

Welcome back to a new edition! There were so many interesting articles and we had to leave many for next time. Spring is here on the west coast—the frogs are like a traffic roar at night! Its not particularly warm and we are getting some rain at last. Hummingbirds are back and turkey vultures (great aviators) are imminent. Cheers, GG-W

# Gulf Islands' Island Tides

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

Volume 15 Number 6

Tsawwassen to Vancouver Island

March 27—April 10, 2003

**'What's On?'**

Vancouver Island & The Gulf Islands, Page 5

Canadian Publications Mail Product Sales Agreement N° 40020421



Ringed by the moon, seventy Saturna Islanders—a quarter of the population—held a peace vigil on Sunday, March 16. Similar events were held all over the Islands (see story, Saturna Notes, page 3). Photo: Rick Tipple

## Smyths show the way

Cunliffe Barnett

*This article will also appear in The Saturna Sunset Scribbler*

In the early months of Year 2000 Saturna Islanders began hearing about BC Hydro's plan to construct a natural gas pipeline from somewhere near Bellingham to somewhere near Duncan 'to meet the future energy requirements of Vancouver Island and British Columbia.' This was GSX—the Georgia Strait Crossing Project. The undersea portion of the proposed pipeline would pass by Saturna but BC Hydro had no intention of consulting with Saturna Islanders—a big mistake!

When the Saturna Community Club met on June 19, 2000 Susie Washington Smyth and Ian Smyth set many wheels in motion. We began with a letter to the National Energy Board requesting that a public information meeting be held on Saturna.

The meeting happened on August 24, 2000. We were told by GSX bureaucrats that provincial government policies dictated the need for the pipeline, that the project was being planned with great care, and to 'trust us.' We were told that after the project had been evaluated during an official 'comprehensive environmental study,' construction would begin in the spring of 2002 and that the pipeline would be in service in the fall of 2002. They surely did not realize that our Susie is known to many as the Canadian 'mother of environmental assessments' and that she was about to hold their feet to the fire!

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Susie became the voice for those persons on Saturna and elsewhere who feared that BC Hydro was attempting to rush ahead with a project fraught with environmental and other problems that were not being addressed.

It was Susie who first said it was not good enough to evaluate the proposed pipeline by a so-called 'comprehensive environmental study' and who finally persuaded the federal government to appoint a 3-person Panel to review the GSX proposal and application.

The Saturna Community Club became a funded intervenor and, under Susie's leadership, banded together with the BC Chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, the Pender Islands Conservancy Association, the Salt Spring Island Conservancy, the Pender Island GSX Coalition, the Gulf Crab Fishers and others to form the Marine Coalition.

In January 2002, at the invitation of the Saturna Community Club, the members of the Joint Review Panel came to Saturna to view some of the proposed pipeline route and to consult with members of the Saturna community. (This was at a time when the provincial government was still

GSX, please turn to page 6

## Ministering to the disabled ~ Patrick Brown

The deadline for submitting the reassessment forms, March 15th, has just passed. Fourteen thousand or so (out of 62,000) recipients of disability assistance from the Provincial Government must now wait anxiously for three months to find out whether their financial assistance will continue past June.

They have just been put through a mass re-evaluation of their eligibility for assistance, apparently initiated by a Minister who was convinced that some of them aren't disabled enough to deserve it.

It's possible that there is a little truth in Human Resources Minister Murray Coell's assumption, which was reported by MLA Paul Nettleton from a committee meeting (held back when Mr Nettleton was a card-carrying member of the provincial Liberal caucus).

But the approach taken by Mr Coell's Ministry to identify those who no longer qualify for the province's disability allowances is massively bureaucratic, insensitive, and probably ineffective. The Ministry, in fact, managed overnight to develop an adversarial relationship with its clients. Surely this is completely counterproductive?

### A Perverse Bonus

As a first step in reducing the number of disabled, the new Deputy Minister of Human Resources, Robin Ciceri, was presented with an employment contract which promised a \$15,400 annual bonus (10%) for a reduction of 2% in the rate of growth of the disability rolls. (This was reported by Russ Francis in the *Vancouver Province* on February 24th.)

One might expect that the number of qualified disabled would increase at the same rate as the population. So reducing that rate meant either finding fraudulent recipients or tightening the qualifications, within a year.

It might be reasonable to give a deputy minister a bonus based on measures of a superior level of service to her 'clients'. But it is distinctly immoral to propose a bonus based on a reduction of the number of clients. It is surprising that neither Minister Coell, nor Deputy Minister Ciceri, appear to understand this.

### Reassessments

It would also be reasonable to require periodic reassessments (and 'adjudications') of disability allowance recipients, say every three years. But reassessments are clearly a source of stress for the clients, many of whom are unusually vulnerable to stress anyway. The reassessments are also a tremendous amount of extra work for the physicians, social workers, and other health professionals who must interview the

disabled and gather the evidence. Finally, the processing of these assessments requires and deserves the time of professionally skilled people in the Ministry.

Why, then, instead of instituting a rotating review of each client on, say, their third anniversary, did the minister decide that a substantial proportion of the entire client population was to be reviewed immediately?

Just to read a completed 23 page handwritten reassessment form might take fifteen minutes. If one assumes that a proper 'adjudication' of each client's eligibility would take, say, a couple of hours by a ministry professional, each ministry adjudicator could process about 750 assessments per year. A population of 14,000, each reviewed every three years, would require the ministry to have a staff of six adjudicators. Six experienced adjudicators could ensure reasonable consistency in their judgements.

But no, the method chosen by the ministry is to process 14,000 eligibility assessments in a three month period. Each adjudicator processes, say, 225 applications in the three months; something over sixty adjudicators are required, working flat out.

Does the ministry have that many skilled people? So either they've developed some quick way to carry out the adjudication (possibly a computerized method of numerical 'scoring'), or some way to do the adjudication with less skilled people. This shows little respect for the clients, their physicians, or the professionals who have spent a lot of time to do the assessments in the field. And the likelihood of unprofessional, inadequate adjudications is high.

Such an approach would be consistent with a reassessment process designed to disqualify clients rather than qualify them. Maybe a numerical ranking of all applicants, with a cutoff at some point convenient for the government's budget targets? I hope not.

### A Distortion of the Ministry's Objectives

The formal objective of the Ministry, of course, is to assist the disabled and disadvantaged, and to show sensitivity to their needs as individuals. So a rushed, bureaucratized, and possibly automated adjudication method, leading to a predetermined number of recipients, would be completely inconsistent with the ministry's objectives, inappropriate considering the skills required, and quite unfair.

It has the potential to be a bureaucratic nightmare of the type made familiar by the Federal gun registry: too much information, criteria too complicated, and not enough evaluators.

DISABLED, please turn to page 6

## New defibrillator in service

John Wiznuk

Fire Chief Steve Windsor and Training Officer Jason Dryer display the Lifepak 500 Automated External Defibrillator (left) and training unit (right) now in service with North Pender VFD.

The Automated External Defibrillator (AED), training machine and initial instruction session, purchased from Global Medical Services, cost approximately \$7,000.

The Chief and Training Officer are now licensed instructors. There are presently eight licensed firefighter operators with twelve more soon to come. Having this machine and trained first responders dramatically increases the chance of survival from some types of cardiac arrest.

The AED was purchased with funds raised at the Gala Winetasting and Cooking Demonstration held at the Pender Community Hall on



August 30 last year. TV personality and author James Barber handled the cooking while David Scofield supervised the wine, and the demonstration was followed by an auction of donated art work and services. Directors from North and South Pender Fire Protection Societies and a host of willing volunteers made this an outstanding success that raised \$23,000, shared between North and South Pender fire departments. ✓

# Anthrax—Are We Acting Like Sheep? - Peter Carter

It has long been a daily mantra for all world leaders and the media: Iraq must disarm—or face war. By disarm was meant surrender weapons of mass destruction. The last (and withdrawn) UK resolution to the UN narrowed Mr. Blair's excuse for war to one weapon: anthrax.

In his last report, UN weapons inspector Hans Blix estimated that Iraq *may* have been able to produce up to 10,000 litres of anthrax, and that Iraq has produced no documentation that it has destroyed this anthrax that it *may* have produced. The estimation is based on what Iraq produced from the anthrax supplied to it by the US during the Iraq-Iran war in the 1980s. This (alleged) anthrax is in liquid form.

Anthrax has never been made into a practical weapon system despite over half a century of trying (the UK, US, Russia and Canada were producing and experimenting with large quantities of anthrax as a bioweapon following the second world war).

The 'problem' is that liquid anthrax is useless as a weapon. Furthermore, liquid anthrax has a shelf life of only one year at 0°C. Iraq has reported to the UN that any such anthrax would be totally non-viable in three years.

Only the US and Russia have managed to make an anthrax potent enough, and in a dry powder fine and stable enough, to possibly be used in a weapon of any kind. Before the US anthrax letters, anthrax used as a weapon had never killed anyone. The FBI has concluded the anthrax letters were an inside job (from a US bioweapon lab).

Interestingly, after investigating Iraq gassing of Kurdish Iraqis, the Pentagon has concluded that Iraq did not use anthrax (from a 1990 Pentagon report, published just prior to the invasion of Kuwait, by Stephen C. Pelletiere, Douglas V. Johnson II, and Leif R. Rosenberger, of the Strategic Studies Institute of the US War College at Carlisle, Pennsylvania).

Hard to believe this pro-peace writer? After all, I would be called a 'dissenter' by most media, as France and Germany are characterized. You might believe Scott Ritter, a former UN weapons inspector, who has been saying for months that it's not possible for Iraq to have manufactured weapons of mass destruction and that Iraq's anthrax already proved useless as a weapon (see excerpt from an US radio interview on August 2,

2002, box below). Or believe the Cato Institute, a right-wing, US think tank. Their article (see box below) makes it all painfully clear.

So let's spell this out. The nations and people of the world were being asked to sanction one of the most massive bombardment in the history of war on Iraq, on the scare pretext that it might possess liquid anthrax—for which there is no evidence. And even if it did exist, it would be non-viable, and even if it were viable it is useless as a weapon. ✓

## Anthrax a Weapon of Mass Bioterrorism? by Steven Milloy, Adjunct Scholar Cato Institute October 18, 2001

Bioterrorism alarmists view the death earlier this month of a Florida man from anthrax and the more recent detection of a case of anthrax in New York City as validation of their advocacy of panic. Cooler heads view the incident more as a limited biocrime rather than a harbinger of mass bioterrorism.

Such skepticism no doubt arises from the often glossed-over difficulty of using anthrax as a weapon of mass bioterror. Anthrax is a bacterium that may cause death by inhalation, ingestion or by contact with skin. The most lethal form of exposure is inhalation of anthrax spores, bodies serving as vehicles for the bacterium. Alarmists say, 'One billionth of a gram (of anthrax), smaller than a speck of dust can kill.' But one anthrax spore, even thousands of spores will not kill anyone. Wool sorters inhale 150 to 700 anthrax spores per hour continually, without danger. Laboratory studies indicate that about 10,000 spores are necessary to start an infection by inhalation.

As with other toxins, it's the dose that makes the poison. Therein lies the chief difficulty for anthrax as an effective mass terror weapon. The technical hurdles and related expenses associated with exposing many people to enough anthrax are daunting. Aum Shinrikyo, the well-financed terrorist group that used nerve gas in the Tokyo subway in 1995, learned this lesson firsthand. The group employed scientists and invested a great deal of money in trying to develop anthrax into a weapon of mass destruction. The effort failed.

Anthrax spores are easy enough to obtain. But before spores can be made into a mass inhalation threat, they need to be converted to a powdered form. Liquefied anthrax would fall to the ground and be ineffective. In contrast to producing spores, powderizing anthrax is no trivial task. Even assuming would-be terrorists had the technical know-how for producing mass quantities of powdered anthrax—without killing production workers and surrounding populations—the necessary facilities and development would cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

Purchasing a few unemployed, ex-Soviet bioweapons experts is not enough. Not surprisingly, only the US and Russia so far have succeeded in powderizing anthrax for purposes of weaponization.

Iraq is the most expected source of mass anthrax bioterrorism. But Iraq only has anthrax in liquid form. Even Iraq seems to know its liquefied anthrax is virtually useless. UN inspectors found relatively few Iraqi warheads containing anthrax. If Iraq had an effective form of anthrax, it would likely have been found in many more warheads—like the many Iraqi warheads containing nerve gas.

Iraq probably will never have anthrax capability. As *Jane's Intelligence Review* reported, 'The Iraqis would have to maintain rigorous First World standards and not their usual 'make do' efforts.'

Powderizing anthrax is not the end of the challenge. Once released into the air, spores then become subject to atmospheric conditions. Too much wind will disperse spores into harmless concentrations. Not enough wind and the spores will fall to the ground and not arise again in harmful concentrations.

Airplanes dusting a city would be an unlikely choice for spreading anthrax spores. The few spores entering buildings would mostly settle; the few that didn't would likely be insufficient in concentration to cause infection. Outside, spores would likely fall to the ground or be blown away and rendered essentially harmless.

If enough spores were dropped, some people conceivably may inhale enough to become infected. But in the worst-case, this might happen to dozens, rather than thousands of people. An accidental release of anthrax spores at a Soviet bioweapons laboratory in 1979 resulted in approximately 70 deaths in a metropolitan area of about 1 million people...

...Since mass terror with anthrax is improbable, terrorizing the masses is probably unwise.

# Island Tides

AT FULFORD HARBOUR  
MARCH/APRIL

Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.	Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.	
25	0040	10.5	3.2	2	0520	9.8	3.0	
	0545	9.2	2.8		WE	1140	4.6	1.4
	0825	9.5	2.9		ME	1810	9.2	2.8
	1700	2.3	0.7		ME	2330	5.9	1.8
26	0145	10.8	3.3	3	0535	9.8	3.0	
	0800	8.9	2.7		TH	1205	3.9	1.2
	0925	8.9	2.7		JE	1900	9.5	2.9
	1805	2.6	0.8					
27	0240	10.8	3.3	4	0010	6.9	2.1	
	0855	8.2	2.5		FR	0550	9.8	3.0
	1110	8.5	2.6		FR	1235	3.6	1.1
		3.0	0.9		VE	1955	9.5	2.9
28	0320	10.8	3.3	5	0050	7.5	2.3	
	0925	7.9	2.4		SA	0600	9.5	2.9
	1255	8.5	2.6		SA	1305	3.0	0.9
	2010	3.3	1.0		SA	2055	9.5	2.9
29	0355	10.5	3.2	ADD ONE HOUR FOR DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME				
	0955	7.2	2.2					
	1420	8.5	2.6					
	2055	3.6	1.1					
30	0425	10.5	3.2	6	0135	8.2	2.5	
	1020	6.6	2.0		SU	0615	9.5	2.9
	1525	8.5	2.6		DI	1340	3.0	0.9
	2140	3.9	1.2		DI	2200	9.8	3.0
31	0445	10.2	3.1	7	0235	8.9	2.7	
	1045	5.9	1.8		MO	0620	9.2	2.8
	1625	8.9	2.7		LU	1420	2.6	0.8
	2215	4.6	1.4		LU	2310	10.2	3.1
1	0505	10.2	3.1	8	0410	9.2	2.8	
	1100	5.2	1.6		TU	0605	9.2	2.8
	1715	9.2	2.8		MA	1505	2.6	0.8
	2255	5.2	1.8					

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## Time up on your batteries?

Daylight Saving Time is coming up on April 5/6. There's another chore to remember when you reset your clock. 'We urge every Canadian homeowner get into the habit of checking or changing the batteries in their smoke alarms for freshly-charged ones at the same time they move their clocks forward,' says Chief Ken Kelly, President of the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs and Chief of the Yarmouth (NS) Fire Department. 'Same thing with carbon monoxide alarms,' Chief Kelly adds, 'It's just a matter of common sense—but it could also be a matter of life and death. A smoke alarm with dead or missing batteries is absolutely, 100%, useless.' ✓

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### Report by Chief Weapons Inspector in the 1990s, Scott Ritter:

'Biological weapons: Iraq had a massive infrastructure to produce anthrax and botulinum toxin, which are the two main agents that they had weaponized. They did research and development on other agents such as clostridium perfringens. They produced something called aflatoxin, which is a wheat smut, and actually put it in a weapon. No one can figure out why they did this because aflatoxin is not immediately lethal. It has long-term possible carcinogenic effects that give you liver cancer 30 years down the road. But it makes no sense as a weapon.

But the main weapons were anthrax and *botulinum* toxin. Iraq produced these in liquid bulk agent. They had not perfected the means of aerosolizing this or turning it into a dry, powdered form, which means they didn't have a biological weapon. They had sludge that they put in a bomb or they put in a warhead, but the fact is, when this bomb or warhead hit the ground, it buried itself in the ground and all you had was a hole full of useless sludge. The only way an Iraqi biological weapon would ever kill you, we used to joke, is if it hit you on the head.

But even saying that, science takes over. Let's say one of the big concerns with Iraq's biological program, particularly anthrax, is that they procured enough growth media, that is the food used to grow biological agent, the bacterium, to produce a huge quantity of this, and their factory was massive.

So there is a possibility they could have run off a considerable production run and Iraq didn't have documentation to support, you know, how much was produced so we assume the worst. We assumed they produced a tremendous amount and that they were lying about the minimal amount.

But science and technology takes over. After three years, liquid bulk anthrax germinates. It becomes useless sludge. It has a three-year storage life under ideal circumstances. So even if Iraq lied to us, retained anthrax, it's no longer viable.

And again I come back to the reality: We destroyed the production facility. There is no way Iraq could have anthrax or botulinum toxin today unless they reconstitute a manufacturing base, and in order to do that they would have to procure large-scale fermentation units, which again is a controlled item carefully watched by a number of intelligence services, and nobody has provided information that Iraq has done this.'

## Celebrating a BC legend

Merve Wilkinson, owner of Wildwood a sustainably managed forest on Vancouver Island, will be speaking at Nanaimo's Port Theatre event 'Celebrating Environmental Success' on Tuesday, March 31, 7:30pm. When Merve, now in his late 80's, defended himself in court after the clearcut-forestry standoff at Clayoquot Sound, a judge declared the activist 'magnificently unrepentant.' David Suzuki describes Merve as 'a genuine Canadian hero.'

Also talking about their environmental passion will be two other Order of British Columbia recipients: Robert Bateman, Artist/Naturalist, and Vicky Husband, Conservation Chair Sierra Club of BC. All three are recognized internationally for their stewardship on many environmental, preservation and political issues. Bateman & Wilkinson have also been included in author Goody Niosi's book, *Ordinary People/Extraordinary Lives*. A book signing to follow the talk. For tickets call the Port Theatre box office, 754-8550.

## Saturna Notes - Priscilla Ewbank

This day is the first day of spring 2003! Rain is coming down, sun is shining through, Saturna wells must be filling up and Saturna gardens are full of blooming bulbs. Walking home from the store, there is a low bank—a road-cut bank—that has just begun to seep again. Below it at road level are the new spears of rushes, festooned with the ribbons of last year's stand, surrounded with ooze.

When you walk by you can hear the water seeping—a lovely lush sound. Rough-skinned newts, banana slugs, and red leg frogs hang out here. JJM have kindly left this small section of roadside to it's own devices, no ditching or roadside clearing. When the frogs are amorous, it is one of those magic places that you walk toward, hearing the frogs croak louder and louder and then 'boom' total silence!

### Global Vigil

Sunday, March 16, Saturna was part of a Global Vigil for world peace. Almost 70 people came, lit candles, and sang on the government dock at 7pm Pacific Standard Time. Each of us expressing our desire for a peaceful, negotiated settlement in Iraq with a small, warm light in the evening under an almost full moon. For Saturna, this Vigil started with a small piece in the *Island Tides* that mentioned MoveOn.org. Upon investigation on the internet, this group had organized a huge internet petition to present to the UN Security Council, and this vigil so that the people in more isolated small towns and rural areas could be included and express their opinion. The internet has played a huge part in organizing world protest and in informing citizens. Democracy needs a large component of participation to be successful and the internet adds to that capability.

I am a Canadian citizen as of September 6th, 1996, and I have never been more proud to be counted as a Canadian. I have beloved family in the United States and constantly I am aware of the difference between the American government and the American people. I am very sad that another war has started.

### Valdy Benefit Concert, April Verch & Paul White's Jazz Seminar

Wednesday, Saturna Parks and Recreation presented a concert by Salt Spring folk singer, Valdy. What a delightful, entertaining evening! Valdy's songs are funny, topical and you can hear every tightly-written line; everyone gets them, everyone has been there—a modern balladeer. His guitar playing is fabulously skilled and in direct service to his songs. Some entertainer's present virtuosity, Valdy presents himself as a talented performing musician with a good dose of humour and a generous portion of goodness. Obviously he was a hit as the close to 100 people were very entertained during the almost two hour high-energy concert. Valdy is making up a 'live performance' CD and recorded this concert.

Proceeds were shared with the Saturna

Parks & Recreation Committee to go towards paying the cost of Lot Three, Lyall Harbor—our latest purchase on the Lyall Creek estuary. Valdy song a *Beautiful Places* commemorating just such a place as our new land on Lyall Creek.

Saturna Arts and Concerts' last presentation for the year, April Verch and her band, was March 21. We have never had any performance like this—traditional fiddling and step-dancing, along with her own innovative songs and tunes. Traditions of the Ottawa Valley, Nashville and the Carter family are very evident in her presentation.

What a dynamo! What lively music! Close to 90 people tapped, swayed and joined in on the chorus of certain songs—stellar performer Verch fiddles like crazy *while step dancing*. Saturna was fully entertained. Thanks to the Arts and Concert Society, Len and Donna Digance who over-nighted all our performers, and to Bob Montgomery who handles light and sound on the stage and to Jane Dixon-Warren who organizes the series.

Paul White's Jazz Seminar was wonderful Not only was it wonderful but the bouillabaisse dinner he served up beforehand was at the high-tide mark! Paul discussed male jazz singers and did his usual fine job of making the people come alive and putting them into an understandable context. I can't wait for the next dinner—I mean *lecture* (April 18)!

### Exercise Your Belly & Head

Did you know you could learn to do belly dancing on Saturna?! Melanie Ball and Shakeira Wynde are teaching a weekly class on Thursdays. Strenuous, is how I would describe this lovely dance form. It is a very complicated and advanced form of 'simultaneously pat your head and rub your tummy' with great music. Give it a try—phone to confirm.

Coming up is a Community Club AGM on March 31 at 7:30pm. All are welcome to the potluck at 6pm.

### GSX Hearings

The National Energy Board Hearings are now over. Saturna Community Club was represented by the Marine Environment Coalition, headed by Susie and Ian Smyth (see article, page 1). Thanks to Ian, Susie and the rest of the team that has worked for the last three years to bring all of the information together.

I attended several of the sessions and was very impressed with the calibre of the Board, especially Elizabeth Quarto the chairwoman who set the tone, conducting the formal hearing graciously, meticulously, and with humour. I believe that she and the Panel were determined to hear the evidence and to make the best decision for us all. I don't often feel that way about government especially after hearing a clip of parliament conducting itself!

### BERT SHAW

Bert Shaw, Islander for many years, passed away on March 9. Bert was a passionate gardener on Saturna. Bert is one of those people who was just sociable. He was a jack of all trades and interested in all the rest. I first met him because he loved an appaloosa mare I had, and I heard about his 'cowboy adventures.' Bert was a great conversationalist and always genuinely interested in you, what you did and how you did it. Condolences to his family. Bert was a great Islander, just the kind of person who fits to a 'T'. /



## Curious and Curiouser

Peter Freundlich, (heard on National Public Radio, USA)

All right, let me see if I understand the logic of this correctly. We are going to ignore the United Nations in order to make clear to Saddam Hussein that the United Nations cannot be ignored. We're going to wage war to preserve the UN's ability to avert war. The paramount principle is that the UN's word must be taken seriously, and if we have to subvert its word to guarantee that it is, then by gun, we will. Peace is too important not to take up arms to defend it. Am I getting this right?

Further, if the only way to bring democracy to Iraq is to vitiate the democracy of the Security Council, then we are honour bound to that too, because democracy, as we define it, is too important to be stopped by a little thing like democracy as they see it.

Also, in dealing with a man who brooks no dissension at home, we cannot afford dissension among ourselves. We must speak with one voice against Saddam Hussein's failure to allow opposing voices to be heard. We are sending

our gathered might to the Persian Gulf to make the point that might does not make right, as Saddam Hussein seems to think it does. And we are twisting the arms of the opposition until it agrees to let us oust a regime that twists the arms of the opposition. We cannot leave in power a dictator who ignores his own people. And if our people, and people elsewhere in the world, fail to understand that, then we have no choice but to ignore them.

Listen. Don't misunderstand. I think it is good that the members of the Bush administration seem to have been reading Lewis Carroll. I only wish someone had pointed out that *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* are meditations on paradox and puzzle and illogic and on the strangeness of things, not templates for foreign policy. It's amusing for the Mad Hatter to say, 'We must make war on him because he is a threat to peace, 'but *not* amusing for someone who commands an army to say that. /

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### ADVISORY PLANNING APPOINTMENTS

The Galiano Island Local Trust Committee is requesting expressions of interest for two (2) positions on the Advisory Planning Commission. As required by the *Local Government Act*, appointees must be electors of the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee and two-thirds (2/3) of the APC must be residents of the Galiano Island Local Trust Area.

Please send your expression of interest, listing your related experience for the position, by **Friday, April 11, 2003** to:

Galiano Island Local Trust Committee  
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# Waging Peace - from the Internet, author unknown

Events have overtaken this heartwarming piece—however its basic tenets remain valid and inspiring—CG-W

Dr. Robert Muller, former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations, now Chancellor Emeritus of the University of Peace in Costa Rica was one of the people who witnessed the founding of the UN and has worked in support of, or inside, the UN ever since. Recently he was in San Francisco to be honored for his service to the world through the UN and through his writings and teachings for peace. At age eighty, Dr. Muller surprised, even stunned, many in the audience that day with his most positive assessment of where the world stands now regarding war and peace.

I was there at the gathering and I myself was stunned by his remarks. What he said turned my head around and offered me a new way to see what is going on in the world. My synopsis of his remarks is below: 'I'm so honored to be here,' he said. 'I'm so honored to be alive at such a miraculous time in history. I'm so moved by what's going on in our world today.' (I was shocked. I thought, Where has he been? What has he been reading? Has he seen the newspapers? Is he senile? Has he lost it? What is he talking about?)

Dr. Muller proceeded to say, 'Never before in the history of the world has there been a global, visible, public, viable, open dialogue and conversation about the very legitimacy of war.' The whole world is now having this critical and historic dialogue—listening to all kinds of points of view and positions about going to war or not going to war. In a huge global public conversation the world is asking 'Is war legitimate? Is it illegitimate? Is there enough evidence to warrant an attack? Is there not enough evidence to warrant an attack? What will be the consequences? The costs? What will happen after a war? How will this set off other conflicts? What might be peaceful alternatives? What kind of negotiations are we not thinking of? What are the real intentions for declaring war?'

All of this, he noted, is taking place in the context of the United Nations Security Council, the body that was established in 1949 for exactly this purpose. He pointed out that it has taken us more than fifty years to realize that function, the real function of the UN. And at this moment in history—the United Nations is at the center of the stage. It is the place where these conversations are happening, and it has become in these last months and weeks, the most powerful governing body on earth, the most powerful container for the world's effort to wage peace rather than war. Dr. Muller was almost in tears in recognition of the fulfillment of this dream.

'We are not at war,' he kept saying. We, the world community, are waging peace. It is difficult, hard work. It is constant and we must not let up. It is working and it is a

historic milestone of immense proportions. It has never happened before—never in human history—and it is happening now, every day every hour, waging peace through a global conversation. He pointed out that the conversation questioning the validity of going to war has gone on for hours, days, weeks, months and now more than a year, and it may go on and on.

'We're in peacetime,' he kept saying. 'Yes, troops are being moved. Yes, warheads are being lined up. Yes, the aggressor is angry and upset and spending a billion dollars a day preparing to attack. But not one shot has been fired. Not one life has been lost. There is no war. It's all a conversation.'

It is tense, it is tough, it is challenging, and we are in the most significant and potent global conversation and public dialogue in the history of the world. This has not happened on this scale ever before—not before WWI or WWII, not before Vietnam or Korea, this is new and it is a stunning new era of global listening, speaking, and responsibility.

In the process, he pointed out, new alliances are being formed. Russia and China on the same side of an issue is an unprecedented outcome. France and Germany are working together to wake up the world to a new way of seeing the situation. The largest peace demonstrations in the history of the world are taking place—and we are not at war! Most peace demonstrations in recent history took place when a war was already waging, sometimes for years, as in the case of Vietnam.

'So this,' he said, 'is a miracle. This is what 'waging peace' looks like.' No matter what happens, history will record that this is a new era, and that the 21st century has been initiated with the world in a global dialogue looking deeply, profoundly and responsibly as a global community at the legitimacy of the actions of a nation that is desperate to go to war.

Through these global peace-waging efforts, the leaders of that nation are being engaged in further dialogue, forcing them to rethink, and allowing all nations to participate in the serious and horrific decision to go to war or not. Dr. Muller also made reference to a recent *New York Times* article that pointed out that up until now there has been just one superpower—the United States, and that that has created a kind of blindness in the vision of the US. But now, Dr. Muller asserts, there are two superpowers: the United States and the merging, surging voice of the people of the world. All around the world, people are waging peace. To Robert Muller, one of the great advocates of the United Nations, it is nothing short of a miracle and it is working. /

time population. These are the people who make a community, the volunteers who do the leg-work for the societies which run our health clinic, library, thrift store, fire departments, etc. All these organizations need full-time residents in order to run smoothly. Many have reached the point where their existence is threatened by a lack of willing and able volunteers. Thus the social fabric is further weakened with every property that is converted to a weekly rental.

Secondly, there is the loss of long-term rental accommodation. Several members of the Pender community who had been renting by the year have been forced to leave the island when their homes were converted to short-term rentals. Others have been told they can stay in their rental accommodation for the winter months but must leave for the summer. Many of these renters are young families just starting out who are needed to provide the energy and services that a community with a large retirement population needs.

The third way our neighbourhood is affected is in the loss of our sense of safety and security. The majority of our neighbours are seniors, many of whom live alone. They know their neighbour who is a permanent resident or a weekender who comes regularly to the property, but they can never be sure what sort of party will be arriving each week at the vacation rental.

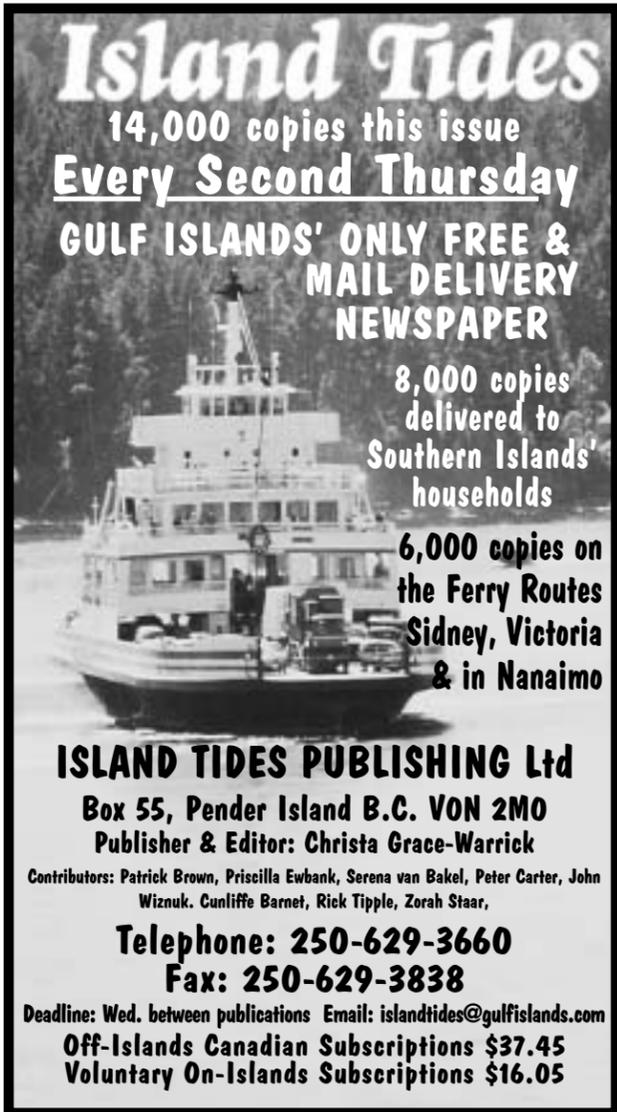
Living around a small lake is a fairly intimate experience in that we share the same back yard and this amplifies the unpleasant impacts such as noise, barking dogs, obscene

language, trespassing, open fires and renters bringing various watercraft which could introduce noxious weeds into the lake. We don't think it's fair that the neighbours should have to be policing the problems caused by these commercial enterprises being conducted in our residential neighbourhood.

I've heard the argument that these businesses contribute to the sustainability of island life. Let us not allow sustainability to be just another excuse for further commercialization of the Gulf Islands. My experience has been that the retirement community is a major sustainable economic factor. Seasonal homes and long-term renters provide year-round economic input to the island. They also ensure a stable and safe society. If you allow the economic leg of your sustainability platform to take over a large proportion of the homes on the islands, there will be little left to keep the community together.

What, then, is the alternative? Using North Pender as an example, the present commercial guest accommodation zoning provides for a total of 202 commercial accommodation units on 8 different sites, a number of which are oceanfront. These units could be in the form of cottages to accommodate vacationing families. Only a fraction of these units has been actualized and it is unlikely that the owners of these properties will invest in future development as long as visitors to the island can rent homes in residential areas. Let's use the zoning we already have. My recommendation is that there be an Islands Trust-wide prohibition of weekly vacation

LETTERS, continued in next column



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**ISLAND TIDES PUBLISHING Ltd**  
Box 55, Pender Island B.C. V0N 2M0  
Publisher & Editor: Christa Grace-Warrick

Contributors: Patrick Brown, Priscilla Ewbank, Serena van Bakel, Peter Carter, John Wiznuk, Cunliffe Barnet, Rick Tipple, Zorah Staar,

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

## Readers' Letters

### Residential House Holiday Rentals

Chuck Harris presented the following to Trust Council on March 7, 2003 at the Quarterly Council Meeting on Salt Spring Island. It was submitted also as a letter for publication. It opens up a thorny Islands' issue, thanks Chuck. We would like to hear more.

Dear Editor:  
I've always been a strong supporter of the Islands Trust and I'd like to thank every one of the Trustees for taking on what I consider to be a daunting and often thankless task. Your role is to use the Mastercard analogy—priceless.

The issue that I'm here to talk about is that of short-term vacation rentals in small lot residential zones and the impact they will have on the community fabric on the Gulf Islands.

I live on Buck Lake which is the principal water reservoir for the 1,220-lot Magic Lake subdivision. It is an area zoned rural residential. Beginning in May of 2001, we began to see houses around Buck Lake offered on the internet as short term accommodation rentals. There are now at least three and as we observe the investment trends and as our aging neighbours sell their homes, we fear that the number of houses used as weekly vacation rentals will go much higher unless the residential zoning bylaws are clear and enforced.

In order to have a neighbourhood, one must have neighbours. We keep an eye on each other's places and lend a hand when help is needed. We feel so strongly that this sense of neighbourliness will be eroded if transient accommodation rental is permitted that thirty Buck Lake property owners have sent a collective letter of complaint to the Islands Trust's bylaw enforcement officer.

In what other ways do weekly vacation rentals affect islanders quality of life? Firstly, there is the direct loss of full-

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### LETTERS from previous page

rentals in small lot residential zones as now is the case in Sechelt, Whistler and Victoria, all of which are tourist destinations.

I am asking Trust Council to put the issue of weekly vacation rentals in residentially zoned areas on the priority list for discussion and action. If this trend is not curbed, I believe that the unique character of the Gulf Islands will be lost. The image of the Gulf Islands across Canada and elsewhere is of an idyllic place of friendly, creative people, quiet tranquillity and beautiful surroundings. Is it not the role of the Islands Trust to preserve this unique community? We need to encourage people to think of this place as a home rather than an investment. I hope the theme song for the Gulf Islands doesn't turn out to be, 'They paved paradise and put up a parking lot.'

Charles Harris, North Pender Island  
**Peace Vigil**

Dear Editor:

I would like to express my thanks to the large number of people who, for me, made the Pender Island Peace Vigil such an enduring source of hope while war rages against the long-suffering people of Iraq.

Apologies to the owner and care taker of the Driftwood Centre that the spontaneous nature of the vigil did not result



in the usual formal permissions. We are having a Sunday wax cleaning party, and we'll take the opportunity to pray that the mess that Iraq will be left in will be cleaned up by the mega mess-makers.

I would like to thank the very many leaders of the Christian Churches in Canada, USA and UK who have worked courageously applying their principles of the Gospels in calling for the lifting of the sanctions that have hurt the people of Iraq so terribly and in unconditionally opposing this war.

This has been a moving and inspiring experience for me as a non-churchgoer raised in the Christian tradition. I believe that these leaders (in the best sense of the word) though they may have failed in seeing their objectives realized will have succeeded in preventing an escalation of global hostilities between Christian and Moslem believers that both Saddam Hussein and George Bush appear quite willing to risk visiting on the world.



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## Marc Atkinson Trio hits Pender Jazz Club - Zorab Staar

Having missed the Marc Atkinson Trio's first visit to Pender over a year ago, there was no way I was going to let a snow storm keep me away from the second one. And I wasn't alone. A full house came out on March 8 for the show at the moveable 'Mahogany Room' version of our community hall. Mysterious black drapings, round lounge-y tables, fine wine, cheese, grapes and a fabulously intense painting by Scott Clark made it what Atkinson himself described as 'the coolest jazz club on the West Coast.'

But the whole point (of course) was the music. And the amazing trio of Marc Atkinson (acoustic lead guitar), Chris Frye (rhythm guitar) and Joey Smith (stand-up bass) delivered that with an even cooler grace. These Montreal Jazz Festival favourites play what is described as 'ferocious but elegant gypsy jazz,' owing some of its origins to Django Reinhardt but reshaped with classical, world beat, flamenco, rumba, Brazilian choro, and other popular music touches.

The trio opened the evening with what felt like a sunny Sunday afternoon version of their trademark sound (a good tonic to the white stuff coming down outside). Then they launched a more intensely gypsy-ish intro that morphed effortlessly into what sounded like a swiny sonatina (later discovered to be Chopin), then detoured into the great composer gone flamenco, and finally came back around to the same gypsy buzz. This kind of exuberant, history-defying musical globe-trotting was typical of the night, and these guys had the mastery of instrument and form required to pull it off with style.

Next came one of Atkinson's many brilliant compositions, to be found on the trio's latest CD (the Marc Atkinson Trio II, available through [www.pacificmusic.net](http://www.pacificmusic.net)). 'Boiler maker' was an edgy tribute to a rough night experienced by a trio member who shall remain nameless (clue: he plays the bass), and grabbed me with its insistent power chords, minor key mystery and 'Secret Agent Man' feel. The light came back with another original composition—an almost folksy excursion into latin sounds that was as sweet as it was highly rhythmic ('To hold a while', based on a book of poetry written by Atkinson's father).

There is not enough room here to describe the jaw-dropping virtuosity and multiple musical highlights of the March 8 show. Marc Atkinson's gorgeously liquid lead lines melted from ethereal to exotic to edgy to exuberant and back again, and his solo composition 'B Minor' ('Be minor?') was like an aching beautiful Lenny Breau waterfall down into mystery. Chris Frye was the Rhythm Man with a capital 'R', effortlessly (and ever-smilingly) using one acoustic guitar to provide all the percussive harmony needed to fill in a multicultural sound around Atkinson. And Joey Smith (a world class bass player kidnapped to our neck of the woods by romance), held down the bottom end of the rhythm and also soloed with masterful aplomb. *Acoustic Guitar* magazine sure had it right when it picked 'Marc Atkinson Trio II' as one of the top releases of the year. ✓

## Coffee Counter Dialogue-4 ~ Peter Easthope

**Reggie:** Hi, Olive. I meant to call and thank you for dragging me to that last public meeting. It wasn't at all what I expected—lots of good input and different viewpoints. A good turn out, too.

**Olive:** Yes, Reggie, I always think LTC and information meetings are worth attending. In the past there's been some fairly hot-headed name-calling, but thankfully that seems to have subsided.

**Reggie:** What exactly is the LTC?

**Olive:** That's our Local Trust Committee—our two local Trustees plus the Chair who is a Trustee from one of the other islands.

**Reggie:** I suppose the 'off-island' Trustee is there to prevent



### LETTERS continued

And I believe that their example of putting the interests of the most oppressed before other people's demands will endure and grow. Keeping my TV unplugged....

Peter Carter, Pender Island

### Not Alike

Dear Editor:

John Carlton misrepresents the defensive actions of the US today by inferring similarity to the initiated aggression of Nazi Germany (your March 13, 2003 issue). He refers to Germany's phony reasons for aggression against Poland. Did sensible people believe Hitler?

Does Carlton think there is not ample evidence of Iraq's intentions? (Most people consider Iraq's invasion of Iran and Kuwait, its genocide in Iraq, its use of missiles against Israel, and it's funding of suicide bombers in the PLO war against Jews as ample evidence that Hussein will continue to do bad things in the future. Most people see his tyrannical regime for what it is—against freedom for individuals, and willing to sacrifice Iraqis to his desires.) Is Carlton falling for Hussein's false claims of innocence, which are of the nature of Hitler's false claims his letter refers to?

In contrast, the US has a record of helping people to stay free in the face of tyrants like Hitler and tribal killers such as those in the remains of Yugoslavia. Can't Carlton see that?

As for the United Nations, it seems as ineffective at stopping tyrants like Hussein as its predecessor the League of Nations was at stopping Hitler and Imperial Japan. Eventually the US had to stop Japan, at great cost—and helped Britain stop Hitler.

Why not save lives by stopping such evil earlier? If life is worth living, it is worth defending. Faced with armed tyrants, what does Carlton suggest people do?

Keith Sketchley, Victoria ✓

ties in voting.

**Olive:** Yes, and you probably noticed her listening really carefully to everyone's point of view.

**Reggie:** I certainly did. Anyway, they got some really varied input at that last meeting don't you think?

**Olive:** Yes and it's always encouraging when lots of people show up. I find it helpful to listen to all the different opinions. There's always something new.

**Reggie:** I'll need to give the issues more thought before I'm ready to press an opinion. Anyway, your time must be taken up with the garden these days.

**Olive:** It certainly is. I must drop into the post office and collect that order of seeds.

**Reggie:** Well I'd better let you get on with your errands. You can continue my education another day.

**Olive:** OK, Reggie, I'm a willing teacher. ✓

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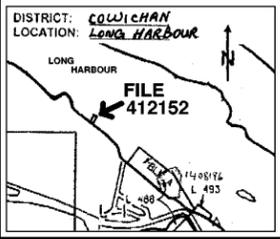
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**GSX from page 1**

stubbornly saying the panel should not consider issues concerning the need for a pipeline or the environmental effects of generating electricity by burning natural gas.)

Susie next persuaded the Joint Review Panel to sponsor a conference concerning the environmental issues related to the marine portion of the proposed pipeline. That conference, held in Sidney during 3 days in November 2002, provided a valuable opportunity to explore the findings and



**IAN & SUSIE AT WORK**

evidence of many experts and so-called experts who were to testify at the actual hearing.

The GSX hearing began in Sidney on February 24, 2003 and wound

down on March 19. Susie was there to present evidence and to cross-examine the experts who prepared the GSX environmental assessment. Bill Douglass was there likewise. Quite a number of Saturna Islanders dropped in from time to time to observe and listen. And Ian Smyth delivered the Marine Coalition's final submissions on March 18—a truly comprehensive and masterful summary of the project's many failings and shortcomings. He got the attention of the panel members—they did a lot of highlighting as Ian spoke! (Those GSX persons should really have listened up back in June 2002: Ian is a veteran of many National Energy Board hearings.)

The Marine Coalition—through which the Saturna Community Club speaks—asserts that the proponents of the GSX pipelines failed to provide the review panel with data adequate to assess the effects of the pipeline upon marine life. Therefore the Marine Coalition contends that the review panel cannot properly recommend that the project proceed. Will the review panel say the pipeline should not happen? Will they send the proponents back to the drawing board? Or will they recommend approval but with stringent conditions? A decision is expected within about six months.

The hearings were the culmination of truly remarkable efforts by Susie, Ian and Bill. Each of them devoted hours beyond counting. They did us proud and we are grateful. ✍

**DISABLED from page 1**

**The Persons with Disabilities  
Designation Review Form**

It's not hard to understand that many of the disabled, faced with this 23 page document, were frightened. Their concern was heightened by the thought that if they didn't get all the answers on this exam 'correct', they could lose their benefits.

(In fact, one might get the idea that the form was designed to intimidate those who might be inclined to exaggerate their disability in order to qualify.) Legitimate applicants, with the clear impression that the reassessment was designed to disqualify them, might also seek to appear as disabled as possible when answering the questions. Certainly there is no information given as to how disabled one has to be to receive benefits (adding to the suspicion that the Ministry has no clear criteria for this.)

Sections of the form are to be filled out by three different people: the client, the client's physician, and the assessor (who may be a District Health Professional, an Occupational Therapist, Social Worker, etc.) Each section contains many of the same questions posed in a different way. It's not hard, in fact, to imagine that any inconsistency between sections could be punished by disqualification. In this context, nearly every question becomes a trick question.

It's clear that in order to successfully complete the form, the disabled client must have a close relationship with both his doctor and his assessor. But despite the best efforts of these professions, the perils of geography, funding, and availability ensure that not all the disabled receive such a high quality of service. In some parts of the province, it's hardly available. (Recognising the difficulties, the Ministry has recruited some social service organizations to provide assistance.)

And, of course, many of the disabled have difficulties all their own in dealing with the health care and social services systems; as a result, they may get little attention even when services are available. (Fortunately, early in the process the Ministry sensibly abandoned the requirement that the mentally disabled complete

the reassessment. They wouldn't have had a chance.)

**Detail and More Detail**

But the form asks many questions - incredibly detailed in some areas. Does the client require assistance (none, periodic, continuous, uses assistance device, takes too long) to dress, groom, bathe, go to the toilet, feed, get in or out of bed, etc? When shopping, can the client get to the store, read labels and prices, make appropriate choices, pay for food, carry it home? (Many disabled cannot do some or all of these tasks, and these examples are not to make fun of them. They merely illustrate the extreme detail this questionnaire asks for.)

Other parts of the form ask for professional judgement or diagnosis on the part of the physician or assessor. Some ask for extensive explanations or details. And the client's part of the application calls for a comprehensive written description of each disability and its effect. These are good reasons why the adjudication of applications in the Ministry demands and deserves a high degree of professional judgement.

And it would only be a slight exaggeration to conclude that if the client can submit a completely filled out form, with consistent answers to questions by both his physician and his assessor, he must not be very disabled. Catch-22.

**A Bureaucratic Disaster**

To sum up, completion of the application requires skills that many of the disabled do not possess. Because applicants may have the impression that the reassessment exercise has the objective of disqualifying them, they see it as a threat and it is a source of severe stress, which they may not be able to handle. Completing the form requires time and relationships with professionals that may be unavailable to, or undeveloped, by many of the disabled. It requires adjudication time that the Ministry may be unable to devote. It has all the characteristics of a potential bureaucratic disaster, undertaken in an inordinate hurry for the wrong reasons. ✍

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## The Breakdown of Truth - Patrick Brown

The entire build-up to this war has been characterized by an unsuccessful search for truth. In a mass of information no certainty can be found. It was therefore not surprising to be presented with the first event of the war, an unverifiable air strike on an unverifiable 'target of opportunity,' which was rumoured to be, but could not be verified to be Saddam Hussein.

The report of this event was followed closely by US President Bush's second TV address of the week, and then, remarkably promptly, by what appeared to be a defiant rant by Saddam Hussein on Iraqi TV. But it could not be verified that it was, in fact, Mr. Hussein, or that it had been videotaped following the unverifiable air strike. So the TV broadcast did not verify that he had, in fact, survived the air strike, if, in fact, the air strike had been aimed at him.

Some experts questioned the authenticity of the Hussein telecast, saying that it might have been a pre-recorded tape, or that he looked rather strange and maybe it was a body double (it is an unverified 'fact' that he has several). The US would say only that they were examining the images, comparing them to other images they had which may have been of Hussein (or may have been of body doubles).

Now let us suppose that the 'target of opportunity' was, as rumoured, Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein and his two sons, none of whom have apparently been seen in person for quite some time. There seems little doubt that Saddam Hussein is, or maybe was, a man of considerable evil, with many enemies. Lots of people want him dead.

Was the prompt broadcast by Iraqi TV to prove that he had survived the air strike? Was it to rally the troops now the war had started? Was it to respond to President Bush? Or was it to let Iraqis who are 'in the know' know that Saddam was in fact dead? It doesn't really matter.

### The Truth Doesn't Matter

Which leads us to the really interesting question—did they get him? The truth is: that doesn't matter either. What matters is whether people believe that he is gone, or not.

If you can make enough people believe that he is gone, he's dead—even if he's alive, had plastic surgery, shaved off his Joe Stalin

mustache, and is sunning himself on the Riviera.

Then there's no need to continue the war, is there? Might we declare, 'Stop the war' on the basis of the unconfirmed success of an unconfirmed strike on an unconfirmed target.

Why not declare victory? This would result in an even shorter war than anyone anticipated. And maybe not enough damage to profitably repair (Haliburton, with its connections to Vice-President Cheney, already has the contract to repair the oil installations after the war—whoops!).

### Dead or Alive & Why Does It Matter?

So the question becomes who will tell us when Saddam is gone? Obviously the ruling Tikriti group, the Iraq Ba'ath Party, want to convince us that Saddam lives. Their power depends on that belief. They would never confirm his demise. Not that the Iraqis would necessarily stop fighting. Their country has been attacked, and they might defend it anyway.

But what about the US? A short war was expected to hype the stock market, lower the price of oil, and kick-start the drifting and leaderless US economy. But this short?

It would be a huge success for 'regime change.' A huge success for US intelligence and US weaponry (much of which would remain undemonstrated). And a huge failure for the media.

### How Long A War?

What's needed is a way to end the war as soon as possible. Here are my suggestions.

We can't tell whether the targeted strike last Wednesday morning successfully eliminated Hussein but if it had (and if they knew), why wouldn't the US confirm it? And if it didn't (or if they didn't know), why couldn't they say it had anyway? If somebody who might have been Saddam Hussein turned up later, they could always say he wasn't the real one and ridicule him or eliminate him.

On the other hand if the war is supposed to go on a little longer, it is possible to delay for some time the discovery that Hussein died last Wednesday (the Iraqi regime will never tell). After all, this is a war of managed perceptions. And the truth is—totally unverifiable. /

## Children raise money for a well in Africa

Children of the Aurora Learning Centre and Gabriola Elementary School are raising money for a well in Africa. The campaign has been initiated by the 16 children, ages 6 to 14, at the Aurora Learning Centre, after seeing a documentary, *Ryan's Well*, about young Canadian, Ryan Hreljac.

'The beautiful thing about *Ryan's Well* is that it shows that not just adults can make a difference,' says Aurora teacher Joan Merrifield.

Ryan, at age 6, was inspired by his Grade 1 teacher to raise \$70 for clean water for Africans. It took him four months of chores to reach this first goal and since then he has never looked back. Over the next five years he has touched

the hearts of children and adults around the world and has succeeded in raising \$750,000. Over 80 wells have been drilled in Uganda, Ethiopia, Malawi, Tanzania and Nigeria. The

Ryan's Well Foundation works in conjunction with Canadian aid organizations WaterCan, CPAR and CIDA.

Ryan will visit Gabriola on May 12 and 13. Meanwhile Gabriola school children have already collected over 10% of their \$2,000 goal, which is the cost of a well in Uganda. Posters, donation cans and symbolic

'empty cup' ceramics bowl are some of the fundraising activities in which the youngsters are engaging. For more information visit [www.ryanswell.ca](http://www.ryanswell.ca).



# The Islands' Bulletin Board

(PAID BY DEADLINE ONLY) Phone 250-629-3660, Fax 250-629-3838, Email: [islandtides@gulfislands.com](mailto:islandtides@gulfislands.com) Next DEADLINE: Noon, April 2, 2003  
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Book review by Serena van Bakel

## Environmental Management: Filling the Gap

*Tools for Environmental Management: A Practical Introduction and Guide* by Dixon Thompson will appeal to professionals charged with environmental responsibilities for their organization, academics and students in environmental management, and by all those urging greater responsibility in corporate and government behaviour. It will also expand the reader's understanding of practical means of responding to environmental principles and concepts such as sustainable development, green design, and product stewardship.

This recent addition to New Society Publishers' Conscientious Commerce series explains environmental management systems and presents a set of 22 environmental management tools. While Dixon Thompson is the overall author and editor, each of these 22 chapters is co-authored by other specialists in the field.

### Coursing into a Book

Thompson, a professor of Environmental Science at the University of Calgary, has taught environmental science and environmental management at the graduate level for 30 years, and is an environmental management consultant to industry. In the mid-1970s, Thompson was invited to work on the environmental issues of a Calgary gas pipeline company. It was then that Thompson realized that his scientific knowledge of environmental problems was not enough to be effective in the corporate world. He had to gain an understanding of how corporate management systems operate.

With the field of environmental management still in its infancy, there was not much information available, but by 1979 Thompson had created a Master's level course on environmental management. That course has developed significantly over the past 20 years.

Although a great deal has now been written on environmental management systems and individual tools, it is scattered throughout the literature on environmental science and engineering, environmental management, and related disciplines, so a coherent description of a set of tools has not

been readily available. In 1998, a group of alumni, who were now practicing professionals, convinced Thompson to put the content of his course into a book.

While a graduate student in the early 1990s, I attended Thompson's environmental management course. The course notes we took were sacred: the dynamic ideas and concepts we were discussing were not to be found in such a format anywhere else. Now, Thompson's students will be able to find his wealth of environmental management knowledge in this straightforward, accessible and easy-to-read book.

Dr. Thompson was known by the students as 'a mover and a shaker'—he was always 'making things happen' and 'getting things done.' That's exactly the mindset and tireless energy that would have been required to pull this compendium together. It is a summary and synthesis from many disciplines and professions and from many years of 'real

world' practical experience by both Thompson and his graduate students (there is no 'ivory tower' for Thompson).

### Environmental Management Defined

Just what is environmental management? Well, it might be more expedient at first to ask what it is not. This is not a book about the nature of environmental issues, nor is it about management of the environment. In fact, this book is based upon an understanding that the desire to manage (manipulate) the environment, at least on a large scale, to meet societies' needs is often the source of problems rather than the solution to those problems.

Environmental management is understanding and controlling the activities of people, organizations, governments, and corporations in order to protect the environment. Thompson defines environmental management as 'the system that anticipates and avoids or solves environmental and resources conservation problems by: • setting goals and objectives through a strategic planning process • identifying and organizing the people with skills and knowledge, technologies, finances, and other resources needed • identifying and assessing various options for reaching the goals • assessing risks and setting priorities • implementing the selected set of options • auditing and monitoring performance for necessary adjustments through feedback and • using the set of tools as needed.'

### The Evolving Toolbox

Environmental management tools (such as policy, accounting, auditing, indicators, reporting, impact assessment, life cycle assessment, product and technology assessment, purchasing guidelines, economic instruments, communications, and The Natural Step) are defined in terms of history, legal requirements or standards, and application.



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Each tool is at a different stage of maturity; all continue to evolve and improve. Environmental impact assessment, for example, has been legislated and practiced for 30 years or more. Other tools, such as 'ecological footprint' and 'eco-efficiency,' are just emerging, developing rapidly and should soon be standard practice (these tools are not yet included in Thompson's toolbox and are not discussed in the book).

Much has already been written on some environmental management tools, such as environmental auditing, but Thompson has found that the tools are often more effective when used in tandem or sequentially. Just as different sets of tools are used to build a house or repair a car, so must environmental management tools be used as an appropriate set. Often, the results obtained from using one tool are required for another. ... The particular combination of tools that may be needed depends upon the specific circumstances.'

At 452 pages with 25 chapters, it is a comprehensive book which I found repetitive in places, but that follows from Thompson's intent. He wanted to create a handy desk reference that readers could pick up, locate their topic of interest, and quickly and easily understand how that particular tool fits into an environmental management system.

Taking into account that the field of environmental management is characterized by rapid change and evolution, references to articles, newsletters, journals, books and web sites are provided so that readers can keep up-to-date. The definitions, principles and processes in the book are not likely to change much, but the details will.

### Where Do We Go From Here?

Thompson concludes with a chapter entitled 'Where do we go from here?' in which he discusses (1) general improvements to environmental management systems and tools; (2) the actions to be taken by national governments; (3) the sustainable development gap; and (4) that pollution and abuse of resources may not be due only to technology and industrial development, but to the very nature of human organizations and society.

*Tools for Environmental Management: A Practical Introduction and Guide, edited by Dixon Thompson, New Society Publishers, 2002, 452pp. (\$54.95 hardcover)*

## Galiano has new Detachment officer

### John Wiznuk

Constable Scott Hilderley is the newest member of the Outer Gulf Islands RCMP Detachment. He replaces Constable Lina Davit at the Galiano office.

Born and raised in Sault Saint Marie, Ontario, Hilderley's policing career began when he joined the Canadian Armed Forces. Hilderley served ten and a half years with the military police and then, after taking his discharge from the Forces, joined the RCMP. He has enjoyed some interesting postings including a three year stint at the Canadian Embassy in Moscow during the failed coup attempt to oust Boris Yeltsin from power.



Another facet of his policing experience is his association with the provincial DARE life skills program. He is a firm believer in youth development and has personally delivered the DARE program to 750 schoolchildren. He is also a trainer for program leaders.

A supporter of the community policing concept, he sees his role as the person you go to when you need help

not as the authority figure who will 'getcha' if you're bad—though he can do that too. Constable Hilderley has been on Galiano for two and a half months and is looking forward to his time on the Gulf Islands. /

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