

Hello! Hope you caught the previous edition in the short time frame it was up. Enjoy this one!
 If you are looking for a copy of the Feb 13th 'Peace Pages', please email us at: islandtides@gulfislands.com
 Please pass our URL on to your email lists—its the best way to get to all the folks
 who would like to read all the good stuff our writers are putting out—Cheers, Christa G-W

Gulf Islands Island Tides

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

Volume 15 Number 5

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March 13—26, 2003

'What's On?'

Vancouver Island &
 The Gulf Islands, Page 5

Canadian Publications Mail Product
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Photo: Ken Smith

Molly Coulson, centre, inspects a 'Molly' at a party to celebrate being awarded BC's 'Humanitarian of the Year Award' by Lieutenant-Governor, the Honourable Iona Campagnolo on Galiano, March 8. The knitted dolls are a facet of her aid work for African children (see story page 4).

Salish Sea maps on display at GSX Hearings

Thirty of the pictorial maps created by seventeen Gulf Islands' communities will be displayed at the Myfanwy Pavelic Gallery of the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney from March 11–21.

The spell-binding exhibit will provide a cogent backdrop to the National Energy Board's Hearings into the Georgia Strait Crossing gas pipeline proposal, currently underway at the centre. The hearings are the final round of public review of the impacts of the proposed pipeline from Washington State to Vancouver Island. The pipeline would run along the ocean floor of the Strait of Georgia, past the shores of several of the Gulf Islands (see related article, this page).

The 'Islands in the Salish Sea' maps were created through a two-year-long community inventory and bioregional mapping project. They portray differing aspects of the natural, economic and cultural features of the Gulf Islands—considered one of the most threatened ecosystems in Canada. Community groups on each island sponsored the project, and the final maps are statements about the values held by local communities, which should be respected in land use and development decisions.

One of the maps in the collection is an Energy and Transportation Map for the region as a whole. This map is bristling with facts and figures about energy use in this region, including Lasqueti Island, an island of 250 people who do not use grid electricity at all.

The show was not scheduled for Sidney, but project coordinators are delighted to show the maps at a time and place that reflects their purpose—informing community planning decisions.

The exhibition will be showing 9am–5pm and open most evenings. For more information, contact Sheila Harrington, 250-538-0112. /

The real GSX questions ~ Patrick Brown

For the past couple of weeks, the National Energy Board and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency have been conducting joint oral hearings in Sidney about the justification and environmental impact of the Georgia Strait Crossing (GSX) gas pipeline, proposed by a company owned by BC Hydro and the US company Williams Pipelines. These hearings may go on for some time.

Because this pipeline is international (from Cherry Point in the State of Washington to Vancouver Island), both these federal government bodies have jurisdiction and can rule on whether it should be built. There is a lot of opposition, mainly represented by environmental groups and the GSX Concerned Citizens Coalition (GSXCCC). What are they arguing about?

How It All Started

Sometime in the mid 1990s, BC Hydro started planning for the future electricity supply for Vancouver Island. For Hydro, this is a continuous process, but several looming factors made this planning cycle different from the routine. First and most obvious was the increasing cost of maintaining the power conversion equipment at either end of the High Voltage Direct current (HVDC) line that runs from the mainland to the Island, leapfrogging across Galiano and Salt Spring Islands and the Sansum Narrows. It had been in service over forty years, spare parts were becoming harder to get, and the people who

knew how to repair it were reaching retirement age.

Hydro's linear projections of Vancouver Island power demand showed steady growth well into the 21st Century, assuming no unforeseen changes. But hydro-electric power generation, the mainstay of BC's electricity supply since the sixties (the WAC Bennett era), was reaching a balance with the province's consumption. And a handsome profit could be made by selling this cheap-to-generate power to US markets.

The nineties were, of course, a time of big ideas on the part of the NDP provincial government, even if sometimes they weren't very well worked out. So, faced with embarrassing costs to refurbish the HVDC line, and noting cheap natural gas costs, Hydro conceived the idea of generating new power on the Island from gas piped from the mainland. Hence the GSX proposal, (and the accompanying VIGP - the Vancouver Island Generation Project). As a partner, Williams was experienced in pipeline building, had lots of money, and could handle the US regulatory requirements. All very neat; a classic case of killing several birds with one stone.

Regulatory Hurdles

The pipeline, being international, had to be approved by the appropriate authorities on both sides of the international border. At Cherry Point, it connected conveniently to

GSX, please turn to page 3

Hasty passage for Accenture contract; court challenge awaits

While British Columbians were focused on entertaining the International Olympic Committee review team, legislation authorizing BC Hydro to sign a ten-year contract with multinational consulting firm Accenture for the provision of 'customer relations' services was spirited through the Legislature. Bill 10 specifically exempts the contract from any form of public disclosure or review by the BC Utilities Commission.

As if to demonstrate the speed and efficiency of the new administrative regime, BC Hydro announced within hours after the Bill received royal assent that the Accenture contract had been signed.

The Bill also contains a clause that would appear to be aimed at preventing any legal action challenging the legislation or the contract. But Citizens for Public Power, headed by Jim Fulton, Executive Director of the Suzuki Foundation, has already signed up 52,000 British Columbians to participate in a class action lawsuit opposing the Accenture contract.

'This legislation is expressly designed to take away the legal rights of British Columbians to fight the privatization of BC Hydro in the courts,' said Murray Dobbin, spokesperson for the Citizens for Public Power. 'We are announcing today that more than 52,000 British Columbians have signed letters of intent asking the BC Supreme Court to declare a class action lawsuit and we do not intend to let the BC Liberal government take away that fundamental democratic right.'

ACCENTURE, please turn to page 7

'BROOM DOOM 2003' the second year of a broom control program is underway. Start early while the pulling is easy to stop this invasive plant which is crowding out native species. The Pender Islands Lions Club & Pender Islands Parks Commission are asking everyone to help root out the yellow roadside plant. Organize a group, join your neighbours, adopt a street and clean-up litter, too.
 Call Gerry Woods (Lions Club) 629- 6726 or Graham Boffey (Parks Commission) 629-3099.

Pharmacare: apply now, they'll explain later

Patrick Brown

BC's provincial government, faced with a steady increase in drug costs, has redesigned the province's PharmaCare scheme to shift a greater proportion of costs over the long term to patients. Under the banner of 'Fair PharmaCare' it has changed the charge to patients from a fixed amount per prescription to a percentage, set new deductibles and ceilings for the provincial contribution per family, reduced preferential rates for seniors, and set up a scheme to eventually eliminate all seniors' preferences.

On the other hand, it has continued the emphasis on assistance to low-income families, seniors or not. The only group who will see a significant increase in drug costs will be middle and high income seniors.

The new scheme is specifically designed to avoid serious negative impact on other families who benefit from the present PharmaCare plan. It also continues 'ceilings' to protect families from 'catastrophic' annual drug bills.

Across Canada, drug costs are a rapidly increasing percentage of the total health care bill. This results from increasing pharmaceutical prices, a shift in treatment methods from hospital care to drug therapy, and increasing numbers of seniors, whose average annual drug bills are typically two to three times those of non-seniors. The new PharmaCare plan aims to reduce the government's exposure to these three driving factors.

The result of this is a plan which is so cunningly designed that the Minister of Health Services has declined to try to explain it. Rushing in where the *Vancouver Sun* fears to tread, I will try.

Apply Now or Expect Chaos Later

PharmaCare's contribution to patients' drug costs is dependent on net income, as defined on your income tax form. The total of tax year 2001 net incomes for you and your spouse must be reported on your family's application, and all applicants must consent to the government's checking these figures with the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (formerly Revenue Canada).

This means that all resident families in BC must apply by May 1st, when the new plan is scheduled to take effect. This can be done by telephone (1-800-387-4977), or on line at www.gov.bc.ca. Some 440,000 families in BC already receive PharmaCare assistance because they receive assistance with their BC Medical Services Plan premiums; according to the government, they should not need to apply and will receive a confirmation of their eligibility in the mail.

The other one and a half million families will need to register during March and April. Clearly, the sooner you do this, the better. There would appear to be significant potential for problems with the system later on. To sign-on you must be registered for the BC Medical Services Plan. You will need: • CareCard numbers for each member of your family, • 2001 net income figures for you and your spouse, • SIN numbers for you and your spouse, • Birthdates for each member of your family.

Benefits Depend on Family Income

The benefits work like this: You pay all prescription costs up to a 'deductible' figure for your family that depends on the family's net income. From then on, you pay a percentage (30%) of prescription costs until your costs reach a 'maximum' figure that, again, depends on your family's net income. After that point, PharmaCare pays 100% all further prescription costs.

For families with a net income under \$15,000, the deductible is zero, which means that PharmaCare will start paying 70% of your prescription costs from the very first prescription each year. The maximum is 2% of your family's net income. So if your income is \$15,000, you will pay 30% of prescription costs until you reach \$300 (2% of \$15,000), which will cover \$1,000 of prescription costs. After that, PharmaCare

pays everything over \$1,000 during the year.

If your family income is between \$15,000 and \$30,000, the deductible is 2%, and the maximum is 3%. This means, at \$30,000, you pay the first \$600, then PharmaCare starts to contribute, and you pay 30% of prescription costs until you have paid a total of \$900, and then PharmaCare pays 100% from then on. If your family income is over \$30,000, then the deductible is 3% and the maximum is 4%.

Seniors Have a Better Deal, But Not as Good as They Had

At present, seniors pay \$25 per prescription to an annual maximum of \$275, unless they are getting MSP premium assistance, in which case they pay \$10 per prescription to an annual maximum of \$200.

The new seniors' scheme is structured in the same way as the non-seniors' scheme described in the previous paragraph, except that PharmaCare pays 75% of prescription costs above the deductible and the deductibles and maximums are different. For senior families with incomes under \$33,000 (which is most of them) the deductible is zero and the maximum is 1.25%. For senior families with incomes from \$33,000 to \$50,000, the deductible is 1% and the maximum is 2%, and if your senior family income is over \$50,000, the deductible is 2% and the maximum is 3%.

But You Can't Become a Senior

But don't look forward to becoming a senior and having PharmaCare look after more of your drug costs. The new scheme defines a senior as someone who was born before 1940. This may look as if some near-seniors are getting an early start on seniority, but the catch is that this definition remains fixed; if you reach 65 in 2005, which means you were born in 1940, you still don't ever get to be a senior as far as PharmaCare is concerned.

This takes the concept of grandfathering to new heights: grandfathering grandfathers! Eventually, of course, this will eliminate the seniors' special rates, depending on our life expectancy (which, in turn, may depend, ironically, on what prescriptions we are taking). In the meantime, future over-65s will pay more towards their drug costs; present seniors won't.

No, We Can't Work It All Out for You

Obviously, how this affects you will depend not only on your income and what your annual drug costs are, but on how expensive your individual prescriptions are and how often you have to go to the pharmacist. Incidentally, don't worry about your pharmacist knowing what your income is; the Pharmanet computer program will tell him how much you have to pay for a prescription. Looking at the calculations above, there's no way he could figure out either your income or what you should be paying.

If you were paying \$10 or \$25 per prescription, of course, and you will now be paying 25%, each prescription may now cost you more or less depending on its total cost. The intention is to provide an incentive for you to request cheaper drugs, but it also serves to insulate the provincial government from part of the increase in drug costs.

'Transitional Clauses'

Or how do you get from here to there? The scheme is supposed to start on May 1st. If you are already getting assistance under PharmaCare, the present scheme will continue till then, and what you pay will be counted towards your deductible. No refunds, though.

If you receive assistance with drug costs because you are on income assistance; or are a long term care home resident; or a mental health client; or under the MCFD 'At Home' program; or a palliative day care program, a Cystic Fibrosis Clinic, the Cancer Agency, the Center for HIV/AIDS, the Renal Agency, or a Transplant Society; this will not change.

One Last Complication

MSP Premium Assistance currently depends on your 2001 Net Income; rates change in July 2003, and will then depend on your 2002 Net Income. The PharmaCare scheme starts in May 2003, and depends on the previous year's Net Income (2001). If this appears to treat you unfairly (for instance if you just suffered a big drop in income) you can appeal. Just phone the same number as everyone else is phoning. /

Island Tides

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| Day | Time | Ht./ft. | Ht./m. | Day | Time | Ht./ft. | Ht./m. |
|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|--------|
| 11 | 0130 | 9.5 | 2.9 | 19 | 0545 | 10.8 | 3.3 |
| | TU 0445 | 9.2 | 2.8 | | WE 1145 | 4.9 | 1.5 |
| | MA 0755 | 9.5 | 2.9 | | ME 1750 | 9.5 | 2.9 |
| | WE 1705 | 3.3 | 1.0 | | ME 2335 | 4.6 | 1.4 |
| 12 | 0230 | 10.2 | 3.1 | 20 | 0610 | 10.8 | 3.3 |
| | WE 1800 | 3.0 | 0.9 | | TH 1230 | 3.6 | 1.1 |
| 13 | 0310 | 10.5 | 3.2 | | JE 1905 | 9.5 | 2.9 |
| | TH 1900 | 2.6 | 0.8 | 21 | 0020 | 5.9 | 1.8 |
| | 14 | 0354 | 10.5 | | 3.2 | FR 0630 | 10.8 |
| FR 0940 | | 8.9 | 2.7 | | SA 1315 | 2.6 | 0.8 |
| FR 1135 | 9.2 | 2.8 | VE 2020 | 9.5 | 2.9 | | |
| VE 1955 | 2.3 | 0.7 | 22 | 0110 | 7.2 | 2.2 | |
| 15 | 0415 | 10.5 | | 3.2 | SA 0655 | 10.8 | 3.3 |
| | 0945 | 8.5 | | 2.6 | SA 1405 | 2.0 | 0.6 |
| | SA 1305 | 9.2 | 2.8 | SA 2124 | 9.8 | 3.0 | |
| SA 2045 | 2.3 | 0.7 | 23 | 0205 | 8.2 | 2.5 | |
| 16 | 0440 | 10.5 | | 3.2 | 0725 | 10.5 | 3.2 |
| | 1000 | 7.9 | | 2.4 | SU 1500 | 2.0 | 0.6 |
| | TU 1420 | 9.5 | 2.9 | DI 2315 | 10.2 | 3.1 | |
| SU 2130 | 2.3 | 0.7 | 24 | 0330 | 9.2 | 2.8 | |
| 17 | 0505 | 10.5 | | 3.2 | MO 0755 | 10.2 | 3.1 |
| | 1030 | 7.2 | | 2.2 | MO 1555 | 2.0 | 0.6 |
| | MO 1535 | 9.5 | 2.9 | 25 | 0040 | 10.5 | 3.2 |
| LU 2215 | 2.6 | 0.8 | TU 0545 | | 9.2 | 2.8 | |
| 18 | 0525 | 10.8 | 3.3 | | TU 0825 | 9.5 | 2.9 |
| | 1105 | 6.2 | 1.9 | MA 1700 | 2.3 | 0.7 | |
| | TU 1640 | 9.5 | 2.9 | 26 | 0145 | 10.8 | 3.3 |
| MA 2255 | 3.3 | 1.0 | 0800 | | 8.9 | 2.7 | |
| | | | WE 0925 | | 8.9 | 2.7 | |
| | | | ME 1805 | 2.6 | 0.8 | | |

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Spotted owl in court again

Sierra Legal Defence Fund lawyers will be arguing before the BC Court of Appeal on March 11 and 12, in a hearing that will determine whether logging is permitted in the habitat of the gravely endangered spotted owl. On behalf of Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC), Sierra Legal lawyer Devon Page will be appealing the recent BC Supreme Court decision which would have permitted logging in Spotted Owl habitat. The main ground of appeal focuses on whether BC's Forest Practices Code will protect the owl from the risk of extinction caused by logging its old growth habitat.

It is estimated that there are presently fewer than 25 pairs of spotted owls in all of Canada and recent provincial government analysis shows that those numbers are dropping much faster than previously thought. /

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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GSX-Pipeline Hearings, continued from page 1

pipelines feeding the refinery there and also to a major supply hub for US gas. For the US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), a concession was also made to supply gas to San Juan Island on the way. Once it crossed the border in the middle of the Strait of Georgia, it had to justify itself economically to the NEB, and environmentally to the CEAA.

Was there enough gas? Yes. Who would use the gas? Powerex, the electricity trading arm of BC Hydro, would use all of it. What for? To generate electricity on Vancouver Island through the VIGP. Where would generating plants be built, and when? None of your business, said Hydro. All we want you to look at is the pipeline.

Have you checked with First Nations? Not yet, said Hydro. Well, said the NEB/CEAA panel, you'd better negotiate with them before you come back to us. The implication was that, without an agreement with the affected First Nations (and there are several), there was no point in holding hearings.

Complications

I don't think that Hydro had thought that they would have to deal with the First Nations. It was an unanticipated complication. They set out to negotiate something (which, in the vague state of relations between the government and native bands in BC, meant they had to cut a deal that would satisfy the bands). This led to a substantial delay in the hearings. During this delay, a few other changes occurred.

First of all, the defeat of the NDP government meant that BC Hydro came under pressure to involve the private sector in any new capital projects. Hydro had a 'partnership' with Williams (the exact financing of this deal has never been made public) and another 'joint venture' with another US energy company, Calpine, to build one or more gas-fired generating plants. These were apparently acceptable, but both companies suffered financial meltdown in the wake of disenchantment with energy privatization in California and the collapse of Enron. Calpine backed out.

Also linked to this was a collapse of the western US electricity market; Hydro (as Powerex) had made out like bandits under the umbrella of Enron's manipulations, but now faced lawsuits in the US as the State of California sought the return of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Then Port Alberni, the proposed site of the first of Hydro's gas generation plants, opposed its construction. A strong community movement cited anticipated air pollution as a major reason. Hydro tried again, meeting similar resistance from North Cowichan, and eventually settling on a site at Duke Point, south of Nanaimo. But by then everyone was aware that gas generation plants, though cleaner than coal, produced both pollution and greenhouse gases in quantity. And this was about the time that Canada signed the Kyoto Accord.

The provincial government opposed the proposed US Sumas II gas-fired power generation plant (on the basis that it would damage the air quality of the Fraser Valley), but apparently was not concerned with a Duke Point plant damaging air quality on the east coast of Vancouver Island.

Meanwhile, at Campbell River, a cogeneration plant at the Norske mill had struggled into operation. It depended on natural gas from the existing Centra Gas pipeline, but before it could operate in winter would need additional gas from the GSX pipeline.

Mounting Public Suspicion

The new provincial government also produced a draft energy policy which proposed, among other things, that the price of electricity to the BC consumer would gradually rise to North American market prices, thus covering the increased cost of electricity generated from natural gas by 'Independent Power Producers.' This happened at a time of mounting public suspicion that the provincial government intended to sell the 'core assets' of BC Hydro to the private sector, despite the government's loud protestations to the contrary. But the government had already made a deal with the multinational consulting firm Accenture to sell the 'back office' operations of Hydro.

BC Hydro started to threaten that 'brownouts' would occur on Vancouver Island if the GSX and the Duke Point plant are not built. At one point last winter, both of the powerlines to the Island via Texada Island were down—no brownouts occurred.

And many of the assumptions underlying the GSX/VIGP strategy changed. Hydro's estimated costs started to rise—the pipeline would now be \$322 million, the generating plant \$370 million. The total estimated cost of GSX, Campbell River, and Duke Point is now coming close to \$1 billion. And a third power plant hovers in the shadows.

Meanwhile, Alberta's power privatization scheme resulted in such high 'market' prices in its first winter that the Alberta government had to make grants to all power users. Ontario abandoned its privatization scheme, in confusion. And Vancouver Island's power demand was reduced because of sawmill closures.

Norske Skog suggested they could generate much of their own power, which would reduce the Island's demand substantially. Hydro relaunched the PowerSmart program on the Island, and projected substantial electricity savings from residential, commercial, and industrial users. BC Hydro also started to publicize efforts to generate run-of-river hydro and wind power on the Island. All this suggests that Hydro, in fact, now has a 'Plan B.'

The public is now justified in wondering whether the entire justification for the GSX and the gas-fired generation plants is no longer valid, and is asking the NEB/CEAA Review Panel to look more closely. It also wants to know what alternatives are now being considered, and particularly what it would cost to refurbish the HVDC power line across Galiano and Salt Spring Islands. During the recent days at the Hearing, BC Hydro has been unable to provide credible information on this most important alternative.

On top of that, the 'market' price of natural gas has risen to over twice what the economics of the project had assumed. This is attributed not only to heavy seasonal demand, but also to fears that the future supply of natural gas is limited.

Things have changed. A lot of things.

A Dilemma for the Panel

The Panel, which started out looking at the economics and environmental impact of a gas pipeline, has been under pressure from BC Hydro to limit its investigations to the pipeline itself. And the provincial government (backed, interestingly, by the Government of Alberta), doesn't want the Panel to 'trespass' on policies and questions which it feels are none of the federal government's business.

But the Panel is also under pressure from the public, represented by the GSXCCC and other 'Intervenors,' to examine the validity of the assumptions, policy, and projections which underlie the entire Vancouver Island gas-powered electricity generation scheme. And so, at the hearings in Sidney, the questioning by Intervenors will cover a wide range: not only the pipeline itself, but also the entire Hydro strategy for Vancouver Island.

Such an in-depth enquiry will cause a real dilemma for the Panel. But the situation is very different from the opportunistic mid-nineties. BC Hydro, displaying the inertia typical of a large public utility, has stuck to its pursuit of an outdated scheme. The provincial government is pursuing an energy policy which fails to recognize that British Columbians are used to cheap electricity, and are willing to conserve it and generate it by innovative means rather than sacrifice it to participate in an unruly and unpredictable North American market. And British Columbians are also becoming increasingly concerned with environmental damage, from pollution and greenhouse gases to the safety of the Strait's whales.

The Panel, itself, would no doubt prefer to limit its deliberations to the pipeline itself. But it must recognize that its hearings are the only forum available to the public to raise broader questions. If it takes too narrow a view, fails to recognize the role of government policies, fails to consider future developments, and fails to review a variety of alternatives, it will do permanent damage, not only to Vancouver Island, but also to the credibility of the review process itself.

All British Columbians will expect courage, foresight, and wisdom from the Panel. They should accept no less. /

Thomas Michael Fitzgerald

18/08/1925–01/01/2003

Tom was born in Ballinacree, County Galway, Ireland, the youngest of 11 children of John (a policeman) and Mary Ann (née Gallagher). His father died when he was very young so he worked the family farm to support his mother and sister, Pauline, his older brothers having left home.



He left Ireland during the second World War to become a radio operator in England, and after the war, he emigrated to Canada. Tom became a Redemptorist Brother, serving for many years as a Bursar and Porter at St. Ann's Monastery in Montreal. Feeling called to serve God in the wider world, Tom left the Redemptorists in about 1970 and worked as a volunteer on missions in New Guinea, Australia, and Northern BC (the Frontier Apostolate). While in Australia he met his wife Patricia, who was also doing volunteer work at a retreat called Montserrat near Melbourne.

They returned to Canada in 1975. While living in the Kootenays, the couple fostered (and later adopted) Wayne, a very fragile native baby who needed a milder climate. Therefore the family moved to the coast and settled on Mayne Island in 1979. Since there was no Catholic Chapel on the Island, the couple was encouraged by Redemptorist priest Father Joe Boyle to ask the diocese to send a priest. Tom and friends built the Chapel of St Francis of Assisi on the Fitzgerald's land on Mariners Way. Tom has assisted the Bishop and different clergy with the care of those Catholics living on Mayne Island or coming as visitors.

Tom also served the Island and supported his family by working as a house painter, caretaker of the Health Centre and Dinner Bay Park. He was for many years the dedicated maintenance person for the Village Bay Improvement District.

After a short illness caused by aggressive lymphoma in his brain and back, Tom passed away at the Victoria Hospice on January 1st, 2003. Patricia and Wayne sincerely thank Dr. Juliana Losier; Caroline Bender; Jane Harvey; the Mayne Island Home Care workers; all the doctors, nurses, and volunteers at the Cancer Clinic and Victoria Hospice; all who visited Tom in hospital and in hospice; those friends who relieved Patricia for a few hours or overnight when Tom was very ill; the Hospital Chaplain, Fr Ron Rissling, and volunteers from St Patrick's who ministered to Tom by bringing him regular Holy Communion; those who attended the Celebrations of his life held at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Victoria, and at the St Francis Chapel on Mayne Island.

Special thanks to Father Jules Goulet, OMI; Father D.D. MacDonald, OMI; Denis Marcotte; Gerry Taylor; First Memorial Funeral Services; all the pallbearers and participants in the January 6th service in Victoria; Wanda Pietrzak for catering the Chapel Family Memorial Service and to Ben Bergman for putting the services on the internet so Tom and Patricia's families in Ireland and Australia could receive them.

Patricia also wishes to thank the Victoria Human Exchange Society Board members and persons in the houses sponsored by the society for taking over her volunteer duties and being so genuinely compassionate and supportive during the last three months. On Mayne, special thanks to Audrey Stout and family and to Dawne Cressman, Patricia's liaison with the SSI Branch of VHES.

Thanks also go to those who sent donations to the VHES, Victoria Hospice and other charities, in Tom's memory. A carving, created by Wayne Thomas, the Fitzgerald's adopted son, has been donated to the hospice in memory of Tom, who made himself well-loved during his short stay.

Tom's ashes will finally be interred in the churchyard of St. Mary Magdalene, on Mayne Island. All are invited to attend the burial mass/ memorial service at that time (date to be announced).

'Well, everything went off well—they all did their best'—Tom

Happy 80th Birthday on March 19th, Gordon Campbell of Sidney—from Island Tides

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Molly Coulson makes a difference ~ Jean



MOLLY DOLLIES

Molly Coulson is living proof that one person can make a difference. On March 8, Lieutenant-Governor Iona Campagnola visited Galiano to present Molly with 'The Humanitarian of the Year Award' (see picture). Molly was nominated by International Children's Relief of Starvation and Suffering (ICROSS) for her work in helping obtain much needed medications, clothes, school supplies and toys for children in Africa. The ceremony took place at the Lions' Hall on Burrill Road.

Five years ago, ICROSS placed an ad in the *Times Colonist* announcing that they were opening a branch in Saanichton. Molly phoned and offered her support. That started her watching for drug store sales, scavenging around thrift shops and approaching friends for unused medications, blankets, school supplies and children's clothes. (Her dentist instructs his staff to hide all pens and pencils when Molly has an appointment.)

Then she happened to see a little knitted black doll that was being included in a shipment. She obtained the pattern and added wool and knitting needles to her list of collectibles.

A visit to some villages in Africa, enraged her. Some people cry but Molly got mad, 'we waste so much and they need so little to make life possible.' Her efforts increased, she talked to anyone who would listen and trips to stores doubled.

It starts so innocently, walking your dog, having tea, and Molly asks 'How would you like to knit a couple of dolls for children in Africa?' 'Err yes, I suppose so.' Next day Molly is at your home with large bags containing wool, needles and stuffing. 'Here's the pattern, let me know when you need more wool.' Her very best friend Lynn, who hates knitting, proved



MOLLY COULSON & IONA CAMPAGNOLA

her friendship, after much cajoling, by learning how.

Some can do the knitting but not the sewing, stuffing or finishing of eyes, etcetera and when Molly got sick of sewing eyes and mouths she came up with the idea of 'finishing groups.' Last July, after having broken my right wrist, I got a call, 'We're meeting at my place Monday, 6:30, to finish off a few dolls.' 'But Molly,' I protest, 'my arm's in a cast!' She responds 'You can stuff can't you? See you then.'

Julie, who doesn't follow orders very well, produced her finished dolls. They were wearing skirts and necklaces! Well, all those with imagination started adding braids, fancy sweaters. I, of course, with no imagination, followed orders.

As doll collections grew, transportation to Africa became a problem. Molly put a shipping container at the top of her Christmas list and Santa heard. To date, Molly's army of knitters have sent hundred of dolls to hospitals, as well as other necessary supplies. Parts of Africa have been swamped with 'Molly Dollies!' One can only contemplate the perplexity on the faces of future archaeologists as they dig up these funny little brown things! Are they some sort of religious icon? Good luck charm? We hope so.

We still keep on knitting, having our 'finishing' get-togethers, and Molly still borrows a dog so that she can trap people on their walks and get them involved. If anyone on the Southern Gulf Islands would care to participate, Molly would love to hear from you. She will give talks, lists of what is needed, or even teach you to knit. Her number is 250-539-2601. ✓

Island Tides
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Every Second Thursday

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ISLAND TIDES PUBLISHING Ltd

Box 55, Pender Island B.C. V0N 2M0
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Telephone: 250-629-3660

Fax: 250-629-3838

Deadline: Wed. between publications Email: islandtides@gulfislands.com

Off-Islands Canadian Subscriptions \$37.45

Voluntary On-Islands Subscriptions \$16.05

www.islandtides.com

Readers' Letters

'Strategic Blunder' Revisited

Dear Editor:

What is striking in Patrick Brown's article, *Island Tides* February 13, is not the 'symmetry' between George W. Bush and Saddam Hussein, but the misconception of that symmetry. Though the Bush administration has used the threat of terrorism to undermine civil liberties, it is still a long way from destroying the US Constitution and transforming the Presidency into fascist-like dictatorship similar to Iraq's. Mr Bush has not yet 'tasted the heady power of absolute rule', and it is an open question whether he ever will.

Brown makes a good case for Saddam Hussein being too dangerous for the UN and the US to ignore. However, he makes an equally strong—if not as good a case—that war is so risky, uncertain in both justifications and outcomes, and destructive that it is unthinkable as an option.

Brown goes further than Jimmy Carter. Perhaps I am misunderstanding his article, but the message I get from it is that war is never necessary because, 'it is always an evil, never a good'. Taking war off the table as a credible option takes the pressure off Saddam to cooperate with the UN in finding non-violent means of insuring that he will not pose any danger to the Middle East Region in the future.

If the UN does what Brown wants, ie. passes a, 'resolution to oppose the use of such massive force,' by a US-led war coalition, and if pressure by the international anti-war movements succession forcing the US to reverse course in its war preparations would it not be too risky and uncertain for the international community to trust Saddam Hussein to keep the 'peace' that the 'peace' activists are so determined to give him?

D. I. Solomon, Victoria

Kudos to the Saturna Ambulance Team

Dear Editor:

Like so many people, I read and hear about people who have called 911 when they got into trouble and we're all glad, when there is a happy ending. Somehow we never think that something like that can happen to us. Well, this time it didn't happen to other people, it happened to us.

I never felt more helpless when a few days ago, in the middle of the night my husband was gasping for air and it broke my heart to see this always so strong man struggling to take a breath. In my desperation at not being able to help him, I called 911 and in no time flat, Gerri Crooks and James Cowan arrived with the ambulance, ready to assist my husband. While other people were sleeping, they were doing their utmost to help him and also made arrangements for the Air-Ambulance to take over.

Words can never express the gratitude I feel towards this team. My sincere thanks to Gerri, James and all the other volunteers who are here to lend us a hand when we're in trouble. I am convinced, if it hadn't been for Gerri and James, my husband would no longer be here. Thank you and keep up the good work!

S. van Vianen, Saturna Island

When Will They Ever Learn?

Dear Editor:

Late last month forty-three eminent Australian jurists, law professors, and barristers, all with broad as well as specialized qualifications in international law condemned the proposed US invasion of Iraq, and raised the spectre of prosecution for those of the Australian government and the servicemen involved, for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

In a letter, published in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, they quoted and concisely explained the terms of Article 51 of the UN Charter, defining the only two justifications for the use of force in international affairs. The first, self defense, requires that attack must be 'actual' or 'imminent.' The other case is the collective use of force by member nations in response to an actual threat to peace that cannot be averted by any other means.

The irony of the present situation is that under the terms of the UN Charter, therefore, it is Iraq that actually is the subject of 'actual' or 'imminent' attack, and as such has the right under Article 51 to attack military (only) targets of the aggressor nation. This means that an Iraqi attack on, say, the Pentagon, would be far more 'legal' than the attack on the sovereign, if detestably governed, nation that the US has in mind.

The letter notes that it was actions precisely the same as those intended by the US that formed the indictments for 'Planning and Waging War' against the war criminals tried at Nuremberg—pre-emptive strikes on trumped-up grounds into Poland and Czechoslovakia.

It was some seventy years ago that the German people elected, in an admittedly suspect election, a demagogue who took that cultured and ancient nation down a path that started with pre-emptive strikes. Two or three generations later the German people are still carrying the moral consequence of that man's actions. I fear that this US leader, also elected questionably, is taking his nation down the same path, and the people of the United States will similarly carry the effects generations into the future.

John Carlton, Pender Island

BASSACKWARDS from page 5

call for war and gave no timelines and merely said Iraq was in material breach of UN resolutions. This has turned out to be deceptively inaccurate. This week the the key final paragraph was reported by BBC News. The wording, '...decides that Iraq has failed to take the final opportunity afforded to it in Resolution 1441 (2002)...' would terminate the enhanced weapons inspections, which the US now sees as an obstacle to its war.

UN Delegates Under US Surveillance

The World Wide Web and email have become important alternatives to the distortion and shallowness of conventional mass media. Its effectiveness in informing and mobilizing the public is demonstrated by US organizations such as 'MoveOn'. In the first week of March 'MoveOn' circulating an email petition, to be sent to UN Security Council members, urging continuation of weapons inspectors' work under 1441. Five hundred and fifty thousand people responded with signatures in two days, (see www.moveon.org/emergency/).

Interestingly, in the same week, details of a surveillance operation, which involves interception of the home and office telephones and emails of UN delegates in New York, were revealed in a document leaked to British newspaper *The Observer*.

Conclusion

Hitler used to say that he played the media in Germany like a piano. However nowadays, the same original sources and information open to the public via the internet are also available to news media. These sources should make accurate, insightful reporting much easier.

Nonetheless, assumptions and inaccuracies in North American news reporting are so serious that I have to conclude that when hundreds of Cruise missiles are unleashed on the people of Baghdad, the North American news media will have blood on their hands. For the cruelest effect of all this media distortion of fact is in disguising that the US and UK war plan is the real weapon of mass destruction. ✓

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For many months, North American media have carried, without question, the Bush administration's claim as to its right to wage war on Iraq. This claim is false and the invasion would be a flagrant violation of international law.

Credulous Media

Powell's early February case for war speech made to the UN General Assembly was highly-acclaimed without question by North American media. However fabrications and lack of credibility were exposed within days by European media.

The star witness cited by Powell and Bush as evidence that Iraq has not destroyed its weapons of mass destruction is the late General Hussein Kamel. But, on February 26, a complete copy of an internal UN 'sensitive' transcript was obtained by Glen Rangwala.

Rangwala is the Cambridge University analyst who revealed that British Prime Minister Tony Blair's 'intelligence dossier,' also relied on in Powell's speech at the UN, was plagiarized from a student thesis paper.

Rangwala has posted the transcript he obtained at: <http://casi.org.uk/info/unscom950822.pdf>. In it (p. 13), General Kamel states bluntly: 'All weapons—biological, chemical, missile, nuclear, were destroyed.' This report was made after Kamel had defected from Iraq carrying crates of secret documents on Iraq's weapons programs. (He is reported to have been killed after returning to Iraq.)

The media continue to refer to Iraq's weapons of mass destruction as if there is no question of their existence and threatening numbers. If so, are we to disbelieve weapons inspectors reports and integrity?

Hedging Their Bets

The position of the Bush administration that has been reported *ad nauseum* is that under UN resolution 1441, Iraq has to prove to US satisfaction that it has destroyed all weapons of mass destruction and that failure to do so results automatically in UN authorization for a US-led war on Iraq. Iraq must supply proof 'to avoid war' is how news media frequently put it.

Despite this claim, the US and UK governments are seeking a new, definitive resolution. However, if the UN does not give that authorization, President Bush and Secretary of State Powell say they the right to invade Iraq anyway, to protect the US from Saddam Hussein.

The Documentary Evidence

Review of relevant agreements shows that this position is false. UN Resolution 1441 on Iraq established 'enhanced weapons inspections' to ensure 'peace and stability in the region' and to allow the lifting of sanctions on Iraq. (How is it that we only hear of the war plans—never about plans for the lifting of sanctions.)

In fact, 1441 specifically *disallowed* the military action by the US and the UK to which they are now claiming the right. This was reinforced by statements of Security Council members on signing Resolution 1441 on November 8, 2002:

Mr. Negroponte (United States of America)

'As we have said on numerous occasions to Council members, this resolution contains no 'hidden triggers' and no 'automaticity' with respect to the use of force. If there is a further Iraqi breach, reported to the Council by UNMOVIC, the IAEA or a member state, the matter will return to the Council for discussions as required in paragraph 12.' Secretary of State Powell repeated this to the media soon after the signing.

Sir Jeremy Greenstock (United Kingdom)

'Let me be equally clear in response, as a co-sponsor with the United States of the text we have just adopted. There is no 'automaticity' in this resolution. If there is a further Iraqi breach of its disarmament obligations, the matter will return to the Council for discussion as required in paragraph 12.'

Mr. Levitte (France)

'That objective was reflected in our request that a two-stage approach be established and complied with, ensuring that the Security Council would maintain control of the process at each stage. ...France welcomes the fact that all ambiguity on this point and all elements of automaticity have disappeared from the resolution.'

(No wonder France is so angry with the US, now buying and arm-twisting support from UN members described by the media as 'hold-outs' against the war. The truth is that the US and the UK are hold-outs to a Resolution to disarm Saddam's regime without killing masses of Iraqi people.)

Paragraph 12 of 1441, referred to by Security Council members above is contained in this part of the resolution:

11. Directs the Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC and the Director-General of the IAEA to report immediately to the Council any interference by Iraq with inspection activities, as well as any failure by Iraq to comply with its disarmament obligations, including its obligations regarding inspections under this resolution;
12. Decides to convene immediately upon receipt of a report in accordance with paragraphs 4 or 11 above, in order to consider the situation and the need for full compliance with all of the relevant Council resolutions in order to secure international peace and security;
13. Recalls, in that context, that the Council has repeatedly warned Iraq that it will face serious consequences as a result of its continued violations of its obligations.

Serious Consequences

The Media have consistently implied that 'serious consequences' referred to in Paragraph 12 is a code term for war which is simply *not* true. The term 'serious consequences' is specific to Resolution 1441 and is not defined. As we have seen above, the resolution clearly does *not* intend automatic war even if Iraq is in violation of 1441. And the term is not contained in paragraph 12.

UN Resolution 1441 is conditioned by the UN Charter itself, by 'Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.' A look at Chapter VII of the UN Charter sheds light on the restrictions and range of possible

consequences.

These are excerpts from this Chapter that relate to Iraq and that determine the military rights of any nation. They were designed to prevent a repeat of World War II in which Hitler invaded countries on the pretext of protecting German security.

Charter of the United Nations: Chapter VII Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression:

Article 41

The Security Council may decide what measures not involving the use of armed force are to be employed to give effect to its decisions, and it may call upon the Members of the United Nations to apply such measures...

Article 42

Should the Security Council consider that measures provided for in Article 41 would be inadequate or have proved to be inadequate, it may take such action by air, sea, or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security. Such action may include demonstrations, blockade, and other operations by air, sea, or land forces of Members of the United Nations.

Article 47

1. There shall be established a Military Staff Committee to advise and assist the Security Council on all questions relating to the Security Council's military requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security, the employment and command of forces placed at its disposal, the regulation of armaments, and possible disarmament.

Engineered Irrelevance: A Paradox

The US administration, by misrepresenting 1441, has divided the United Nations and the European Union nations on the Iraq question. Additionally, if the Security Council *en masse* fails to fall-in behind the US and the US then unilaterally goes to war, the Bush administration claims that UN power will have been compromised. Paradoxically it is *exactly* the split engineered by the US that weakens UN effectiveness. A strongly-enforced UN Charter is the proper means to disarm a dangerous tyrant. If the US were to throw its might behind the UN—imagine what might be accomplished!

New Resolution For War

During the last week of February news media ran the story that the new UN resolution tabled by the US and UK did not

BASSACKWARDS, please turn back to page 4

'What's On?'

Vancouver Island & The Gulf Islands

Friday, March 14

Paul White's Classic Jazz Seminar Series—'Male Jazz Singers' (2nd session of four), Seafood Bouillabaisse meal by donation • Community Hall, Lyall Harbour, 100 yards from ferry terminal • 6:30pm • Info and B&B reference (off-islanders welcome) Paul White, jazzbo@gulfislands.com or 250-539-9884 • ON SATURNA ISLAND

Fri, Sat, Sun, March 14, 15 & 16

Rock & Gem Show 2003—retail dealers from Alberta, BC & USA; gold panning; gem cutters at work; rock polishing; silversmithing; opal cutting; Kiddies Korner • Leonardo Da Vinci Centre, 195 Bay Street • Fri 1-9pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-5pm • Tickets: adults \$4, seniors/students \$3, family (4) \$8 • Info: www.islandnet.com/~vlms • IN VICTORIA

Saturday, March 15

Pender Island Public Library presents 'Storytime' with Salt Spring author Pamela Adams, reading from her book *Blossom and Friends*, suitable for ages 3 to 8 years • At the Library • 2-3pm (Storytime will be following a book signing at Talisman Books & Gallery) • Info: 629-3277. ON PENDER ISLAND

Sat, March 15 till Sun, March 23

Saanich Commonwealth Place Spring Break Fun Swims—join in the 'out of this world wacky water fun' at Saanich Commonwealth Place; daily themes; special games and activities; waves, waterslide, pirate ship, toddler pool, whirlpool, family changerooms, steam, sauna and length swimming • Fun Swims daily at 10am-noon, 1-5pm, 1-4pm (Sat & Sun), 6:30-8:30pm • 4636 Elk Lake Drive (right off Pat Bay at Royal Oak exit) • 24-hour Swim Info-line 250-727-7108 • IN VICTORIA

Wednesday, March 19

Valdy Benefit Concert for Parks & Rec purchase of Lyall Creek Estuary Park • Community Hall • 7:30pm • Tickets: \$10 @ the door • Info: Hubertus Surm 539-5134 • ON SATURNA ISLAND

Fri & Sat, March 21 & 22

Sewing & Crafts Show—over 70 seminars, exhibits, demonstrations, celebrity speakers, prizes, stage show, shop-till-you-drop • Tradex, Abbotsford • 9am-6pm daily • 2-day pass \$10 • Info: pick up brochure from your sewing and crafts store, 1-888-245-6777 or www.sewingandcraftsshow.com • IN ABBOTSFORD

Fri, Sat & Sun, March 21, 22 & 23

The Dining Room by A.R. Gurney—careening through several time periods this often hilarious, and sometimes poignant, play looks at the changing values of North American society—come and see 8 actors portray 57 characters in this episodic comedy • Penders Community Hall • 7:30pm • Tickets: adults-\$12.50, students-\$6, Under 6-free, available at the usual outlets • 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 colourful 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

Saturday, March 22

April Verch, fiddler & step dancer from the Ottawa Valley, performs traditional & contemporary tunes with her three person band, sponsored by the Galiano Concert Society • Community Hall • 7:30pm • Tickets: @ Galiano Island Books. Info: 539-2458 • ON GALIANO ISLAND

Saturday, April 26

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



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Saturna Notes ~ Priscilla Ewbank

Big change in the light; you can go down for the 6:30am morning boat and you can see—this is important for reluctant early-risers—it makes the early start more palatable. You still can't find something you lose inside your car, but you can see large objects outside! And the time-slot 'evening' starts to be a possible time to do outside things.

The eagles have been congregating at our pond for the last month. Inscrutable, they lodge in the huge, dead cedar snags—up to six in one—looking like a Far Side cartoon (waiting for something delicious to stagger by). Some avid bird-lovers put out fish carcasses for a breeding pair on the southwest side of the Island.

I thought that was a nifty idea until I discovered that we have our own 'feeding station'—at the top of three Douglas firs that shelter the barn and chicken coop some large bird has opened a diner. On my way to the egg room, I discovered a 'fresh' chicken leg and barely-attached thighbone swinging gently in the air, caught on an eye-level bough. Around the trees, in the salal and sumac, there were three very cleanly-picked chicken carcasses. Hum!—someone else finds our young pullets lovely!

Lamb-In

Jacques Campbell held an 'Open Barn' at Jacques Sheep Shed on a sunny Sunday (February 23). 'Come and see the lambs'—there were about 90 to be seen, lolling, frolicking, dozing and

being born. Mitchell and Morgan Pierce were right there for the birth of a set of twins. They got to drag the babies down to the barn in the little sled and help the mother and new family get settled in the barn stall, with hay and fresh water. Morgan was heard to comment that *now* he had something to write in his school journal! Jacques and the family have a lovely set-up with a barn for newborns, pens for triplets, 'haven't birthed yet's' and 'strong and sturdy.' It is great to see a thriving farm operation in full swing.

Spring Walk

Saturna Parks and Recreation sponsored a walk on the same glorious spring day from the national park reserve boundary to Taylor Point on the coast route. Led by Elizabeth McColl, the happy trampers had a great hike with an inspiring view. Thanks to P&R for giving the community an opportunity for an organized walk.

First Jazz Seminar Well Attended

On Friday, February 21, forty-two jazz fans enjoyed the first in a series of four jazz sessions and were entertained by videos and audio cassettes showing the virtues of female early jazz singers—Bessie, Billie, Sarah, Lena and the other groundbreakers of 1920-1960. A few people came from off island and overnighted—a gratifying bit of progress as the word gradually spreads.

Some minor glitches tried the patience of a few fans. It was



CAMPBELL'S LAMB PILE

noted that the video cassette projection is a bit unreliable, and that it precluded the accompanying anecdotal patter of previous sessions—and the next session will be adjusted accordingly.

Many attendees joined in the meal beforehand. The Pablo Blanco Bean Ragout was pronounced to be of Ruban Bleu and Cordon Rouge quality in both Vegetarian and Carnivore modes, and a Seafood Bouillabaisse will be concocted for the second seminar.

Kristina Branicki managed the scullery, Fran Gurney set the tables, and Jon Guy supplied his famous baguettes. Michael Stewart laid out the tables, and a good thing, too.

The much-appreciated large audience, will be welcomed back by the Parks and Recreation Society sponsors, and by presenter Paul White on March 14 (see 'What's On?' page 5 for details) to listen to the great male jazz singers.

Community Club Meeting

Lots of good news from the Saturna Community Club meeting. The GSX Hearings are in full swing. Saturna Community Club is part of the Marine Coalition that is challenging this proposal. Susie Washington Smyth, Ian Smyth, Bill Douglass are hard at work questioning the GSX Pipeline proponents. Susie, has worked for several years, getting together the environmental information and teaching people how to challenge the proposals of BC Hydro and Williams. This is where the rubber hits the road. The discussions, being held at the new Sansha hall in Sidney, are open to the public and published on the internet. The hearing will go on for several weeks.

Michael Goldrick and Rick Tipple will be co-chairing the Saturna Lamb BBQ. Dave Curwen will take on the big job of treasurer. We did splendidly last year, bringing in \$14,000 to run the community hall and to support all of the Community Club's subgroups.

The Health Committee reports that doctors Don Williams from Pender and Janice Mason from Galiano, with backup from Priscilla Brooks from Mayne Island, will keep us in health for the next three months. *And* we have an on-Island nurse! Donna Curwen has 40 years of nursing experience in Calgary will be working 40 hours a month. She is still negotiating terms and it will take a while to figure out our needs and hers. Donna is originally a Vancouver Island girl and glad to be back on the coast. Husband, Dave has jumped right into Island projects.

The Club accepted the Terms of Reference for the Executive. Melanie Gaines presented a good financial report. We all noted that Recycling has made generous donations to the Community Club and to the Ambulance.

The hall will have a new heating system in two weeks. This is welcome news! Reg Campbell has taken training in maintenance for the system thus saving the Community \$1,300. Jane Dixon-Warren (a purger), is spearheading a review of all items in the hall to find out if they are currently being used and then she and a well-balanced team of throwers-out and savers will evaluate the fate of the items in question.

The \$4,000 Industry Canada grant has come through and the new staff at the Internet Café (Meghan McCoullagh, Bodhi

SATURNA continued next column

BC's New Fair PharmaCare Program: It's fair care for everyone.



BC's new Fair PharmaCare program starts May 1, 2003.

BC's PharmaCare program is being modernized to provide fair access to prescription drug users across the province. Under the old program many low-income British Columbians have been paying a higher portion of their prescription drug costs than those with higher incomes. The new program provides financial assistance to those who need it most: the lower your income, the more assistance the government will provide for your prescription drugs.

Under the new Fair PharmaCare program, most BC families currently receiving support will pay the same or less for their prescription drug costs. For the first time, young BC families with lower incomes will be supported with their drug costs.

To be eligible for their maximum level of financial assistance under the new Fair PharmaCare program, PharmaCare users will need to register.

Under the new Fair PharmaCare program:

- 280,000 low-income families will pay less than they do now.
- 84% of all BC families will pay the same or less under the new Fair PharmaCare program.
- For the first time, young BC families with lower incomes will be supported with their drug costs.

If you currently receive PharmaCare support, you will receive a package in the mail with more details and how to register. You can also register now via phone 1-800-387-4977 or the Internet www.gov.bc.ca



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Groundbreaking for new emergency room

On Thursday February 27, under tents outside the Saanich Peninsula Hospital, the Saanich Peninsula Hospital Foundation officially broke ground in celebration of the start of construction of a new emergency room.

The existing 195 square metre, 4-bed ER was opened in 1978. With ER visits growing from 10,000 in 1978 to 21,000 last year, the facility is no longer adequate. The new addition will house a new 880 square meter Emergency Department with a total of eight beds.

The Capital Regional District is funding 40% of the \$2.2 million project. The Saanich Peninsula Hospital Foundation is raising the other 60%. The Foundation has seen donations of more than \$1,100,000 in one year. One in ten adults on the Peninsula have donated, with an average donation of over \$300. Corporations, community groups and charitable foundations have also made major donations to the project. ✓

SATURNA from previous page

Saint-John, and Mark Murphy) can now be paid.

Hannah Smith's Birthday

Hannah Smith celebrated her 89th birthday on March 1 with a big Tea Party at the home of her daughter and son-in-law Len and Donna Digan. Her grandson Avrom was there, as well as other family members. Friend Margaret Fry and Hannah had a good chat, as did the rest of us. Lots of friends, lots of good food and good talk to honour a very sociable and lovely woman! Happy Birthday, Hannah!

National Park Funding

Out of the federal budget, \$75million has been allocated for the start-up of ten national parks of which the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve is the most advanced. By April or May there will be a federal/provincial agreement, making money available for the maintenance of the park reserve and for acquiring new lands.

Our Parks Liaison Committee reported on a meeting with Parks Canada officials, who have confirmed funds for the first two years of operation. Beginning in March, \$160,000 is earmarked to set up an administrative office in Sidney and to hire staff. This summer Parks Canada will continue to combine forces with BC Parks. Right now the Parks Liaison Committee and Parks Canada are looking at options for the development of Mt Warburton Pike look-out area.

SAM NELSON MEMORIAL

On Monday, February 24, a Memorial Service was held for Sam Nelson followed by a Tea at the Community Hall. In honor of Sam, the Lion's distributed two 'refreshment' tickets to attending Islanders. One long time Lion remarked how Sam would be missed in their Club, 'Sam and Bert Whitehead were always creating havoc off in a corner while the rituals were going on!'

The service chosen in part by Sam was wonderful. The biblical passages were lively and life-affirming and the full church sang songs between reading—*Will the Circle be Unbroken? Can You Feel the Love Tonight? Amazing Grace, Morning Has Broken, Onward Christian Soldiers* (a favourite) and others.

Sam's family spoke of their dad, and he sounded just like the Sam we know on Saturna—irreverent, full of ideas and enthusiasm for life. 'First in line to play. First in line to work' as his son Eric, described him. It is evident that his children adored him.

Sam's ashes were launched into Winter Cove, off the Winter Cove dock. The many well-wishers had an anxious moment when the dock, under the concentrated load of people started to sink! Sam would have loved it!

The Tea was beautifully set-out and many Sam stories were told. He was a dear friend to many people. Sam was one of those Islanders who was renowned before he got here. But it wasn't until his obituary was published that I knew how well-regarded he was in his chosen field. 'Dr Samuel James Nelson, P.Eng. P. Geology, Professor Emeritus, University of Calgary, author of 46 books—working on his 47th, prominent Canadian geologist, died in Sidney, BC on February 19.'

Dr Nelson received his PhD in Geology with Great Distinction from the University of McGill (1952). He was well known in the oil industry having taught at University of Calgary, University of Alberta and the University of New Brunswick. His writing included several books on the geology of Western Canada; he was best known for authoring *The Face of Canada, a Geological History of Western Canada*, used extensively as a reference guide. During his career as a scholar, educator and author, he also received

awards for his wonderful teaching and distinguished service to the field.

Sam grew up in Vancouver, Little Mountain, an only child. He put himself through school working at Swifts, making sausages down by the wheat pool at Burrard Inlet. Working at Swifts was a tremendous incentive to get educated, said Sam. Sam was teaching for years before he made more money than his father who delivered bread for McGavins.

Sam first saw Saturna in 1948 when he was 23. He was going to UBC and this was summer work; running a little gas Briggs and



SAM NELSON ON A VOYAGE

Stratton motor on an open boat; doing research with the Geological Survey of Canada on all the Islands from Hornby to Saturna—'Saturna was always my favorite.' They were using the geology and paleontology of the islands for dating. The little group stayed at Campbell's for two weeks and he particularly remembers Murder Point where they were looking at the stratigraphy of fossils.

Sam remembered Winter Cove, 'nicest cove in the Gulf Islands' when he and Marge were looking for a retirement place to live. I first met Sam and Marge wearing a salal crown sitting in state as Head Hare—Sam and his Spring Consort, Marge, on the front porch of his Winter Cove neighbours, Val Embry and John McBride. Family and community were very important to Sam. He had a deep love for Marge, his wife of almost fifty years, and his children. Sam and Marge were an integral part of the Winter Cove community and spoke warmly of their neighbours.

Sam was so wonderful and peculiar. His rhododendrons crackle with his elaborate electrical mazes to foil the deer. He delighted in the fact that *Faces of Canada* was banned in Alberta for ten years because the book did not pay homage to the Christian theory of evolution.

Sam taught a geology course for Saturna for Parks and Recreation. It was divine, that mix of intellectual challenge, excitement of knowledge gleaned and debated, delivered by a man who viewed us all as curious and capable fellow students of life.

Sam was a role model for choosing life. He was a 'step up to the plate' kind of man. In the final months of his illness he was active and determined to spend as much of his time on Saturna as possible. He walked regularly around Winter Cove with Ishbel Elliot and sheepdog Meg and in his final days at the hospital had devised a plan for Ishbel to sneak Meg into his room so he could see her.

He knew all about his cancer, would discuss it, and then would then tell you what he was working on. Lots of love to Marge, the Spring Consort, and their children Eric and Marilyn. ✓

ACCENTURE from page 1

'Bill 10 was written not only to circumvent the BC Utilities Commission, but to attempt to stop the class action lawsuit,' said Dobbin. Section 12, subsection (11) of the Hydro and Power Authority Act was rewritten to read 'despite the common law and the provisions of any other enactment.'

'This clause is an attempt to ensure that the Accenture deal is beyond the scrutiny of the courts,' said Leo McGrady Q.C., legal counsel for the BC Citizens for Public Power. 'This kind of wording is rare and the attempt to remove this legislation from any challenge under common law may be an indication of the government's concern that the class action lawsuit is a real threat to its efforts to shield the negotiations and other features of the deal from public review.'

The Accenture deal shifts almost a third of Hydro's employees to a new private company

controlled by Accenture. The new company is contracted to provide most of Hydro's 'back office' services for ten years for an estimated total of \$1.45 billion. Hydro estimates that it will realize savings from the deal of \$25 million per year, but no further details of the contract are to be revealed. Like other private companies, the new organization has no legal requirements for public reporting, and thus public accountability for one-third of Hydro's operations has been removed.

Jim Sinclair, Citizens' board member and president of the BC Federation of Labour, noted that residents in every riding have signed on to support the action including a number of small businesses, and that the Union of BC Municipalities also opposed the privatization at its convention last fall. (More info: www.citizensforpublicpower.ca). ✓

The Islands' Bulletin Board

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School District #64 (Gulf Islands). Applications are invited for substitute/casual work as School Secretary in all district schools. Applications should be accompanied by evidence of successful demonstration of the following: Complete confidentiality; Excellent time management and organizational skills; Ability and desire to work collaboratively; Excellent language skills: reading, writing, spelling, speaking, listening; Excellent interpersonal and communication skills; Two year diploma in Office Administration and Business Accounting. The school district is also looking for evidence of two to five years successful work experience as a school secretary resulting in documented skills, abilities and working knowledge of: Office administration software including; Word processing (80 wpm); Data base; Desktop publishing; Student administration systems; Accounting software and spreadsheets; Networking, internet and email; and Education terminology. Please include work references with your application. Applications with supporting documents should be forwarded by Sunday, March 23 at midnight to: Rod Scotvold, Secretary Treasurer, School District #64 (Gulf Islands), 112 Rainbow Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2K3. Fax: 250-537-4200, Email: dfennell@sd64.bc.ca. External Posting #06

Spring break reading

With the school spring break almost upon us, parents and children alike are planning for the holiday. Whether you are staying home or travelling, good books for kids of all ages and interests come in handy. Here are eleven recent Canadian releases from *Island Tides'* book pile.

Good news for long ferry rides is that OrcaBook Publishers has introduced Orca Soundings, a series of teen fiction for reluctant readers. The ten short novels features realistic teenage characters in stories that focus on contemporary situations and problems.

Death Wind by William Bell, 2002. Allie's life has just taken a turn for the worse; not only do her parents fight all the time, but she is failing more classes than not and now she thinks she might be pregnant. Unable to face up to her parents she decides to run away. She hooks up with her old friend Razz, a professional skateboarder, and goes on the road. When she and Razz eventually head home, they run right into the path of a fierce tornado. To survive, Allie has to call on an inner strength she didn't know she had.

Sticks and Stones by Beth Goobie, 2002. Jujube is thrilled when Brent ask her

out. She is not so happy when the rumours start flying at school. Soon her name is showing up on bathroom walls and everyone is snickering and sniping. When her mother gets involved, Jujube's reputation takes another hit—and hers isn't the only one.

Deciding that someone has to take a stand, Jujube gathers the others girls together and finds a novel way to take on her tormentors and help the group win back self esteem.

Kicked Out by Beth Goobie, 2002. Dime can't get along with her parents. When she moves in with her older brother, she finds out that if she starts believing in herself, other people will too.

Refuge Cove by Lesley Choyce, 2002. When Greg discovers a family of refugees in a lifeboat off the rugged coast of Newfoundland, he risks everything to help.

One More Step by Sheree Fitch, 2002. Fourteen-year-old Julian's parents separated when he was a baby and he is still angry and hurt. On a road trip with his mother and her new beau, Julian finds that love, and happiness, come in many forms.

The Hemingway Tradition by Kristin Butcher, 2002. After his father commits suicide, Shaw struggles to come to terms with his death



and move on.

Who Owns Kelly Paddick? by Beth Goobie, 2003. After attempting suicide, Kelly Paddick is sent to a secure facility. As she tries to find her way out she has to come to terms with her memories of abuse.

No Problem by Dayle Campbell Gaetz, 2003. (Gaetz is a Salt Spring resident.) Curt has it



all: friends, summer job, a promising career in baseball; then he begins experimenting with drugs.

The Trouble with Liberty by Kristin Butcher, 2003. Liberty is the new girl at school, and everyone wants to be her friend. When she accuses a teacher of assault, doubts start to surface about her motives.

Bull Rider by Marilyn Halvorson, 2003. Layne is determined to be a bull rider like his father, who was killed by a bull. When the chance comes, Layne must face up to his greatest fear.

Enthusiastic Teen Reader?

Orca books also publishes longer teen fiction. A notable 2002 release is *When the War is Over* by martha attema (256 pages). In occupied Holland during WWII, a young girl's work for the resistance becomes dangerously complicated when she fall in love with a German soldier. *When the War is Over* is attema's third teen novel set in the Netherlands (the first two award-winners are on shortlists—such as the New York Public Library Books For The Teen Age). Watch for reviews of books for younger children in upcoming issues of *Island Tides*.

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