signed by the voter, 1 (one) Secrecy envelope for 1 ballot, 1 (one) letter of instruction, and 1 (one) self addressed stamped return envelope.

The returned mail in ballot, via Canada Post, must be in the hands of the Returning Officer no later than 5p.m., Friday, March 11, 2011 to be counted. All mail received after that date will be returned to sender by Canada Post.

ELECTOR QUALIFICATIONS

You are qualified as an elector if you are a Canadian citizen, eighteen years of age or older on Voting Day, a resident of British Columbia for at least six months prior to Voting Day and a registered owner of real property on Mayne Island for at least 30 days prior to Voting Day, or an authorized agent designated in writing as the said Agent of a Board or Corporation that owns property on Mayne Island. If more than one person is registered on title as owner of the property, then those owners are entitled to vote providing they meet the qualifications set out above. Regardless of the number of property owned by one person, they may vote only once. No persons may vote more than once with the exception that they may vote as an authorized Agent and personally if they own property on a personal basis.

VOTER REGISTRATIONS

Voters may register at the Advance Poll or on Voting Day providing they produce 2 (two) pieces of identification, one of which has a signature, preferably with picture identification, e.g. BC driver's license, and documentation proving ownership of real property for which the elector is claiming ownership for voting purposes: e.g. Health center tax notice, Title, CRD assessment notice.

The following are acceptable documents for proof of identity:

- BC driver's license
- BC Care card or gold card
- BC ID card issued by Motor Vehicles Branch
- Social insurance card
- Credit or debit card issued by a savings institution
- Real property tax notice
- Citizenship card

Dated this sixth day of December, 2010

Mary E. Cooper, Returning Officer

Proposed Changes to Hours of Operation at Hartland Recycling and Garbage Bin Areas

We're considering changing the operating hours at Hartland. And we need your input.

To take advantage of potential cost savings and greenhouse gas emission reductions, the CRD is considering closing the recycling and garbage bin areas at Hartland landfill on Mondays and Tuesdays. Extended hours would be offered on the remaining operational days.

We want to know what you think.

Do you support the proposed changes?
Do you have suggestions for alternate closure times or days?

We value your input. You can give your opinion by completing a feedback form by **February 25, 2011**. Feedback will be gathered and used by the CRD Board to help make an informed decision.

For more information, visit www.crd.bc.ca/hartland or contact us by phone at 250.474.9613



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