

Glad you tried again! Welcome to a very late Feb 27 edition! The result of a problem distilling to pdf format. Proving, once again, Christa' Corollary — any intractable problem is, however unlikely it seems, two or more problems—one of them in the last place you look! We will keep this edition posted till Thursday and then put up March 13 — already waiting in the wings. Thanks for your patience!

# Gulf Islands' **Island Tides**

A 'Snapshot' of the Southern Gulf — Every Second Thursday

Volume 15 Number 4

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February 27–March 12, 2003

Welcome to  
Island Tides!  
Worth the wait!

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Photo: Rick Tiplie

A good serviceable colour, not to mention—it's chic! Three black lambs are part of the annual crop at Campbell's farm on Saturna

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## Burial site unearthed at Bedwell

The Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group has filed a complaint with the RCMP to investigate Poets Cove Resort at Bedwell Harbour on South Pender 'for the destruction of an ancient Coast Salish Village site,' says a February 14 advisory. The treaty group says that the developers have committed an offence under the *Heritage Conservation Act* at the recorded archaeological site, contravening their Site Alteration Permit.

The site (DeRt-004) has deposits up to 4-5,000 years old. A 1990 archaeological study conducted for earlier management of the proposed expansion of the Bedwell Harbour Hotel, evaluated the site as having moderate to high cultural significance and recommended a small-scale archaeological excavation of the site. The site had received extensive destruction in the original hotel construction in the 1960s.

However no major construction took place at the site until last fall. In September, Chief Vern Jack of the Tseycum First Nation noticed piles of disturbed midden at the waterfront of the property and alerted the Archaeological & Registry Branch of the Sustainable Resources Management ministry, responsible for issuing the Site Alteration Permit.

Bill James, representing Poets Cove, said he was unaware of the 1990 impact study. Archaeology Branch said that Poets Cove immediately hired archaeological consultants, IR Wilson. James states that his company has gone to a good deal of expense to move the footprint of some resort buildings (in the swimming pool area on the north end) away from the waterfront. He says that excavation into hard rock formations is much

## New marine mammal regs criticized

Patrick Brown

A lively meeting on February 8 at the Saturna Community Hall raised criticisms of proposed new marine mammal protection regulations. The proposed regulations were criticized by the audience as taking too long to put in place, not being broad enough, and being impractical to enforce.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) are working on amendments to regulations under the Fisheries Act that would protect marine mammals, including whales, seals, walrus, polar bears, and sea otters on the Pacific, Atlantic, and Arctic coasts. Previous regulations have focused strictly on harvesting mammals; the new amendment proposals focus on 'non-consumptive' human activities.

The Saturna meeting, initiated by Saturna activist Susie Washington-Smyth, was part of DFO's consultation process in designing new regulations. Three DFO staffers, Maralyn Joyce (Marine Mammal Co-ordinator), Paul Preston from the South Coast area Marine Mammal section, and Stefan Beckmann, a DFO Enforcement Officer, came to make a presentation. Bill Henwood and Jane Sparks from Parks Canada were also there, as well as about thirty residents of Saturna and Pender Islands. David Bain, a marine mammal specialist from the University of Washington who has been studying the effect of the GSX pipeline on the whales, also contributed to the discussion.

### Current Regulations Not Enforceable

Current regulations, explained Ms. Joyce, fell under Section 7 of the Fisheries Act, generally known as the 'do not disturb' clause. However, these were too vague to be enforceable.

In BC in 1998, approximately 285,000 whale watchers paid \$14 million to watch whales, and the business has grown substantially since then. In response to concerns that the whales were being harassed, DFO has published a series of guidelines for people watching whales, porpoises, dolphins, and seals, sealions and birds on land. These guidelines suggest keeping at least 100 metres away from marine mammals, minimizing disturbance, and not positioning boats in the path of a traveling pod of whales.

These guidelines are not, however, legally enforceable, and observers have seen them ignored on many occasions, by both commercial whale-watching boats and private vessels. Saturna observers, members of the BC Cetaceans Sighting Network, said that reports they sent in to DFO were not acted upon. 'Not just an old fart up on a hill with a telescope. Tell them we're watching,' commented one person

MARINE MAMMALS, please turn to page 2

## Trailers in trouble

Two trailers on the blacktop at Magic Lake Market are a focus of community concern on North Pender. The more recent of the trailers moved onto the site in January, 2001 is under order to be removed by February 28.

The store on the site services Magic Lake Estates and is the only store close to the 1200 lot subdivision. A large trailer was moved on to the site several years ago and one end became the home of Pender Island Cable. Shortly thereafter the other end became Pender Crafts outlet.

Two-and-a-half years ago, Carol Couchman leased the trailer, transforming it into a coffee-shop. Bright paint, a covered wooden deck, plants, paintings, comfy furniture, artwork, delicious eats, a steaming coffee machine and friendly staff created a bijoux community asset—with an ocean view down Bedwell Harbour. Couchman has hosted musical and video events, showcased Pender artist and artisans as well as serving java to locals and visitors.

However, under this was a layer of muddle: no CRD building permit had been applied for when the trailer was originally moved in. In addition, the commercial lot is under an Islands Trust development permit (DP 3-80) which means changes to the site must be approved, which was also not done. (Application for a CRD building permit triggers the whole approval process.)

The situation did not come to light until Pete Williams asked building inspector Tim Grohs about moving a second trailer on to the site for his business, Gulf Islands Computers, which he urgently need to

TRAILERS, please turn to page 6

MIDDEN, please turn to page 4



## Work underway on Islands' wharves

Visiting boaters will find a few welcome changes to their Islands' tie-ups this spring.

Ports Manager Al Cannon reports that Miners Bay, Montague Harbour and Piers Island docks have recently had major rebuilds. Currently Port Browning, on North Pender Island, is undergoing a 'facelift', with Port Washington and Hope Bay not far behind. Retreat Cove and Sturdies Bay repairs are also planned for this year.

Southern Gulf Islands Harbours Commission, under the auspices of the CRD has assumed control of nine harbours—on Mayne, Galiano, Pender and Piers Islands, and also one at Swartz Bay, adjacent to the BC Ferry terminal. The harbours which devolved from the federal government required varying degrees of repair and reconfigurations but came with some money to do so.

One of the reconfigurations the SGI Harbours Commission is considering is removing the large wharfhead at Sturdies Bay, on Galiano Island. This familiar wharfhead is adjacent to the loading ramp of BC Ferries' dock. The structure has been

closed to vehicular traffic for quite a few years. The Harbours Commission's reasons for removing it are: originally it was built for large supply and work-type ships; because of its height, it is not suited to smaller recreational vessels; its state of disrepair would require major and expensive replacement of pilings and timbers; over the years, it has become liability, because of its disrepair. Subsequent to removal of this wharfhead the water space would allow for an additional moorage float to serve boaters—especially in the busy summer season, says the Commission. For more information, call Commission chair, Ken Morissette, at 539-2874 or Al Cannon, Ports Manager, at 539-3036.

Rate structures have been set for moorage and visits to docks (first four hours free). Visitors will see new signboards and deposit boxes for fees. And now, commuter tickets can be purchased! Wharfingers can supply a book of the discount price tickets which save all that fumbling for change—just drop your ticket in the box when you tie up. Happy boating!

### MARINE MAMMALS from page 1

Beckmann said that the present system was not practical, though he did allow that individuals could lay charges and the DFO would pursue them (private prosecutions). Participants suggested that officers could issue compliance orders on the spot, rather than having to go to court.

### Writing New Regulations

DFO is now attempting to write enforceable regulations to cover the interaction of humans and marine mammals, and this round of consultations was intended to assist in drafting them. The conclusions which would result from discussions and consultations on all three coasts would be forwarded to DFO in Ottawa and it is possible that new regulations would be forthcoming in two years.

Participants at the meeting were shocked at the apparently lengthy bureaucratic process which was contemplated. Not only that, the idea of 'national' regulations, applicable to species on all three Canadian seacoasts, would, they felt, lead to 'lowest common denominator' rules which could not take local conditions into account.

The Southern Straits orca group, which range inside Vancouver Island as far south as Seattle, has lost 20% of their population over the past six years. The proposed DFO timeline of two to three years did not recognize the urgency of the problem, not only of whale-watching, but also of habitat degradation. Recent autopsies had revealed that the Southern Straits group were heavily loaded with toxic substances.

### US Regulatory Proposals

On the US side of the border, not far off southern Saturna, efforts were currently being made to protect the Southern Straits orcas. The historical maximum number of whales in this group is estimated at 140 to 200 individuals, while the minimum sustainable population is estimated at 84. Currently, there are 80 whales in the group, and an effort is being made to designate the group as 'depleted' under the US Marine Mammal Protection Act. This would mean that a conservation plan would be prepared to protect and help in recovery of the group. (see [www.orcanetwork.org](http://www.orcanetwork.org))

A previous effort to designate the whales as 'endangered' under the US Endangered Species Act failed because a US court ruled that while this particular group of orcas was becoming smaller, there were lots of orcas both on the west coast of North America and around the world, and the Southern Resident group were not a significant percentage of the total.

### Proposed Regulations Based on Minimum Approach Distances

The outline of proposed regulations, as indicated in a 'consultation workbook' made available at the meeting, followed the pattern of the present guidelines, which are

mainly designed to regulate whale-watching. The proposals followed a pattern of attempting to define the boats, the species, their activities, and minimum approach distances, much as the present guidelines do. It also suggested the licensing of commercial marine mammal viewing businesses, including the licensing of operators. Regulations would also cover the reporting of sick, injured, or stranded animals, the rescue of animals, and regulation of researchers, filmmakers, etc.

DFO representatives agreed with meeting participants that the strict enforcement of minimum approach distances presents practical problems. In narrow passages, such as Active Pass, the presence of a pod of whales would effectively block the Pass. The same would apply if a number of seals were hauled out on the rocks at the entrance to a harbour.

### Habitat Protection Ignored

But, even more important, those present at the Saturna meeting commented that this regulatory approach completely ignored many other aspects of mammal protection, including the protection of habitat from physical, biological (raw sewage) or chemical (PCBs) damage or pollution.

Serious suggestions were made about the establishment of marine mammal sanctuaries, and 'no-go' zones where viewing or disturbance of any sort would not be allowed. Such zones could interrupt viewing, preventing whale chase boats from following a pod for miles.

### Species at Risk Act

A Canadian Species at Risk Act, newly introduced, might be useable to protect critical habitat for certain species, said Ms. Joyce. While it had not yet been used, it did provide for habitat protection, and also provided a framework for specific species recovery plans. This might provide better protection than regulations under the Fisheries Act.

Participants also suggested that the Canadian Environmental Protection Act be used to attack habitat degradation. It provides protection for whistleblowers and can be used to fight industrial pollution.

### What Are the Principles Behind the Proposed Regulations?

Susie Washington-Smyth suggested that it was difficult to determine just what DFO was trying to achieve. She suggested that the regulations should be based on the precautionary principle, firmly grounded in science, enforceable in practice, with both incentives and penalties.

She also suggested that the public should be involved, and that the public process should be kept open as long as possible; possibly an Advisory Committee should be established. /

# Island Tides

AT FULFORD HARBOUR  
FEBRUARY/MARCH

Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.	Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.
<b>25</b>	0105	9.5	2.9	<b>5</b>	0650	10.5	3.2
	TU 0420	9.2	2.8		WE 1255	5.9	1.1
	0930	10.5	3.2		ME 1830	8.9	2.7
	MA 1740	2.3	0.7				
<b>26</b>	0230	10.2	3.1	<b>6</b>	0025	4.9	1.5
	WE 0625	9.5	2.9		TH 0705	10.5	3.2
	1010	10.2	3.1		TH 1330	5.2	1.6
	1840	2.0	0.6		JE 1935	8.9	2.7
<b>27</b>	0410	11.5	3.4	<b>7</b>	0055	5.9	1.3
	0935	9.2	2.8		FR 0720	10.2	3.1
	TH 1330	9.5	2.9		FR 1405	4.6	1.4
	JE 2135	2.0	0.6		VE 2040	8.5	2.6
<b>28</b>	0450	11.2	3.4	<b>8</b>	0135	6.9	2.1
	FR 1010	8.9	2.7		SA 0735	9.8	3.0
	1340	9.5	2.9		SA 1445	4.3	1.3
	VE 2120	2.0	0.6		SA 2205	8.9	2.7
<b>1</b>	0525	10.8	3.3	<b>9</b>	0215	7.9	2.4
	SA 1045	8.2	2.5		SU 0750	9.8	3.0
	SA 1445	9.5	32.9		SU 1525	3.9	1.2
	SA 2200	2.3	0.7		DI 2345	9.2	2.8
<b>2</b>	0550	10.8	3.3	<b>10</b>	0305	8.9	2.7
	SU 1115	7.9	2.4		MO 1800	9.5	2.9
	SU 1545	9.5	2.9		MO 1610	3.6	1.1
	DI 2240	2.6	0.8				
<b>3</b>	0615	10.8	3.3	<b>11</b>	0130	9.5	2.9
	MO 1150	7.2	2.2		TU 0445	9.2	2.8
	MO 1640	9.2	2.8		TU 0755	9.5	2.9
	LU 2315	3.3	1.0		MA 1705	3.3	1.0
<b>4</b>	0635	10.5	3.2	<b>12</b>	0230	10.2	3.1
	TU 1220	6.6	2.0		WE 1800	3.0	0.9
	TU 1735	9.2	2.8				
	MA 2350	3.9	1.2				



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## SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS HARBOURS COMMISSION PORT WASHINGTON DOCK REPAIR CONTRACT 03-1005 INVITATION TO TENDER

Sealed Tenders, plainly marked on the envelope "Southern Gulf Islands Harbours Commission, Port Washington Dock Repair - Contract 03-1005 will be received by the Director of Finance of the Capital Regional District at their offices at 524 Yates Street, Victoria, British Columbia up to 2:30 pm, March 20, 2003, at which time they will be opened in public.

The works to be constructed under this Contract generally include the following:

Supply of all materials and labour to repair and/or replace certain timbers, anchoring chains and float connectors on three floats, two gangways, replace floatation billets in one float, and pressure wash certain floats, approach and wharfhead timbers.

Specifications, Drawings, Contract Documents, and Tender Form may be seen at the offices of the Vancouver Region Construction Association of BC, 3636 East 4th Avenue, Vancouver, BC; The Construction Association of Victoria, 1075 Alston Street, Victoria; and the Capital Regional District, 524 Yates Street, Victoria, on or after February 27, 2003.

Copies may be obtained from the Capital Regional District, Environmental Services Department, on payment of \$26.75 (\$25.00 + \$1.75 GST) for each copy requested, the sum of which is refundable upon return of the documents in good condition within 30 days of tender opening.

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

There will be no scheduled site meeting.

For tendering and technical enquiries on this project please contact Al Cannon, Ports Manager, Southern Gulf Islands Harbours Commission, 250-539-3036, E-mail: [shoresun@gulfislands.com](mailto:shoresun@gulfislands.com) on or after March 3, 2003.

Al Cannon, Ports Manager  
Southern Gulf Islands Harbours Commission




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**Pender Islands School**  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Galiano Community School**  
(March 3, 4 & 5 only)  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Saturna Elementary**  
March 6 & 7 only  
11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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*Readers' Letters*

**Email the United Nations**

Dear Editor:  
 History has always been about war. That may have changed on February 15, 2003. On Vancouver Island, Victoria saw an estimated 5,000 people join the global rally against the US and UK war on Iraq. In Nanaimo estimates were 700-900. Duncan had a rally. So did Courtenay. Vancouver Islanders joined an estimated six million people world-wide demonstrating against a pre-emptive strike against Iraq. Those who took part made history. February 15 saw the largest popular demonstrations ever offered a glimmer of hope for the suffering and terrorized people in Iraq.

However the cost benefits of war are strong. The cost to 'get' one man called Saddam Hussein? In dollars \$50 billion-\$200 billion (US budget office); in lives 50,000-250,000 (UN Catholic relief). The benefits to UK and US corporations? \$50billion+ in weapons for the war and \$3trillion in Iraq oil reserves (CNN Business)

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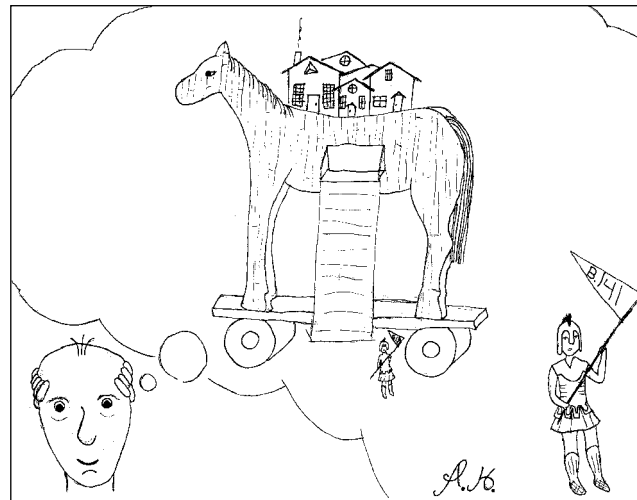
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**Coffee shop chatter ~ Peter Easthope**

**Reggie:** Hello Olive, it's good to see you again.  
**Olive:** You too, Reggie. Tell me, how's the family?  
**Reggie:** Fine now they've settled in. My grandson's even coming over to stay in the summer. And I've had time to think about our conversation in January about the Driftwood Village. You know Olive, I'm thinking it's just one development and it'll really suit some people to be near the Driftwood—explain again why are you so steamed about Bylaw 141?  
**Olive:** It is just one development, but Bylaw 141 sets such a huge precedent. Once one Rural property is rezoned for higher density, owners of other Rural-zoned properties will be tempted to apply for similar treatment. This is the real issue here.  
**Reggie:** Sounds like Homer's story of Troy! *Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes!*  
**Olive:** I beg your pardon?  
**Reggie:** 'I fear the Greeks and the gifts they bring!' You know the story... the Greeks realized that the gift horse would allow them access to Troy without a direct assault. In our case here, Bylaw 141 opens all the Rural zoned land on the island to high density subdivision, is that it?  
**Olive:** Yes, and the 'gifts' would just be some over-55's housing and an extra trail to the national park! No-one seems to realize that there's nothing even close to the Abbeyfield-type



facility being offered—that's what we all hoped for.  
**Reggie:** Spot on!  
**Olive:** I'm afraid that if Bylaw 141 is passed there won't be any turning back.  
**Reggie:** Maybe I should have attended that meeting the other day. Well... I have to meet the boys at the golf course in ten minutes.  
**Olive:** Does that mean you'll attend the next meeting with me? I'll keep in touch. Say 'hello' to the boys for me! /

**MIDDEN from page 1**  
 more expensive than on the shell midden. James says that he had a very good relationship with Chiefs Vern Jacks and Alan Claxton over the winter in planning ceremonies to be held at the site.  
 However according to the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group office, in early February Vern Jacks Jr, Native observer, discovered 'extensive piles of freshly disturbed shell midden dumped in the parking lot and along the forested edge of the Hay Point Reserve to the south. About 50 truck loads of deposit are involved. This material was excavated for an energy plant in January of this year.  
 On February 10 representatives from the Lyackson, Tseycem, Tsartlip and Cowichan, and Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group staff traveled to South Pender to view the damage. They report that

'numerous bone, antler and stone artifacts and faunal remain were found on top of the backfill and at least one element of human skeletal remains, a pelvic bone, was found in the dumped piles of midden material.'  
 The visiting group immediately called the RCMP who attended the scene. Resort personnel voluntarily stopped work, though work has since resumed on non-sensitive areas.  
 Bill James says that Poets Cove will pay for sifting of the midden piles, 'We have made some mistakes,' he said.  
 However the Treaty Group has now filed their official complaint—a conviction carries severe penalties. Spokesperson, Robert Morales says that, 'Civilizations are protected the world over and there needs to be an understanding that the destruction of this site is not only a loss for First Nations, but a loss for our world heritage.' /

A key part in the bid for peace is the United Nations. Popular action to stop the war has now moved to emailing members of the United Nations Assembly. There is an excellent Central Vancouver Island United for Peace web site out of Nanaimo which lists e-mail addresses at the UN. <http://www.unitedforpeacenainaimo.org/index.htm>  
 The messages going out include something along these lines: On the Iraq issue, please vote: 'No' to a new resolution. 'No' to a deadline on weapons inspections; 'Yes' to more inspections; 'Yes' to a resolution disallowing the US 'Shock & Awe' war strategy; 'Yes' to a resolution lifting inhumane sanctions.  
 Peter D Carter, Pender Island

**Everybody Responsible For War**

Dear Editor,  
 Close to three million people in Rome, protesting for peace, and many, many others throughout the world: what a wonderful thing!  
 Unfortunately, our desires for respect for international law, for peace, may be ignored, at least in the short term. But it feels like the tide is turning and humanity is increasingly willing to risk waging peace. We must not lose heart.  
 If letter-writing and protests are not enough, there is certainly more we can do. Conscientious objector status must be extended to include taxpayers who object to paying for military (as opposed to non-military) defence. (When we rely on the military to 'defend' us, we end up relying on aggression, so the term 'military defence' is problematic.) In our time, actually, taxpayers are, in many ways, more responsible for war-making than are soldiers. Graham Greene remarked, in *The Quiet American*, 'Perhaps to the soldier, the civilian is the man who employs him to kill, who includes the guilt of murder in the pay-envelope and escapes responsibility.'  
 Indeed, the world's governments cannot wage war without their people's complicity. A comment by former US Secretary of State, Alexander Haig, recognizes this fact. He commented,

while watching a peace demonstration, 'Let them demonstrate, just as long as they continue to pay their taxes.'  
 An organization exists to work towards making Canada's first freedom, freedom of conscience, meaningful in today's world. To find out more, please contact Conscience Canada, 901-70 Mill St. Toronto, Ontario, M5A 4R1. Telephone: 416-203-1402, email: [consciencecanada@sympatico.ca](mailto:consciencecanada@sympatico.ca). Or you can email me, [js@saltspring.com](mailto:js@saltspring.com).

Jan Slakov, Salt Spring Island

**Ferries—Fascist or Marxist**

Dear Editor:  
 Patrick Brown notes that the BC government will own the 'privatized' BC Ferry company, that it is subsidized, that it will have veto power over establishment of truly private competitors.  
 People think of 'private' enterprise as operating in the free market. In contrast the ferry system will continue to enjoy the advantage of subsidies taken from taxpayers by force. (Though private ferry operations have succeeded in competition with subsidized ones because the private operations were better run.)  
 Worse yet, government force is being used to forbid competition. In contrast, companies operating in a free market must produce for customers, winning their travel dollars by providing better value—service for price. Transparency is not an issue because potential customers will reward honest performance—a free market backed by a justice system is self-correcting.  
 What the current Social Credit government, aka 'Liberals,' are doing is a mercantilist form of statism. The former NDP governments were of course the marxist form of statism. Either way individuals are being controlled—supposedly for the good of the collective but too often for special interests such as favoured suppliers (including companies and labour unions) and bureaucrats. When will BC voters wake up?  
 Keith Sketchley, Victoria /

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# BUDGET 2003

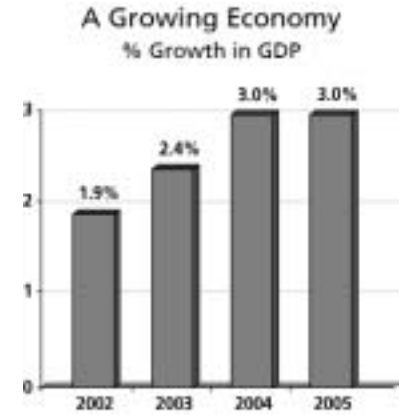
## On Track for a Brighter Future

### On Target for a Balanced Budget

Last year, the provincial government introduced a three-year plan with three goals: to restore sound fiscal management, revitalize the economy and put patients, students and people in need first.

The plan is working. In 2002-03, every government ministry is forecast to be within its operating budget and the deficit is expected to be \$600 million lower than originally planned. The debt is expected to be \$3.5 billion lower than anticipated a year ago. The economy has grown at almost three times the rate anticipated by independent forecasters. And administrative and other efficiencies have meant more dollars for patient care and student achievement.

Budget 2003 will strengthen our competitiveness and quality of life while keeping B.C. on track for a balanced budget.



### More Resources for Students

Together with health care, education is our government's top priority. That's why, even as enrolments decline, we will maintain the \$4.86 billion education budget this year and increase it by \$143 million over the next three years, ensuring more money is in the system for every student.

Post-secondary students are benefiting, too. In the past 20 months, we have committed almost \$900 million to advanced education for access and research.

The government will also provide a total of \$85 million in one-time funding for education, advanced education and early childhood development in 2002-03.

### Investing in Patient Care

As part of our government's commitment to put patients first, we increased health spending in 2002-03 by 12 per cent — \$1.1 billion — to \$10.4 billion.

We've also embarked on a wide-ranging plan of renewal, to better manage resources, increase efficiency and ensure every dollar goes to meet patients' needs. As a result, 538 more nurses were able to practice in B.C. in 2002 than in 2001, administrative costs within health ministries will have fallen by about 45 per cent by 2004-05, and by 2009, universities will be graduating almost twice as many doctors as they do today.

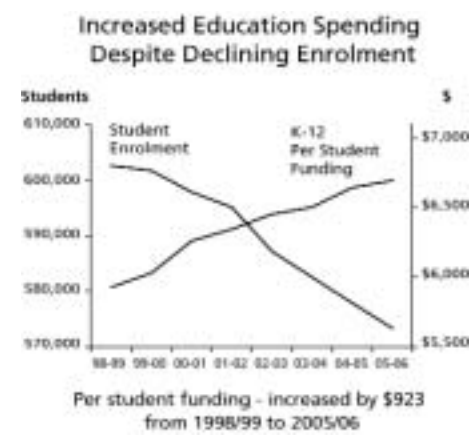
Changes in Budget 2003 — plus every dollar of the expected \$1.3 billion in new, three-year federal health funding — will advance us further toward a sustainable, patient-centred system.

### Opening Up Our Heartlands

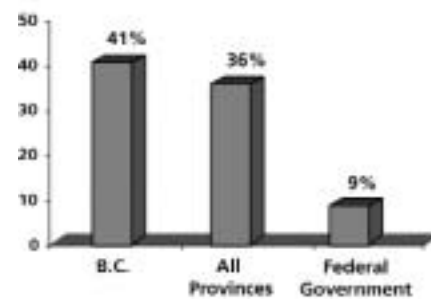
A modern, effective transportation system and a strong forest industry are key to opening up our heartlands and revitalizing our economy.

That's why our government has launched a transportation plan, committing \$650 million over the next three years and leveraging additional funding from the federal government. This plan will allow for improvements to roads, bridges and border crossings that will benefit all British Columbians — from the Kicking Horse Canyon to the Port of Prince Rupert.

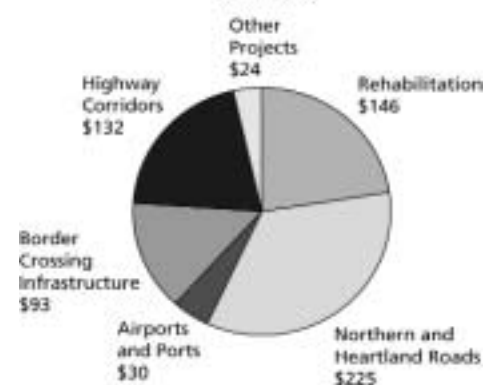
To build on forestry reforms introduced to date, including the new results-based Forest and Range Practices Act, Budget 2003 will support significant changes in the year ahead — including tenure policy reform and moving to market-based timber pricing. It will provide \$275 million in fiscal 2002-03 to assist in the transition to a more competitive, sustainable forest industry and \$95 million over three years for potential revenue-sharing arrangements with First Nations, in exchange for certainty that allows all regions and all British Columbians to prosper from our resources.



Health Care is Important in B.C.  
(percentage of total 2002/03 budget)



\$650 Million in Transportation Improvements Over 3 Years (\$ millions)



For more details on this year's budget, visit [www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca](http://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca)



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**MINES ACT PERMIT APPLICATION**

Take notice that Helgi Sigurgeirson has applied to the Ministry of Energy and Mines for a permit amendment to extract rock from a site located at District Lot 14, Galiano Island and, pursuant to Part 10.1.1 of the Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia, has filed with the Chief Inspector of Mines a proposed mine plan and a program for the protection and reclamation of the land and watercourses on the site. Documentation regarding this application may be viewed during normal business hours at the Ministry's office at 2080B Labieux Road, Nanaimo, British Columbia.

Any person affected by or interested in this program has 30 days from the date of publication to make written representation regarding potential health, safety or environmental impacts of the proposed mine to the Chief Inspector of Mines c/o District Manager/Engineer, Ministry of Energy and Mines, 2080B Labieux Road, Nanaimo, British Columbia, V9T 6J9. The Chief Inspector does not have a mandate to consider the merits of the proposed mine from a zoning or land use planning perspective. Comments on land use issues should be directed to the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee.

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**TRAILERS form page 1**

move from the Port Washington store. Initially, neither CRD nor Islands Trust staff could not see a problem with locating a trailer on the site, which encouraged Williams to push forward and move the trailer on-site at once.

However, on looking over the site plan, planner Robert Kojima can across the DP area designation, alerting him to the fact that both trailers were illegally on the site. (Development Permits dating back to before 1985 were not required to be filed on title, so can not easily be searched, says Kojima)

Williams (who has since sold his business), acting for owner Ted Johnson applied for a Development Variance Permit. However, according to Trustee Wayne Wright, the application was subsequently dropped. Wright referred the matter to the Advisory Planning Commission. It was reviewed in August 2002. Williams was present at the meeting.

According to the APC minutes there was lengthy discussion of the matter at the end of which, 'it was moved by Leith Harper, seconded by Shirley Cowan, that the existing conditions in the February 25/80 Development Permit on the Johnston property should be enforced, including the square footage requirement, meaning that the two trailers should go. (voting: 5 in favour, 2 against).'

The bylaw enforcement division then went into action in relation to the Williams trailer. The slow-moving process culminated in a removal order for that trailer having been issued and then extended to the end of this February.

The other trailer now faces a similar process. Tenant Carol Couchman says she is 'dreadfully concerned' both for her business and for the potential loss of a community gathering spot. There may however be a silver lining; Trustee Wright says that he understands that a 'group of concerned citizens' are trying to get a new DVP application started which, indicated Wright, might be the beginning of a solution. (According to Pete Williams at the August APC meeting, owner Ted Johnson is prepared to put in the washrooms etc which will likely be required by CRD Health.)

Anyone interested in helping, please call Carol at 'That Little Coffee Place' 620-3080 or home 629-2032. ✂

**Another AGM ~ John Wiznuk**

Saturday, February 22, was a busy day for meetings on Pender and it included the thirty-first AGM of the Fire Protection Society. As for the last 30 meetings, Mildred Brackett was in attendance; she has been a part of things since four residents, one of them her late husband Lyall, started a fire service on North Pender.

President Dave Wightman made special mention of the Island's high-profile rescue of Mike Harcourt, taking time to point out that this was a product of years of training and planning. He thanked Captain Jason Dryer, Training Officer and emergency medical trainer, and Firefighter Ian Elliot, rope rescue trainer, for their efforts over the years that produced such good results.

Wightman also introduced a comparison between the newly re-organized Esquimalt Fire Department and the North Pender Fire Department, to illustrate the value that residents get for their money. Esquimalt has 25 full-time firefighters, 3 trucks and 1 fire station with a budget of \$2.6 million. North Pender has 27 firefighters, 5 trucks and 2 fire stations at a tenth of that cost thanks to volunteers.

The meeting proceeded through its business—Secretary Anna Knister read the minutes of the last AGM and business

**FIRE AGM, please turn to page 7**

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**Saturday, March 8**  
**Marc Atkinson Trio**—the crackling fire of gypsy jazz; cabaret seating, specialty cheeses and grapes at each table, refreshments available • 'Mahogany Room' Community Hall • 8pm • Limited seating, Tickets \$25 @ Talisman Books, That Little Coffee Place and Southridge Farms • Info, or table booking, call Rod 629-6111 or Chuck 629-6484 • ON PENDER ISLAND

**Thursday, March 13**  
**Lisa Lindo Trio**—jazz, gospel & pop—she's a vocalist featured on CBC Radio's The Vinyl Cafe with Stuart McLean; last concert of this year's series, sign up for next year at the show • School Gymnasium • 7:30pm • Tickets for non-subscribers at the door \$25 • ON PENDER ISLAND

**Fri, March 21 & Sun, March 23**  
**April Verch Band**—fiddle, guitar, bass and percussion—from French Canadian to Appalachian, from Bluegrass to Celtic, and Brazilian to Old Time - not to mention April's colorful compositions • SATURNA: Friday, Community Hall, 8pm, Door tickets: \$20 • MAYNE: Sunday, Ag Hall, 7:30pm, Door tickets: \$18 adults, \$2 students/children • ON SATURNA & MAYNE ISLANDS




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The increase in the amount of atmospheric carbon since the Industrial Revolution is exponential. The rôle of carbon as a greenhouse gas is well understood—too much and we cook; too little and we freeze.

Canada ranks among the top group of atmospheric polluters in the world. Canada has signed the Kyoto Accord. What are individuals being asked to do? The federal government has urged us to cut carbon emissions by one tonne per person per year to help meet our obligations.

Each Canadian is estimated to create five tonnes of atmospheric carbon annually. We are being asked to cut back by 20%. What does this challenge involve for a family?



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**Some of Ottawa's Suggestions**

- reduce motor vehicle use by 10%—savings half a tonne,
- when buying a new vehicle, buy one which is 25% more efficient—savings: one tonne (there—you've done it in one fell swoop!).
- lower thermostat at night, lower hot water heater temperature and always do a full dryer load—savings .4 tonne.
- insulate your home to make it less energy wasteful—savings two tonnes (you've more than done it!).

Doesn't it make sense to do this anyway?

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A south-easter is blowing rain, fog and drizzle through the fir trees, lots of bouncing branches and—wet! Not only am I happy for the precipitation replenishing Saturna's water supply but I am glad to escape the thigh-high snow of the east coast.

I've got radishes and salad-mix planted and the winter kale is still vigorous and delicious as well as the parsley.

The crocuses are shut tight today, the daffodils are spilling yellow and the weeds are off and running! Campbells have about 60 lambs on the farm and, touch wood, aside from a few mishaps, the moms and baby-bouncers are coming along just fine. I saw an ant in the house today—that's a sign of spring.

**Lyllal Harbour Trailer Fire**

Thursday night, about 10pm, we had a fire in the Valley, at Lyllal Harbour. A house trailer, home to Brian Carpentier, was on fire. Neighbour Ron Hawk, reported the blaze, and our volunteer fire fighters were quickly on the scene. Trailers burn hot and fast and this one was no exception. Brian is safe and unscathed, without a home and without his possessions. The fire was a scary experience for Brian especially, and for all the home owners in the vicinity. You forget the roar and the power of the flames, the smell and the heat, the sad black puddles. Everyone did their best, no one was hurt, and donations to assist Brian can be made at the upper store.

**Community Dinner**

The Womens Club fed the Community up good, Tuesday night at the Hall. Not only good food, but the door prizes were a host of blooming primulas to ten or so lucky individuals. The Womens Club sponsors these dinners to have the community get together, eat together and visit. A big thank you!

**Health Care**

As of the beginning of March, there is an expectation of regular Tuesday clinics. Dr Don Williams from Pender will be the attending physician for all the March clinics. Appointments may be made by calling Geri, 539-5423 or Bev, 539-5553.

Donna Curwen will be our island nurse. She will be doing home visits, clinic hours for

required care & taking blood. There will be on call via an answering machine with assured response within an acceptable time period.

Information about Saturna's health services can be found @ [www.saturnacan.net](http://www.saturnacan.net), follow the links to the health committee page.

**GSX**

Dedicated members of Saturna Community and many other hard working Gulf Islanders will go to the National Energy Board Hearing, beginning February 24, in Sidney. The enormity of our volunteers' commendable task is in reading and evaluating the huge amount of literature, seeing loopholes and presenting findings which comply with the format of the NEB Hearing. I am also impressed by the NEB Panel's diligence.

**Whale Song**

We will probably have a hydrophone in place by late spring. David Baines, who came to Saturna for the Marine Mammal Regulation Consultation, was taken on a walk-about to find a good location for the necessary structures for installing the underwater listening device. The hydrophone will allow locals to track whales at night, to note different species—Orca, Minke, Beaked, etc and porpoises, and to get information on Orca transients and locals. This will require a joint effort to get the funding in place to support this exciting project.

**Peace Demos**

I was thrilled by the huge world-wide response in support of peaceful negotiation instead of war. Yes! Hurray for us in all of our walks of life, our different lifestyles and nationalities, politics and age, we walked step-after-step to present the most basic of messages—'not war.'

**SAM NELSON**

Winter Cove's Sam Nelson passed away Wednesday, February 19. To know Sam was a privilege. He was full of enthusiasm: ideas, projects, opinions. He was great to talk to, his wide-ranging mind, his dry humour, his stories, observations, passions, and novel ways of thinking made for lively discussions. Sam loved Saturna from the time he first set eyes on the Island in the '40s. /

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**2003/2004 FINANCIAL PLAN**

The Islands Trust invites input from the public on its annual budget and financial plan. Details of the proposed budget can be obtained directly from the following Islands Trust offices:

1206-115 Fulford-Ganges Road	590 North Road	200-1627 Fort Street
Salt Spring Island	Gabriola Island	Victoria, BC
Phone: 250-537-9144	Phone: 250-247-2063	Phone: 250-405-5151

This information is also available on the Island Trust's website at [www.islandstrust.ca](http://www.islandstrust.ca).

Submission from the public regarding the financial plan must be delivered by Wednesday, March 5, to the attention of the Treasurer at #200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8R 1H8; by Fax: 250-405-5155 or by email at the above noted address.

**FIRE AGM form page 6**

arising was dealt with. Mr. Wightman gave the president's report touching on Fire Hall #1, the initial response vehicle and negotiations with the South Pender Fire Protection Society. Retiring Treasurer, Dick Watson gave his report illustrating that the society is now on a firm financial footing and his financial statements were approved. Steve Windsor gave the Fire Chief's report indicating that call volume was up slightly but the percentage of medical to fire calls remains the same.

In new business two new directors, Tony Johnston and Edward Lye, were voted in; two

previous directors, Dave Wightman and Anna Knister; were re-instated and two, Dick Watson and Don Williams, resigned with the thanks of the society for their service. Vice-president, Steve Madsen chaired the elections; he asked for acclamation for the elections and that was accepted. A motion from the floor directed the board members to proceed with negotiations for operational integration of North and South Pender Fire Department; this was passed. South Pender FPS directors Cy Putt and Peter Kapelle were present and thanked the meeting for this motion and the support given so far. Adjournment was then called. /

# The Islands' Bulletin Board

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MEETINGS

School District #64 (Gulf Islands). A regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees will be held at Gulf Islands Secondary School on Wednesday, March 12 12th commencing at 1 p.m. Public Welcome!

MARINE

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March 28, 2003

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To apply or to find out more about this program, please contact your nearest Human Resources Development Canada office or call 1 800 935-5555.

Internet: [www.hrhc-drhc.gc.ca](http://www.hrhc-drhc.gc.ca)

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## Remembering Ruby Alton

Acherished place on Salt Spring Island has a new name. The Islands Trust Fund has selected the Ruby Alton Nature Reserve as the name for a much loved island property.

Ruby Alton was born on Salt Spring Island in 1931. She was one of the daughters of the Lacy family, who settled on Isabella Point at the start of the Depression. She died in 1998, leaving a valuable legacy to her island community. In her will, Ruby bequeathed her beautiful 1.62 hectare (4 acre) Salt Spring Island waterfront property to the Islands Trust Fund.

Ruby's desire was to have the land preserved for its ecological and scenic features and to have the residence managed for non-profit purposes. To support her land donation she established an endowment fund to assist with the long-term management of the house and property.

'By naming the Ruby Alton Nature Reserve we hope to keep Ruby Alton's vision and pioneering spirit alive, and recognize her generous gift to the community,' explains Kathy Dunster, member of the Islands Trust Fund Board. 'This is the first property that the Islands Trust Fund has received as a bequest. Donating land is a wonderful way to create a legacy. We hope that other islanders will follow Ruby's lead and consider leaving a natural legacy of their Gulf Islands lands.'

The Islands Trust Fund did not have legal access to Ruby's property until the property was transferred one year ago, on February 15, 2002. Upon receiving the property, the Islands Trust Fund hired a Salt Spring Island consultant and the Salt Spring Island Conservancy to prepare a management plan for

the property. They consulted with the Salt Spring Island community and friends of Ruby Alton to determine the community's vision for the property. The management plan was then completed and approved by the Islands Trust Fund in December 2002. The Salt Spring Island Conservancy's 'Alton Committee' invested over 250 volunteer hours into the development of the management plan, and the organization is currently acting as Interim Management Group.

The management plan outlines immediate management needs as well as longer-term projects. The Islands Trust Fund recently contracted Marc Johnson, of Salt Spring Island, as the General Contractor to address pressing repairs and maintenance. He is organizing and implementing maintenance work, largely on the 1930's house, to allow the house and grounds to be used. There are important foundation stability, drainage, heating system, water, plumbing, rodent control, and electrical issues, as well as some on-site safety issues, that must be addressed quickly. The estimated cost for these immediate repairs exceeds \$30,000.

The Islands Trust Fund has dedicated \$8,000 from its current operations budget, and \$1,032 from donations from individual donors, to immediate maintenance needs. The endowment left by Mrs. Alton has not produced sufficient interest to pay for these urgent costs. The Islands Trust Fund is currently exploring options with regard to the endowment fund to ensure that immediate needs can be addressed while honouring Ruby's vision for the property.

Ruby Alton's love of nature and her community inspired her to give a gift that will benefit Salt Spring Islanders for generations to come.

The Islands Trust Fund is accepting tax-deductible donations towards the immediate and long-term maintenance needs of the Ruby Alton Nature Reserve. Donors can donate to immediate needs or can choose to help build the endowment fund. The endowment fund will produce interest that can be used to preserve, maintain, and enhance the Ruby Alton Nature Reserve in the future.

Donations can be sent to the Islands Trust Fund, 200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8R 1H8.

The Islands Trust Fund, which helps preserve land on the Gulf Islands, currently holds and protects 364 hectares (900 acres) of land in the Trust Area.

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## SAR close to folding

The fourteenth Annual General Meeting of Pender Island Search and Rescue (SAR) was very nearly its last meeting. Pender SAR is a group of highly-trained volunteers accredited by provincial authorities to operate as an Initial Response Team for missing person searches. The team was activated for two searches last year, on Pender, and on Galiano Islands.

So, why are we in danger of losing such a useful resource? Especially when the Gulf Islands National Park is about to create the potential for more searches. In brief, the small group that started and maintained this service has become worn out. Stringent provincial

training requirements—the basic course takes 80 hours to complete—constant scrounging for money for supplies and training and the load of administrative work that provincial SAR authorities put on unit chiefs all take their toll.

At the meeting, Pat Haugh said that the Emergency Co-ordinator's budget for 2003 contains \$1000 earmarked for Pender SAR that will help. But what is really wanted is an investment of time and energy from people who are not volunteered-out. Those at the meeting resolved to carry on for one more year, with Ian Elliot as Unit Chief, to see what can be made to happen. /

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