

Island Tides

Gulf Islands
Thinking Like An Archipelago - Showcasing The Salish Sea

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Photo: Michelle Easterly

The launch of *Electra*. Will Thomas checks trim of his proa-style outrigger canoe; Derek Hogg holds her steady on Hornby's Ford Cove.

New friend of coastal Douglas fir formed

The rate at which the unique natural environment of BC's south coast is disappearing is sparking coordinated action from a wide range of conservation biologists, concerned citizens and private landowners. A consortium of partners throughout the region have joined together to form the Coastal Douglas-fir and Associated Ecosystems Conservation Partnership (CDFCP), which aims to raise awareness about BC's iconic Coastal Douglas-fir forests and their associated ecosystems and to coordinate the actions of governments and other groups that are working to address their preservation.

CDFCP's steering committee invited federal, provincial, first nation, regional district and municipal governments to work alongside non-government organizations, university scientists, forest industry professionals and local citizens, including private landowners.

To date, 33 governments, agencies (large and small) and private landowners in the region have signed a Statement of Cooperation indicating support for the partnership.

Private Land Ownership

'With over 80% of the area being private land, this is not an issue that can be addressed by governments alone,' says CDFCP Chair Tim Ennis (Nature Conservancy of Canada), 'Achieving successful and enduring conservation outcomes will take a coordinated, strategic and science-based effort involving private land conservation supported by landowners, land trust organizations and all governments in the region.'

Co-ordinating Work

The partnership will develop a coordinated, strategic and science-based plan to identify and implement high priority actions necessary to avoid the loss of species and ecosystems, and to secure many other benefits provided by a healthy natural environment in the region, including pollination of crops, flood control, and clean drinking water.

'We're convinced that conservation objectives for species and ecological communities in the Coastal Douglas Fir zone (CDF) will only be achieved through a coordinated effort,' says CDFCP Co-Chair Darryn McConkey, Senior Ecosystem Biologist with the BC Ministry of Forests. 'The formation of the CDFCP is an important step in fostering shared stewardship of these globally unique ecosystems.'

Living In A Special Ecosystem

Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystems are found along the south-east side of Vancouver Island, the adjacent Gulf Islands, Sunshine Coast, Metro Vancouver and portions of the Fraser Valley. This rare natural area experiences a much drier climate than the rest of the BC coast, giving rise to more different kinds of plants, animals, fungi and other species than anywhere else in the province. Well over 300 of these are at some risk of extinction.

'In the islands we are beginning to see creative initiatives that integrate nature conservation with land uses like agriculture, community facilities, forest restoration and

DOUGLAS FIR ZONE, please turn to page 3

Hupacasath go ahead with FIPPA Appeal

Patrick Brown

A claim that the Hupacasath First Nation should be consulted prior to ratification of the Canada-China Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPPA) was dismissed on August 26, by the Chief Justice of the Federal Court.

The court held that the ratification of the FIPPA was fully within the constitutional powers of the government of Canada. The act of ratification did not in itself have any effect on the Hupacasath First Nation (HFN) which should trigger the duty of the Crown to consult with, and accommodate the concerns of the HFN prior to ratification.

Appeal Launched

However, following analysis of that Federal Court decision, the Hupacasath First Nation has gone ahead with an Appeal; the Court decision raises questions that go far beyond the direct interests of the 300-member band, which is located near Port Alberni. Hupacasath councillor Brenda Sayers emphasizes that it affects not only the rights of First Nations to be consulted, but the rights of all Canadians.

The Hupacasath are seeking financial support to cover the costs of the appeal and also the costs from their initial court action, assessed at \$110,000 by the Federal Court.

The court appeal is backed by Leadnow, which has launched a parallel fundraising drive. Green Party leader and Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May has also thrown her support behind the campaign.

HUPACASATH APPEAL, please turn to page 5

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Island Tides

AT POINT ATKINSON

OCTOBER

Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.	Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.
9 WE	0155	3.0	0.9	17 TH	0408	13.5	4.1
	0905	14.4	4.4		0957	7.2	2.2
	1430	10.2	3.1		1555	14.4	4.4
	1932	13.5	4.1		2234	4.6	1.4
10 THU	0245	3.3	1.0	18 FR	0501	14.1	4.3
	1010	14.4	4.4		1044	7.9	2.4
	1539	10.5	3.2		1628	14.4	4.4
	2023	12.8	3.9		2311	3.9	1.2
11 FR	0341	3.6	1.1	19 SA	0550	14.4	4.4
	1117	14.4	4.4		1129	8.5	2.6
	1704	10.5	3.2		1701	14.1	4.3
	2130	12.1	3.7		2348	3.6	1.1
12 SA	0444	4.3	1.3	20 SU	0637	14.8	4.5
	1220	14.4	4.4		1213	9.2	2.8
	1829	9.8	3.0		1732	13.8	4.2
	2257	11.8	3.6				
13 SU	0553	4.9	1.5	21 MO	0025	3.3	1.0
	1316	14.8	4.5		0724	14.8	4.5
	1937	8.9	2.7		1258	9.8	3.0
					1803	13.5	4.1
14 MO	0033	11.8	3.6	22 TU	0101	3.6	1.1
	0703	5.6	1.9		0811	14.8	4.5
	1404	14.8	4.5		1346	10.5	3.1
	2030	7.9	2.4		1834	13.1	4.0
15 TU	0159	12.1	3.7	23 WE	0138	3.9	1.2
	0808	5.9	1.8		0900	14.4	4.4
	1444	14.8	4.5		1442	10.5	3.2
	2115	6.6	2.0		1906	12.5	3.8
16 WE	0309	12.8	3.9	24 THU	0216	4.3	1.3
	0906	6.6	2.0		1951	14.4	4.4
	1521	14.8	4.5		1549	10.5	3.2
	2125	5.6	1.7		1942	11.8	3.6

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OCTOBER

Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.	Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.
9 WED	0110	2.0	0.6	17 TH	0349	9.5	2.9
	0906	10.5	3.2		0907	5.9	2.1
	1351	8.5	2.6		1522	10.5	3.3
	1834	9.8	3.0		2153	3.6	1.1
10 THU	0202	2.3	0.7	18 FR	0448	9.8	3.0
	1013	10.5	3.2		0955	6.6	2.0
	1511	8.5	2.6		1549	10.2	3.1
	1919	9.5	2.9		2228	3.0	0.9
11 FR	0259	2.3	0.7	19 SA	0541	10.2	3.1
	1118	10.5	3.2		1043	6.9	2.1
	1650	8.5	2.6		1616	10.2	3.1
	2021	9.2	2.8		2303	2.6	0.8
12 SA	0403	3.0	0.9	20 SU	0632	10.5	3.2
	1216	10.8	3.3		1132	7.5	2.3
	1819	7.9	2.4		1644	10.2	3.1
	2151	8.5	2.6		2339	2.6	0.8
13 SU	0511	3.3	1.0	21 MO	0722	10.5	3.2
	1305	10.8	3.3		1223	7.9	2.4
	1920	7.2	2.2		1711	9.8	3.0
	2339	8.2	2.5				
14 MO	0618	3.9	1.2	22 TU	0016	2.6	0.8
	1347	10.5	3.2		0812	10.5	3.2
	2005	6.2	1.9		1321	8.3	2.5
					1739	9.5	2.9
15 TU	0120	8.5	2.6	23 WE	0054	2.6	0.8
	0721	4.6	1.4		0903	10.5	3.2
	1422	10.5	3.2		1427	8.5	2.6
	2043	5.2	1.6		1807	9.2	2.8
16 WE	0242	8.9	2.7	24 THU	0134	3.0	0.9
	0816	5.2	1.6		0954	10.5	3.2
	1454	10.5	3.2		1549	8.5	2.6
	2119	4.3	1.3		1836	8.9	2.7

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IPCC report shows action on climate change is critical - David Suzuki

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change just released the first of four chapters of its Fifth Assessment Report. It shows scientists are more certain now than in 2007, when the Fourth Assessment was released, that humans are largely responsible for global warming—mainly by burning fossil fuels and cutting down forests—and that it's getting worse and poses a serious threat to humanity. It contains hints of optimism, though, and shows that addressing the problem creates opportunities.

The IPCC was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization and UN Environment Programme at the request of member governments. For the recent study, hundreds of scientists and experts worldwide combed through the latest peer-reviewed scientific literature and other relevant materials to assess 'the state of scientific, technical and socio-economic knowledge on climate change, its causes, potential impacts and response strategies.'

Scientists are cautious. That's the nature of science; information changes, and it's difficult to account for all interrelated factors in any phenomenon, especially one as complicated as global climate. When they say something is 'extremely likely' or 95% certain—as the latest report does in regard to human contributions to climate change—that's as close to certainty as science usually allows itself to get. Evidence for climate change itself is 'unequivocal'.

According to the latest installment, which cites 9,200 scientific publications in 2,200 pages, 'It is extremely likely that human activities caused more than half of the observed increase in global average surface temperature from 1951 to 2010.' It also concludes oceans have warmed, snow and ice have diminished, sea levels have risen and extreme weather events have become more common.

The report also dismisses the notion, spread by climate change deniers, that global warming has stopped. It has slowed slightly in recent years, scientists say, because of natural weather variations and other possible factors, including increases in volcanic ash, changes in solar cycles and, as a new scientific study suggests, oceans absorbing more heat.

An increase in global average temperatures greater than 2°C above pre-industrial levels would result in further melting of glaciers and Arctic ice, continued rising sea levels, more frequent and extreme weather events, difficulties for global agriculture and changes in plant and animal life, including

extinctions. The report says we'll likely exceed that threshold this century unless we choose to act.

This means a strong, concerted global effort to combat climate change is necessary to protect the health of our economies, communities, children and future. That will cost us, but far less than doing nothing. Although governments of almost 200 countries agreed global average temperature increases must be kept below 2°C to avoid catastrophic warming, we are on track for the 'worst case scenario' outlined by the first assessment report in 1990. Research indicates it's possible to limit warming below that threshold if far-reaching action is taken. We can't let skeptics sidetrack us with distortions and cherry-picking aimed at creating the illusion that a scientific conclusion has not been reached.

Reasons to act go beyond averting the worst impacts of climate change. Fossil fuels are an incredibly valuable resource that can be used for making everything from medical supplies to computer keyboards. Wastefully burning them to propel solo drivers in cars and SUVs will ensure we run out sooner rather than later.

Working with other nations to meet science-based targets to cut global warming pollution and create clean, renewable energy solutions would allow us to use our remaining fossil fuel reserves more wisely and create lasting jobs and economic opportunities. That's why the David Suzuki Foundation is working with the Trotter Energy Futures Project to identify clean-energy opportunities for Canada.

Shifting to cleaner energy sources would also reduce pollution and the environmental damage that comes with extracting coal, oil and gas. That would improve the health of people, communities and ecosystems, and reduce both health-care costs and dollars spent replacing services nature already provides with expensive infrastructure.

The IPCC report gathers the best science from around the world. It's clear. There's no time to delay. The first chapter examines the current science of climate change, the second will look at impacts and the third will consider strategies to deal with the problem. A report synthesizing the three chapters will be released in 2014. We must take it seriously.

Written with contributions from David Suzuki Foundation Communications Manager Ian Hanington. Learn more at www.davidsuzuki.org.

Only \$85,000 to go, Brooks Point appeal goes province-wide

The Pender Islands Conservancy Association (PICA) is working feverishly to support the Capital Regional District's purchase of a property at Brooks Point on South Pender Island, a wildflower-filled headland jutting into Boundary Pass. The group, which has raised approximately \$200,000, is only \$85,000 away from their fundraising goal to protect a spectacular waterfront property.

Efforts to connect the close-together parks, Brooks Point and Gowlland Point, creating a continuous wildlife and trail corridor, began in 2010 when Capital Regional District borrowed \$1.65 million to purchase the waterfront property linking the two parks. The CRD had committed to the acquisition if the community and conservation partners could raise \$300,000 to contribute towards the loan.

Province-Wide Support Sought

Hard work, and a recent boost from partner organizations, has put fundraisers in the home stretch. 'We have had a policy from day one of this campaign that 100% of all donations go straight to the acquisition fund. All fundraising expenses are covered from sale of T-shirts, nature cards, etc. All work by our committee is on a volunteer basis—4,500 hours by our committee and supporters so far!' says PICA committee member Paul Petrie.

Having raised so many of the initial dollars within the island community, PICA is now asking people from across BC to help complete the project. In response, two regional land trusts stepped up to answer PICA's call this fall. The Islands Trust Fund raised \$10,000 from generous donors throughout the Gulf Islands. Habitat Acquisition Trust, based in Victoria, recently committed an additional \$10,000, and has put the call out to their donors to match a further \$5,000. With the Islands Trust Fund and Habitat Acquisition Trust's contributions, only

\$85,000 remains to be raised.

'The contributions from these regional conservation partners give our campaign the momentum we need to complete the community and conservation partner funding,' said Monica Petrie, the fundraising co-chair for PICA. 'PICA and the Pender community are fortunate to have such support.'

'With such high property values, acquiring land for conservation on BC's south coast is no easy task,' said Jennifer Eliason, manager of the Islands Trust Fund. 'We hope we can help communicate the importance of this place to an even broader network who want to see rare coastal ecosystems protected for future generations.'

A number of conservation experts and organizations prioritize ecosystem protection along BC's south coast because the region contains such a high diversity of species, many found nowhere else in Canada. Brooks Point is no exception. Its meadows of chocolate lilies and camas make it a popular destination for visitors in the spring. Gowlland and Brooks Points are the last undeveloped headlands on South Pender, offering a special vantage for viewing resident Orca pods that swim close to the island's shoreline. Endangered Sharp-tailed snakes live among the mature Garry oaks standing on the property.

People interested in donating to save Brooks Point can do so online at <http://brookspoint.org/> or: <http://hat.bc.ca/>.

Those on-island can lend their support by attending the October 20 Island Mosaic Festival event at Poets Cove Resort. Featuring local musicians and artists, the event will contribute a portion of proceeds in support of the campaign (see Poets Cove advertisement this page and 'What's On?' page 7).

See also related article on Coastal Douglas Fir zone preservation, page 1.

Visit brookspoint.org

The Pender Islands Conservancy is seeking conservation partners to help protect Brooks Point, an ecological gem, for future generations.

Visit us at brookspoint.org and enjoy PICA's new video, *For Future Generations*.



A Nice Cup of Tea

Brian Crumblehulme

Do this: make a pot of tea and pour yourself a cup. Carry it to the quietest place you can find: the bedroom, garage, gazebo, the back seat of your car.... Sit quietly, and close your eyes. Take a deep breath and smell the autumn air. Open your eyes and examine your surroundings. Smell the tea. Think about life. Think about the season and the falling leaves. Listen to the music of rain. Take a sip of tea—slowly. Savour every flavour and fragrance. Do this once a week and your life will change forever because tea drinking is quintessentially Buddhist.

The camellia is a flowering shrub native to Asia. Today, thanks to breeding, there are some 3,000 varieties within about five species. *Camellia japonica* is the garden one most often seen flowering in February.

Used as a medicinal herb for some 5,000 years and bred for a thousand years in Japan, *Camellia sinensis*, the principle tea species, has become a metaphor for life. In early spring it is normal for *Camellia sinensis* to have flower buds, flowers in bloom and dead flowers on the same twig at the same time: the cycle of life expressed in flowers.

Camellia sinensis has become one of the largest production crops in the world, and the green leaves in an infusion of boiling water make a very bitter drink. Stimulant and remedy for a thousand ailments, early Buddhist monks found the bitter infusion both stimulating and metaphorical. As the Chinese doctor Hua T'o succinctly noted around 200CE, 'To drink bitter t'u constantly, makes one think better.'

The drinking of green tea gradually assumed the mantle of icon with the development of the tea ceremony. In 1211, Japanese High Priest and Zen Grand Master, Eisai, recorded that 'tea is the ultimate mental and medical remedy and has the ability to make one's life more full and complete.' The largest volume of the world's most popular beverage is still consumed in Asia. In Asian terms green tea expresses the meaning of life; tea drunk the western way is an impoverished experience.

To be clear: in this context, 'green tea' refers only to an infusion of *Camellia sinensis*, I am not referring to herbal teas, also known as tisanes: that is another universe.

Europe and North America also consume a lot of tea: black fermented tea mostly from China, India & Sri Lanka. Dutch and English traders in the late 16th century sold tea along with the spice trade, and wealthy Europeans soon developed a taste for this bitter exotic herb. On September 28, 1660, Samuel Pepys walked into a coffee house where 'I did send for a cup of tee (a China drink) of which I never had drank before.' Black tea was introduced to a larger unsuspecting British citizenry when Charles II married the Portuguese Princess Catherine of Braganza whose court and household all drank tea. The British were not impressed, but drank the infusion out of

courtesy—laced with sugar. It was quickly discovered that a little milk and/or sugar masked the bitterness of tea and enhanced the flavour. The next episode is a classic in marketing success.

Tea, cotton, sugar and tobacco became the principles of British colonial trade between India and America. Since the Chinese had a monopoly on tea, the Brits took camellia seeds to India and established their business in the hills of Assam, Darjeeling and Sri Lanka. And along with the growing trade in spices, they promoted tea and sugar to the proletarian English such that within a couple of generations, black tea, with sugar and/or milk, became synonymous with British culture. By the late 18th century the fashion throughout England was all Chinese and Indian: tea, curry, umbrellas, pajamas, ivory and rum punch.

Punch: tea leaves, rum, lemon juice and hot water became the staple supper time beverage in every home except the indigent. Poor Bob Cratchit could only afford punch on holidays.

Camellia sinensis is peculiarly endowed with a host of chemicals that include: amino acids, proteins, fragrant volatile oils, a liberal sprinkling of minerals, and two groups of formidable toxins: polyphenols and alkaloids. The alkaloids include things like caffeine, theobromine and theophylline. These are stimulants, the ones that kept the Zen priests from dozing. Theophylline will also increase the pulse rate and acts as a diuretic.

The polyphenols (tannins) are the ones getting all the attention. The list of diseases that oxidizing polyphenols may cure is beyond reason. According to the National Cancer Institute, more than 50 separate studies on cancers alone have been made in the last five years. And, 'the results of these studies have often been inconsistent, but some have linked tea consumption to reduced risks of cancers of the colon, breast, ovary, prostate, and lung.'

Why? Because of the very high concentration of epigallocatechin (260 mg/l) and epigallocatechin gallate (330 mg/l) in every cup, equivalent to about 30% of the dry weight of each leaf! Ingestion of these toxins massively stimulates the body's response to foreign chemicals and in the process, to any other toxin or foreign protein that has the misfortune to be ingested. In the words of the Cancer Agency: 'Although many of the potential beneficial effects of tea have been attributed to the strong antioxidant activity of tea polyphenols, the precise mechanism by which tea might help prevent cancer has not been established.' Recently, the US Federal Department of Agriculture (FDA) rejected a petition to allow tea makers to claim that green tea reduces the risk of heart disease.

The appeal of tea lies not in its being good food, but because it is essentially toxic. *Caveat bibulous*: how much is too much? The University of Maryland Medical Center recommend not more than 2-3 cups of green

there is a great need for an advisory body which can not only provide the tools needed for effective conservation of the CDF, but can take the initiative on active conservation both on private lands and on crown land.'

'My involvement in this partnership is to honour my ancestors, to add value for my daughter and to encourage other private landowners to become involved,' says Registered Professional Forester D Haley, a private landowner. 'My family has lived upon, and been supported by, our property since 1886. It has, and is, being actively managed for both agriculture and timber values but with a keen awareness of the ecological goods and services.'

Working Groups

Working groups are being recruited to address areas such as science-based identification of priority areas, habitat protection, outreach and communications, local government support, ecosystem restoration and sustainable forest management. This will lead to the development and implementation of integrated federal, provincial, local and FN government policies. ☞

DOUGLAS FIR ZONE from page 1

housing,' says Steering Committee member, Kate Emmings, who works as the Ecosystem Protection Specialist with the Islands Trust Fund. 'Nature doesn't just belong in parks and protected areas; it is a part of everyday life. In an area of BC that has 75% of the population, it's important to encourage human initiatives on private and public land that prioritize nature.'

'Land acquisition and management is often thought of as the surest route to the conservation of native species and ecosystems,' says Steering Committee member Peter Arcese, Professor at UBC Faculty of Forestry. 'However, active stewardship of private and public lands will clearly be required to achieve those aims in the CDF. I look forward to identifying incentives to foster private and public land conservation, to restoring old forest communities, and providing advice to all land owners in the CDF region.'

'My experience with DL33, a mature CDF forest stand of high conservation value which was logged recently, led to my participation in the conservation partnership,' says Kathy McMaster of Nanoose Bay. 'It was apparent

There would be some tea ready to be drunk, golden tea in glasses with silver saucers, giving off a faint fragrance... Lemon slices would sink like setting suns into the dusky sea, softly illuminating it, and its clear smooth surface a quiver from the rising bitter essence

—Rainer Maria Rilke: in a letter to his wife, 1904

tea a day. The same authority also suggest that people with: heart conditions, hypertension, kidney, liver problems or ulcers, should refrain from drinking green tea, as should pregnant and breastfeeding women. This is followed by a litany of prescription drugs that green tea may counteract or exacerbate.

However, it is well to note that green tea contains 3-4 times the amount of polyphenols found in black tea, and the addition of milk neutralizes the acidic polyphenols but not the alkaloids. Black tea with milk will still give you a caffeine buzz.

When making green or black tea it is advisable to recall that the flavons (bioflavonoids; 'flavus' = 'yellow') dissolve into hot water very quickly; the polyphenols take longer to infuse and old tea can become extremely bitter and even precipitate the polyphenols into your cup staining it brown. Larousse suggests you make an infusion of tea, pour your cup after two minutes and discard any tea older than four minutes.

The Gulf Islands may begin to look more like Assam in a few years if global warming continues and tea may be another opportunity crop for extra cash or a sexier lifestyle. *Camellia sinensis* needs a warm growing season with enough water and well-drained,

slightly acid soil. Several sources recommend a 1:1 soil/peat moss mixture, much as you would make for rhododendrons.

For more information about this exotic you can look up the BC Tea Growers Association: this is not a joke. There is a plantation in the Fraser Valley but the only operating business I could find in this region is Teafarm near Duncan. They have a couple of hundred bushes that have survived three winters of snow, frost and deer. They sell tea; they do not sell plants. I have ordered seeds from Richters in Ontario. One packet costs \$10, which is quite enough. (Although for \$120 they will send you a kilo if you are really keen. That would be sufficient for a plantation.)

Algerian Lamb With Tea:

Cook a roast of lamb, bone and dice the meat.

Pour the lamb fat into a casserole and add 2 cinnamon sticks, 1/2 cup chopped almonds, 1 cup sugar and some orange flower water. Add the meat, mix well, cover and simmer for about 45 minutes. Meanwhile soak 2 cups prunes in strong green tea. Combine everything, cook for another 10 minutes and serve with rice or cous cous. Probably goes well with coffee.

Next time you drop by for a visit, you can try a cup of my poison. ☞

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People & Kitchen Scraps

Dear Editor:
When the CRD decided to ban kitchen scraps from regular garbage by 2015, they immediately started curbside collection to get people in the habit of separating scraps from garbage. This has been well received by both municipalities and the public.

Unfortunately, nobody thought what they were going to do with all this deliciously, odiferous treasure once it was collected.

Now, with the suspension of the only company prepared to take them, the CRD find themselves with the expensive task of trucking scraps up-Island. Since this isn't a viable longterm solution, they propose a 'temporary storage pit' at Hartland, while they give themselves time to consider the alternatives! Oh, by the way, this temporary hole in the ground will cost at least a million dollars.

I propose this money could be better spent by: making the pit at Hartland into a large compost bin or 'digester,' or distributing compost bins and digesters to municipalities and households to allow residents to dispose of these scraps in a more convenient manner.

I live on Galiano and my community of 16 townhouses has two compost bins and three digesters that take bones, meat, dairy and bakery waste.

My daughter in Langford also lives in a townhouse complex where they have successfully installed a compost bin and digester for their kitchen waste.

We all know that the other method will result in some still putting scraps in their garbage. Since CRD will be fining those who, by periodic checks, contravene the ban, ie: the collection businesses, they, in turn, will have to conduct periodic checks and either refuse to pick up, or pass on the fine.

We can't just keep burying civilization's problems. While providing household with composters and digesters will require more initial capital outlay, it allows people to become part of the solution. We eliminate the ongoing cost of pick-up and temporary storage, and no longer have to worry about finding another million dollar bandaids when this temporary solution gets full.

Jean Krebs, Galiano Island

Dear, Dear!

Dear Editor:
My granddaughter looked at the delightful photo of the deer in the blue canoe (*Island Tides*, September 26), by Lailaka Balfour, and asked 'Where's their lifejackets?'

Frances Hill, Saltspring Island

Canola Caveat

Dear Editor:
While I enjoyed Brian Crumblehulme's recent column 'Broccoli Beneforte', *Island Tides* September 26, I want to alert readers to his mention of using canola oil to bake and cook with 'because it imparts no taste to the cooked food.' Many products contain canola oil, because as it has a high yield it's cheap. Canola oil is widely touted by producers as 'heart healthy', but it is anything but.

Canola oil has a high sulphur content and goes rancid easily and quickly, so it must be deodorized before marketing to hide the telltale odour of rancidity; and during this process a particularly dangerous form of trans fat is formed. A recent study indicates that "heart healthy" canola oil actually creates a deficiency of vitamin E, a vitamin required for a healthy cardiovascular system. A surfeit of omega-6 contributes to impaired immune function and a host of other diseases. Other studies indicate that even low-erucic-acid canola oil causes heart lesions, particularly when the diet is also low in saturated fats. Also, baked goods made with canola oil develop mould very quickly.

'Excess consumption of polyunsaturated oils has been shown to contribute to a large number of disease conditions including increased cancer and heart disease, immune system dysfunction, damage to the liver, reproductive organs and lungs, digestive disorders, depressed learning ability, impaired growth and weight gain,' according to Sally Fallon in *Nourishing Traditions*.

Celeste Varley, Pender Island

Hidden Environmental Costs

Dear Editor:
Christy Clark's attempt to draw an artificial boundary around Kitimat and Prince Rupert is misleading; the LNG plants themselves would be just one part of the bigger LNG future that BC is barreling toward. If this is truly how the province is going to define 'cleanest' LNG, it wipes away any hope that this government is serious about addressing the environmental concerns.

More than three quarters of the greenhouse gas emissions from LNG development would be released before any gas reaches the northwest. All of the fracking needed to get the gas out of the ground would happen in northeast BC. These impacts will be caused by LNG development and they will be ignored by a standard focused only on Kitimat and Prince Rupert.

The LNG plants are just the tip of the iceberg. Not accounting for the much bigger part below the surface is a recipe for disaster. There's no way around it: the province must include the full natural gas picture—from extraction to export—if it wants any credibility for its 'cleanest' claims.

Matt Horne, Pembina Institute

Bullying on Pender

Dear Editor:
September 23 was the AGM for Pender Island Health Care Society. The numbers in attendance greatly outweighed the usual lackluster attendance as the main issue on the table was the fact that VIHA (Vancouver Island Health Authority) is not renewing the contract of a much loved and respected doctor on Pender, Dr Michael Thompson. What was different about this meeting was the number of people attending, and the recognition that we are all being bullied, and in a big way.

Despite overwhelming support for Dr Thompson, (700 names on a petition to keep him, hundreds of letters from individuals, and many visits to VIHA by our board) VIHA refuses to have any dialogue with the Health Care Society's Board of Directors, Dr Thompson or the island population on retaining his services.

Hiding behind the legality of a '6-month dismissal' clause and confidentiality, and returning form letters to individuals, VIHA refuses to shed any light on the reasons for their decision, refuses to engage in any dialogue, mediation, conflict resolution, or any other consultative means of resolving issues at the clinic,

and refuses to even acknowledge or reveal what due process has taken place. It is all a big, dark secret. In such an environment, mistrust, rumours and half-truths thrive.

On Pender, as with many rural communities, the Ministry of Health has a policy of APP (Alternative Payment Program) appointments, where the doctors are paid a salary rather than direct billing payment methods. This is to ensure a healthy income for a doctor if they practice in an area of population where their income will be compromised due to lack of people, and so people will have access to a doctor in areas of low population. Sounds good, right?

If Dr Thompson opened a private practice on Pender and bills the Ministry for clients served on a per use basis, our APP status will come under review, and can be removed. Once removed, it is near impossible to have it re-established. One can debate the pros and cons of having a split system, but for the purpose of this discussion, let's just acknowledge that it is very effective in being a big stick held over the heads of the board of directors.

If the society allows Dr Thompson space at the clinic, they put at risk the entire health care system for Pender. The Ministry of Health feels that if they are paying a salary to a doctor for 'X' number of potential clients, they do not want to pay a private doctor for serving clients in the same area. Therefore, we are all herded towards to the one-size-fits-all model. Dr Thompson and his family are having their lives turned upside down and his reputation smeared without recourse, and being forced out of a community who loves, respects, wants and needs him. If he stays and opens a practice, he is the 'bad guy'.

VIHA employs the doctors, the community nurses and the nurse practitioner. To add insult to injury, VIHA has stated that it will withdraw the services of their 'employees' should the board allow Dr Thompson to open his own practice using the clinic facilities—facilities which have been contributed to heavily by Penderites, and are owned by the community.

It is said that 'he who spits in the sky gets a wet face.' The board is in such a position. Their charge is to provide health care services to the people of Pender, and to ensure that they continue uninterrupted. If they try and challenge VIHA, services will be withdrawn, and it is the population of Pender who will suffer.

The Ministry of Health will not involve itself in the case. A brick wall has gone up to anyone trying to talk to the Ministry.

If people on Pender, or anywhere in the province, think this is a one time event, think again. VIHA can act in this way at any time, with anyone, and there seems to be absolutely no accountability for their decisions. VIHA says it has some candidates to replace Dr Thompson. Will these doctors be treated any better? After all, nothing is resolved in the workplace.

Whatever, or whoever, has caused VIHA to terminate Dr Thompson's contract is still there. If I were a doctor thinking of coming to Pender, or working anywhere under the Ministry of Health's APP program, I would think again, and run away very fast. Better to build a practice on your own than to risk similar treatment.

In our schools, and in our government, we promote anti-bullying campaigns. If this isn't a case of bullying, I don't know what is. Threats, veiled and direct, to withdraw services nicely handicap the board, and instill fear into the population of Pender.

I do hope this letter opens community dialogue on some of these issues.

Bev Peden, Pender Island

Real Costs of Texada Coal Port

Dear Editor:
It seems we will be going billions of dollars more in the hole just to appease the Liberal's corporate bosses.

I find it more than coincidental that the Liberals plan to build a new bridge where the Massey Tunnel currently sits when pipelines and coal terminals need access to the ocean. Clark has not told us just how much it will cost, instead hinting we can suppose it will be about as much as the Golden Ears bridge. When all was said and done, that bit of engineering was a couple of billion dollars. I suspect we are not being given an approximate cost as the Liberals do not wish to tip their hand as to the full scope of the project.

As reported in the *Island Tides*, Volume 25 Number 15, the Texada Island bulk loading facility is hoping to expand from about half a million tonnes of coal per year to over eight million tonnes per year. If this is going to come to fruit, LaFarge deep draft barges will almost certainly need direct access to Fraser Surrey Docks—thus the need to remove the tunnel and install

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Cross-Canada Townhall Road Trip

Elizabeth May

Since my last article in *Island Tides*, I have spoken almost from coast to coast to coast: from Victoria to Halifax and Fredericton, and to our north—Whitehorse and Dawson City. As we drove by Lake Labarge on the Dawson Trail, I felt a great nostalgia for my grandfather's recitation of Robert Service's poem.

Unbelievably, I managed to speak in Dawson City, drive the five hours back to Whitehorse (arriving at 3am) to sleep a few hours and get to the airport before 6am for the flight to Vancouver to join the inspiring March for Residential School Reconciliation in Vancouver. That march, 70,000 strong in the pouring rain, was not to be missed.

From there on to Montreal and Ottawa.

As I write, I am about halfway through the tour, with Calgary, Winnipeg, Brandon, Toronto and Vancouver yet to go. Having discovered that there is a real thirst for opportunities to discuss the threats to our democracy, I will keep trying to reach all parts of Canada, with a Saskatoon event in November and hoping to reach Edmonton, Newfoundland and Labrador as well.

What is striking is that in most locations the Town Halls On Democracy are standing room only. In Whitehorse, as the Old Fire Hall filled up, the mayor told me that he usually invites his family to make sure the hall looks less empty. As it was people were turned away.

In Halifax, my daughter was told she couldn't get in, as the hall was full. She had to plead her way in to sit on the stairs explaining she promised her mother she'd be there! Fredericton also was a capacity crowd, and what was supposed to be a 'meet and greet' at noon in Moncton, turned into a town hall as 60 people showed up with questions.

Some of the same questions are asked everywhere. Here are the top 5 Democracy Questions on the National Tour:

1. Why do Members of Parliament stand for being told how to vote and what to say? Those of us who move in and out of the 'Ottawa bubble' take for granted that the daily reality of all the MPs in the major political parties being required to maintain a slavish adherence to the leader's instructions (celebrated in the media as 'message discipline'). Yet, Canadians are shocked and that shock leads to asking 'why?' I explain that MPs do what they are told, with rare exceptions like former NDP MP Bruce Hyer and former Conservative MP Brent Rathgeber, who chose to sit as independents. If they don't, they are punished.

2. How are they punished? What could happen to an MP who stands up for what they believe? The range of punishments go from refusing to allow that MP to speak in the House, ask (or answer) questions, or travel outside the route of Ottawa to riding and back, all the way to demotions (losing a committee chairmanship as did Mark Warawa, Conservative MP from Langley BC, when he complained about the Whip not allowing him to make a Members Statement), to the ultimate in complete character assassination and career annihilation. Which Stephen Harper did to his one-time Cabinet minister Helena Guergis; telling the public that the Ethics Commissioner and the RCMP had been called in about crimes hinted at only

darkly and never explained—neither organization found anything. Thrown from Cabinet and her party and not allowed to run again, when Guergis went to court to clear her name, she receiving a court ruling that the relationship between the Prime minister and his cabinet was covered by Royal Prerogative and the court cannot intervene.

3. How can a treaty as important as the Canada-China Investment Treaty be signed by the Prime minister without Parliament debating it? Concern about this treaty has reached many Canadians. The fact that it has not yet been ratified should give us all greater resolve to keep pressing Cabinet (the body that has the power to ratify) to refuse it in its current form. And to support the Hupacasath First Nation court challenge.

How this can be done without consulting Parliament? Previous prime ministers would have taken it to the House for debate and a vote. However, that was only a tradition of courtesy. Nothing required it. Treaty making falls under (you guessed it) Royal Prerogative. Harper has taken to tabling all treaties for 21 sitting days, something his administration advertises as a step toward greater parliamentary review. So while previous administrations voluntarily submitted treaties to a debate and a vote, Harper requires the tabling—but with no debate or vote.

4. Where are the checks and balances? How is it that the powers of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) can keep growing without any controls? Our Westminster Democracy was premised on respect for traditions, and principles. Such principles as we are governed by are only by consent of the governed. It was established on the fields of Runnymede in 1215, that even a king has to consult the commoners. South of the border, after a revolution, the government structure built in checks and balances between Congress and the president.

In our Constitution, the Prime Ministers Office does not exist. Parliament is supreme; a prime minister reports to Parliament, not the other way around. Canadian checks and balances are unwritten; they depend on respect for Parliament. MPs need to uphold this respect and stand up to abuse of Parliament, but don't. So the checks and balances are only going to come from public debate and pressure on all parties to dismantle the power structure called PMO.

5. What do we need to do? Electoral reform—get rid of First Past the Post (go to www.truemajority.ca to join the conversation). Doing so will reduce the hyper-partisanship driving many of the threats to democracy. Remove requirement in the *Elections Act* for leaders of parties to sign candidates' nomination form (the only real threat wielded by a leader). Cut the budget to PMO. Restore functioning of parliamentary committees to review legislation. Return control of the public purse to Parliament. Return to evidence-based decision-making. Rebuild our historic and respected non-partisan professional civil service and bar the illegitimate interference in its work by partisan PMO operatives. This is a short list, but a good place to start! ☺

HUPACASATH APPEAL from page 1

The appeal will allow the claim to be reconsidered in Supreme Court where, according to Drew Mildon, First Nations legal expert at Woodward & Co, legal precedents are more likely to be set.

Situations Arise From A Potential First Nations Treaty

In support of the case which has just been lost, the HFN presented a number of scenarios involving its land and resources claims, and its expectations of self-government; HFN does not currently have a treaty with the Crown. These situations, said HFN, could give rise to claims by Chinese investors which would have to be settled by arbitration under FIPPA's investor-state arbitration provisions (which are essentially similar to Chapter 11 of the *North American Free Trade Agreement*).

Should this happen, the HFN continued, the Government of Canada, as a party to FIPPA along with the Government of China, would have to defend its actions in such arbitration. As a result, there might well be an effect on the government's legislative or regulatory treatment of First Nations, and therefore, the 'honour of the Crown' required prior 'consultation and accommodation' by Canada with First Nations.

The Federal Court has dismissed these possibilities as 'non-appreciable and speculative in nature'. Essentially, its decision rested on the finding that the ratification of the treaty did not have any 'adverse impacts' on First Nations; should any situation arise that did harm HFN (and in which FIPPA played a part), then HFN could claim rights to consultation and accommodation.

Some First Nations Treaties Are Different

However, the court did note that some 'final agreements' between Canada and the Maa-nulth, the Lheidli, Tla'min, Yale, and the Tsawwassen First Nations did include clauses requiring the government to consult with them before entering into trade

agreements which may 'adversely affect a right of the First Nations'.

HFN had argued that any 'final agreement' they might sign would probably include a similar clause. The Federal Court remarked that the position the federal government took in this case (that consultation with First Nations about trade treaties was not required) was inconsistent with their prior assent to the terms of these treaties!

Settling Investor-State Claims

The government, as the Respondent in the Court action, pointed out that HFN was not a 'party' to FIPPA, and therefore would not have to defend any 'investor-state' action brought to arbitration by a Chinese investor. While such an action might arise from decisions by any junior government in Canada (provincial, municipal, band council, etc), Canada would have to defend it; should Canada lose, it is the federal government that would have to pay financial restitution. The arbitrator had no authority, under the treaty, to require changes in Canada's domestic legislation or regulations.

The 'Chilling Effect'

Essentially, HFN had argued that, even though there was no direct possibility that decisions made pursuant to FIPPA would result in binding changes to Canadian law, challenges (real and potential) under the investor-state provisions of FIPPA were bound to have an effect on government decisionmaking; should they concern First Nations governance, they would 'chill' legislation and policy. (This is the same argument raised by many opponents of trade agreements containing investor-state arbitration clauses.)

The government argued that such actions were rare, even under NAFTA, which had been in effect for many years, and that there was no evidence that any such action had affected government policy. Further, there were no examples of actions that concerned aboriginal rights (and none involving HFN).

The government also pointed out that government actions concerning aboriginal rights were specifically exempted from challenge under trade agreements. ☺

Bennet Randall Wong 1930-2013

Pioneer humanist and human potential advocate Bennet (Ben) Wong died Wednesday, September 25 in Nanaimo from complications of a fall and Parkinson's disease.



Nanaimo is twenty minutes by ferry from Gabriola Island, home to the The Haven, co-founded by Bennett in 1983 with his business and life partner Jock McKeen.

Bennet knew from childhood that he wanted to become a psychiatrist and to help people. His life as a specialist in Adolescent Psychiatry and as an early advocate of holistic health and unencumbered authentic living makes him an important part of the theories and practices that have helped to define an entire generation.

The 'human potential' movement grew out of the cauldron of ideas that characterized the 1960s fervor for change, during which time Wong was becoming known for his innovative work in adolescent psychiatry in Vancouver. While Aldous Huxley and Abraham Maslow became synonymous with the Esalen in California, Wong was among the Canadian academics and intellectuals that explored alternatives at the Cold Mountain Institute located on Cortes Island off British Columbia's Pacific coast. There, on weekends and holidays, Wong worked energetically with Alan Watts, Jock McKeen and many others in fashioning a Canadian emphasis to the humanistic psychology that emerged, building upon the work of Perls, Satir, Bugental and others who believed that the individual was capable of much more than what they were educated or trained to become by society and family, if only they could get in touch with their essence, their will and their energy.

It was those ideas that drew Wong and McKeen into relationship, first professionally at the Cortes Center for Human Development, then personally in a life-long commitment to explore and research 'intimacy' as it related to human relationships in all areas of life and development. The foundations of their now famous awareness and energy course 'Come Alive', began at Cortes and remains the flagship program at The Haven on Gabriola Island thirty years on.

Wong is considered a giant in his field. His work in adolescent psychiatry was widely published and he co-authored (with Jock McKeen) several books about how Chinese and Western medicine can be successfully integrated to unlock human potential. Today these ideas about wellness and holistic health are becoming more commonplace. At the time Wong's work on the body, gestalt, meditation and breath work, was groundbreaking.

Today Ben Wong is remembered by thousands of students, clients and admirers all over the world who have participated in his workshops, attended his lectures and read his books. He is survived by his life partner Jock and sons Kevin, Randy (Lisa), and Justin (Renee) and granddaughter Katrina. He is also survived by siblings Pat, Albert (Darlene), Joyce, (Charles), and Allan (Deanna) and many nephews and nieces. He is predeceased by his parents, Hoy & Effie, brothers Andrew (Eva), Ernest, and sisters Effie and Emma.

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TOGETHER, READERS CAN REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Reopening Riverview Hospital not the answer

The BC government recently rejected the recommendation of the Union of BC Municipalities to re-instate Riverview Hospital. Our government has made the right decision. The debate and media coverage over recent weeks has revealed a number of important issues that have reframed questions about Riverview Hospital, and the Premier is correct in her comments that there is a new set of problems we need to deal with.

Surprisingly, the idea of reopening Riverview garnered a good deal of public support, at least in online and radio comments attached to media coverage. However, we question the logic that reopening the hospital would have solved complex problems like homelessness, poverty or the real lack of 24-hour community-based treatment for people with mental illness and/or substance use problems, as many of the comments suggested. We also wonder about the assertion made by many commentators that Riverview would be a 'compassionate solution.'

Reopening Riverview would not be a compassionate solution to homelessness or poverty in our province. The truly compassionate solution would be to take an honest look at how we treat people with severe mental illness and substance use problems and change our course of action. We need to deal with these issues head-on.

For starters, we should ensure that people who have disabilities can afford basic costs of living. Poverty can cause a great deal of stress, which can, in turn, worsen symptoms of mental illness and substance use problems. In other words, if we make it easier for people with disabilities to afford to make ends meet, we will have less demand on our mental health care system. The CMHA has been advocating for the government to increase the persons with disability benefit and index it against cost of living increases.

This would mean that even low-income people with mental

illness could be elevated out of poverty.

Additionally, we need to address the lack of affordable, safe, and supportive housing options in our province. Many British Columbians with mental illnesses or substance use problems cannot access safe and reliable housing. They can be found on the street, under bridges, and in shelters—which are not homes.

To address this in the short term we suggest that the government implement a rental assistance program for people who have low income and mental illness. A longer-term goal would be to invest in building a variety of housing options across the province with varying levels of mental health treatment and supports. This would allow people at all stages of recovery to live in, and contribute to, their communities.

There are significant gaps in our community mental health care system that need to be addressed. For example, many people don't realize that most community mental health services operate during business hours, Monday to Friday. It is important that we create programs that are available to respond to situations that arise at any time of the day. As the VPD outlined in their recent mental health report, Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) is an example of this kind of program. We support these kinds of initiatives so long as they are embedded alongside of income and housing supports. We also need to ensure that there are places that people experiencing distress from mental illness can go, to receive care, where they can't be turned away. We should not and cannot rely on our police departments, emergency rooms, and family members to provide this type of care.

There are certainly some who will argue that these solutions fail to address the immediate needs of people with severe mental illness in our province. They might argue that we need to provide an institutional setting to care for people who have severe symptoms now. We don't deny that there are people on the street, experiencing profound distress, without resources to help. However, people in institutional

care eventually leave institutions, often returning to ill-equipped and under-resourced communities.

International research has found that patients with severe mental illness do better in community-based settings when provided with the right supports. We need to provide our communities with the supports to ensure that patients can leave facilities, and that when they do there are places for them to live and experience recovery.

In short, a broad continuum of community-based supports is the foundation of responsive mental health care—this is the compassionate solution. It allows people with differing levels of need to access supports and live fulfilling lives within their communities, not hidden away in institutions.

Finally, places like Riverview are expensive. We estimate that operating 300 long-term secure beds would cost at least \$45M per year. It is probably more. The ultimate question in this debate is how we choose to spend our money. If we choose to spend it on facilities like Riverview, that's money that we will not have to spend on implementing the solutions that could potentially help thousands.

Rather than asking our government to reopen Riverview Hospital we should be asking them to invest in programs that ensure that people with mental illness and substance use problems can live in dignity within our communities. We can do this by directly addressing big issues like poverty and housing and through ensuring that a robust system of appropriate and timely mental health care is available for all British Columbians within their communities.

Bev Gutray is CEO of the Canadian Mental Health Association, BC Division, and Marina Morrow, PhD, is Associate Professor and Director at the Centre for the Study of Gender, Social Inequities and Mental Health, Faculty of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University, and Research Associate at the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' BC Office.



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LETTERS from page 4

a bridge. What is not being said is that this will almost certainly require dredging of the Fraser River for what must be about 20km. I cannot imagine this will be cheap. I cannot see any of the companies involved paying for this either. Nope, it will all be carried on the backs of the taxpayer.

If we add the cost of bridge, interchanges and dredging all together, I suspect we are looking at a total of at least 3 \$billion.

Will taxpayers be given a chance to decide whether they want to go this much further in debt? I doubt it. After all, we are almost certainly going to get a pipeline, even though a vast majority do not want it. This will be no different. Sold out again, just to appease a company which will pocket the profits and leave us holding the tab.

Mike Windrim, Quadra Island

Thermal Coal Boom Busting

Dear Editor:

Proposals to dramatically ramp up exports of US thermal coal through BC and Washington ports have raised substantive public debate on both sides of the border. Despite the real adverse impacts on human health and our environment it seems our provincial and federal governments would like to avoid any democratic public input into the process and simply accede to corporate interests.

An honest public debate would demonstrate that plans to ship US thermal coal through Surrey-Fraser Docks and to Lafarge's Texada Island facility are both environmentally and economically risky.

Mining is a boom and bust industry. High commodity prices drive high extraction rates before a boom goes bust. Some commodities bounce back from bust because there are no realistic substitutes. Metallurgical coal, critical to steel making, will rebound from future boom-bust cycles. Not so for thermal coal, which is burned for electrical generation. Increasingly there are economic and more environmentally benign substitutes.

Thermal coal, which is passing into bust, may have seen its last boom. Savvy analysts at Goldman Sachs and the World Bank are warning investors away from thermal coal. Why? Tighter environmental regulations and emission standards, waning demand from US, European and Asian markets and

improved energy economics from sources such as natural gas and renewables, particularly solar, may keep much thermal coal in the ground. This is good for the planet.

Mining and transportation infrastructure is expensive, requiring decades for economic payback. The current rush to build thermal coal export facilities at westcoast ports is shortsighted given projections for thermal coal demand and prices.

Thermal coal is a low-value commodity. Massive infrastructure investments and extraction volumes and minimized costs, for equipment, labour, safety or environmental protection determine thermal coal economics. Tighter margins will increase risks. The industry is gambling with our health and environment. That's wrong!

Jef Keighley, Alliance 4 Democracy, Sunshine Coast

The Purpose Of Proroguing

Dear Editor:

Prime Minister Harper this week, we are informed, 'will be using his Malaysia and Bali visits to talk up the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) fledgling trade pact among 12 Pacific Rim countries that is still being negotiated.' His government sees 'Joining the TPP is good news for hard-working Canadian families. Opening new markets and increasing Canadian exports to fast-growing markets throughout the Asia-Pacific region is a key part of our government's plan to create jobs, growth and long-term prosperity.'

The negotiations, whose terms are secret from all save corporation advisors, are primarily not trade related for 'only five of the 29 chapters contain provisions related to trade. The other chapters consist of provisions related to patent protections, investor state rights and finance deregulation, among others.'

Rather than being good news to hard working families, information that has leaked out paints the picture that 'The Trans-Pacific Partnership Is a Corporate Coup in Disguise' in terms of food safety, fracking, jobs, drug prices, internet freedom, and public services.

Parliament being prorogued and the Prime Minister talking it up on his trip presents an opportunity for Canadians to be made aware of what is in process and its implications for them.

Joe Hueglin, Niagara Falls



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Saturna Notes - Priscilla Ewbank

It has been raining in a day after day manner which brings to mind biblical deluge. Soup, I think is the cure for chronic grey sky and falling moisture. As a result of the rain, green grass and fulsome moss coverage are right back in place. The fungal world of mushrooms is enthused and fruiting, spider webs anchoring to anything barely stable.

And then there is the wardrobe for this weather shift, clothes to be wearing for a fall rainy day! At this time of the year it is still warm. Halfway through a day of soaking wet rain, clothed in what seems appropriate, you can find yourself sweating if you haven't been careful in making the fine distinction between early fall gear and December attire! It's only October, perhaps a lovely sunny fall still awaits us!

Managing To Say Goodbye

A traditional Saturna Potluck Dinner was held at the Community Hall attended by a hundred community members to say goodbye to Saturna Lighthouse Pub's Manager & Cook Ian Warren and Wizard Waitress Rachel Preston: excellent drinkmaker, lovely server, and arbiter between the ordering and the cooking ends of the pub. They have been the driving



force and well-loved face of Saturna's pub for six years now.

Ian and Rachel arrived from Ontario to visit Ian's sister and escape winter with the plan that Rachel would finish her third novel and Ian would... well... do something kind of restful. Within 36 hours he was running the Pub, menus were changed, procedures were put in place, Rachel painted the pub and did much more, (and wrote that book and then another). Welcoming, funny, with great pub food, was the new public interface. Behind the swing doors, a well-run establishment, balancing great service with realistic financials.

Business in small communities is committed work. To flourish under the day-to-day repetition, you have to enjoy people, and what you are offering. A great pub, café, general store, mechanic shop, nursery, bookstore, and B&Bs are huge community assets, adding livelihood, social nodes, and enjoyment for locals and visitors.

If you are a working member of a small community, you have your public face, and then you have the rest of your life. Ian and Rachel, besides being committed business people, have greatly animated the arts on Saturna.

Rachel has her life as a published writer, connecting with the other island writers and readers through writing groups and book clubs, and establishing a link with the Galiano Literary Festival. She sings in the choir, and is a firm member of the Dog Walkers Frolic and Enjoyment League.

Puckish, energetic Ian has had photographic art showings, is an anchor member of the men's section of the choir—way down low, a fierce tennis ball swatter, sailor, and is the resident plumber's capable, hilarious sidekick and assistant.

Ian is one of the funniest people I know—at no one's particular expense—which makes him a great publican as he acts out his riffs playing off us all, while the salmon sandwiches are created and you take another sip of beer. 'Yah know?' is Ian's intro and next comes a five second Ian show: rapid repartee, laughter, and body actions dressing up his inspired view on some part of his or our shared world!

At the potluck, Saturna showed their appreciation of the years that Ian and Rachel have shared with us. They gave us their all while they were with us with gusto and inspiration and leave a well functioning staff to carry on at the pub, a great parting gift to the business and to the community. We send them off with love and good memories and the anticipation of further updates of their new adventure.

Rainy Events

In the pouring rain this last weekend in September, we had several community events. Saturna School held their twice-a-year bottledrive. The school had its system of counting, notating, and loading down pat as people trooped up in the deluge to give over their bottles for the cause. The kids work alongside their aunties, grandmas, moms, and dads to raise between \$600-\$700 a term for the outings and trips and other amenities that enrich the their lives.

Also amid the rain, Aleah Johnson and her staff invited all her customers down to Wild Thyme Café to celebrate her businesses' first year of operation. Live music, pie, beer and other festivities entertained the participants coming to congratulate her on her success.

SIMRES Talk

September 21, featured another marvelous and popular installment of Sea Talks, sponsored by Saturna Island Marine Research and Education Society. 'Listening to Whales and Reading the Oceans' was presented by Ocean Networks

Canada's Associate Director Science Services Dr Richard Dewey.

Richard Dewey practically vibrated with love for his subject—the tides and movements of water in the Salish Sea from Swiftsure Banks at the mouth of the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Johnstone Strait in the north.

All this movement includes the influence of the almost incomprehensible amount of fresh water that barrels into the middle of all this tidal action from the Fraser River.

Saturna's East Point, Chatham Island and Discovery Island are frantic mixing places for the tides, temperatures, and fresh and salt waters. Nine marine mammals take advantage of the blessings of oxygenation from tidal flow action and nutrient loading from the ocean water taking place at these sites. Dewey stated that 'this area is rich in natural phenomena truly supporting the title Supernatural BC.'

Out at East Point, he showed us the standing wave that results from certain tides hitting a huge sill of rock that extends out from East Point at 30 to 40 fathoms almost over to Patos Island. The narrowness of the gap creates great turbulence. Tidal patterns linger for weeks in the two-weekly neap and spring tide succession. Later, at the Community Hall, with projected cartoons and graphics he was able to demonstrate to us what we had seen at East Point.

Richard Dewey told us about UVic's Venus and Neptune underwater observatory facilities. Research tools are being used



to chart and record sound underwater. We listened to and saw the sound signatures of tankers, porpoises, orcas, and grey whales. According to Richard, orca whale expert John Ford, can 'read' these orca sound printouts and is able to identify individual whales.

Saturna's research group and Richard Dewey are looking into the possible establishment of a triangle study area at East Point to explore the environmental and ecological systems that exist at this wild juncture of tides and geologic forms.

It was exciting to see and listen to this lecture and see that research flows from the common human experience and that there is always something gorgeous and fascinating happening at East Point!

Saturna has one more field-lecture-hall presentation in this series coming up, 'Birds on the Wind' about the most recent discoveries about bird migration, lucky us! (See 'What's On?' below.)

What's On?

Now till Saturday, Oct 26

Ptarmigan's Island Mosaic Arts Festival Events—Oct 11: Oktoberfest dinner, music by Heavy Meadow, Legion, \$14, tickets at Talisman; **Oct 18:** concert with Dave Wright/ Shelley Richards and Caught in Amber, 7pm, Hope Bay studio, \$10; **Oct 19:** concert with Carolyn Mark and Heavy Meadow, 7pm, Hope Bay Studio, \$10; **Oct 20:** Art show and music performance by Calliope, 11am-4pm, Poets Cove Seagrass Ballroom, free • kids under 16 free at all performances • Info: 1.866.856.0634, www.ptarmigansociety.org • **PENDER**

Now till Saturday, Oct 26

Ptarmigan's Island Mosaic Arts Festival Workshops—Oct 11, 18, 25: Nature-based art workshops for kids aged 6-12, 10-12am; **Oct 12, 19, 26:** Mosaic-making workshops for kids over 10 and adults, 10-12am; **Oct 9, 16, 23, 30:** Story-writing workshops for adults, 2-4pm; **Oct 18:** Poetry writing workshop, 1-3pm; **Oct 19:** Creative writing workshop, 1-5pm; **Oct 21:** Introduction to film making, 7-9pm • Info: Call 1-866-856-0634 to find our more about workshops, including locations, and to register. Space limited in some workshops • Workshops by donation to Ptarmigan; suggested donation \$5/workshop • Info: www.ptarmigansociety.org • **PENDER**

Saturday–Monday, October 12-14

Thanksgiving Weekend Family Fun Swims—enjoy the wavepool, waterslide, diving boards, and Wibit inflatable on Saturday and Sunday afternoon, pirate ship, toddler pool, swirlpool, steam room and family changerooms. • Commonwealth Place, 4636 Elk Lake Drive (right off Pat Bay Hwy at Royal Oak exit) • Sat: 1-4pm, 6:30-8:30pm; Sun: 1-4pm, 6-8pm; Mon: 10-noon, 1-4pm • Info: 24-hour Swim Info-line 250-475-7620 • **IN SAANICH**

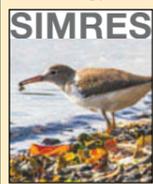
Thanksgiving Saturday, Oct 12

Pender Islands Farmers' Thanksgiving Market—fresh, local produce, baked goods, local art, artisan works & demonstrations, culinary delights; guest speakers on current topics, buskers, musicians; bring your friends and family, enjoy lunch or a snack, you never know what you'll find or who you'll meet! • Community Hall • 9:30am-1pm • Info: www.pifi.ca • **PENDER**

Thanksgiving Saturday, October 12

Pender Film Night 'Chasing Ice'—one man's mission in the arctic to gathering undeniable evidence of our changing planet, time lapse photography, 30 awards including Sundance Film Festival • Community Hall • 7:30pm • Admission by donation (suggested \$5) • **PENDER**

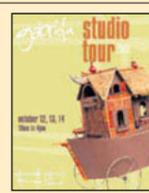
Saturday, October 12



Seatalks: Birds On The Wind—Dr Rob Butler, one of Canada's top ornithologists, President of Pacific Wildlife Foundation and author of *The Jade Coast*, will share exciting news about recent discoveries of one of the oldest mysteries in nature—bird migration. • 1-3pm, Saturna Community Hall; 4-5pm in the field • Info: SaturnaMarineResearch.ca • **SATURNA**

Saturday–Monday, October 12-14

17th Annual Gabriola Thanksgiving Studio Tour—more than 40 artists will open their doors to visitors from around the world; Gabriola invites art lovers to pick up or download an information-packed brochure and make a day of it • 10am-4pm • Free • Info: www.artsgabriola.ca • **GABRIOLA**



Friday thru Sunday, October 18-27

2013 ArtSea Festival—10 days of arts celebration: Sidney Fine Art Show; Fall Studio Tour; ArtSea Concert Benefit; artist demonstrations and displays, performances, street music; unique festival pairs businesses and artists in celebration of the community they mutually enrich • Daily • Visit www.mypeninsula.ca for details • **SIDNEY**



VANCOUVER ISLAND & ALL THE GULF ISLANDS



Saturday, October 19

Salt Spring Vineyards Annual Grape Stomp—all our wines will be open, fresh shucked oysters, local foods, music all day long, grape stomping and competitions—an event not to be missed • 151 Lee Road • 12-5pm • Everyone welcome • 250-653-9463 • **SALT SPRING**

Saturday, October 19

Coal Dust Health Issues—guest speaker Dr Frank James MD: family physician; public health officer for San Juan County; faculty member, University of Washington School of Public Health • Texada Community Hall • 7pm • All are welcome • **TEXADA ISLAND**

Texada Talk

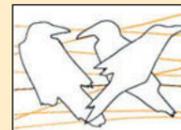
Saturday & Sunday, Oct 19 & 20

5th annual Intuitive Arts Festival—20 workshops on healing, intuition, finding your life path, spirituality and much more: psychic readings, energy healing, massage, rocks and gems, shamanic services and metaphysical gifts • James Bay Community Centre, 140 Oswego St • 12pm - 5pm • \$10/day, at the door • Info: www.redgatehealingstudio.com, 778.433.7334 • **VICTORIA**



Friday thru Sunday, October 25 to 27

Creative Threads Conspiracy—three-day retreat of workshops for all levels of fibre artists with 12 teachers and 18 classes: knitting, quilting, basketry, felting, natural dyes • Fri/ Sat/Sun: classes all day, catered meals; Saturday Evening: Wearable Art Fashion Show • Each class \$10/hour • Info: 250.335.0198, www.creativethreadsconspiracy.com • **DENMAN**



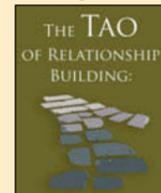
Friday, Saturday & Sunday, November 1, 2 & 3

24th Annual Nanaimo Professional Craft Fair—something for everyone, door prizes, grand prize, wheelchair accessible, refreshments from Sandy's Ukrainian kitchen • Beban Park Social Centre, 2300 Bowen Rd • Fri: 12-8pm; Sat: 10am-5pm; Sun: 10am-4pm • Admission \$4 (unlimited re-entry) • Info: 250.797.6544, elizacraftfair@yahoo.com • **NANAIMO**



Tuesday & Wednesday, November 12 & 13

'A Path to Community Capacity and Resilience'—the Tao of Relationship Building, a two-day training conference for community social service providers, presented by the South Island Training Initiative, one-day registrations available • University of Victoria • Register online at www.siticonference.ca • Everyone Welcome • info@siticonference.ca • **VICTORIA**



Friday, November 8

Stripes: The Mystery Circus—a play with songs! *Stripes* is an inspirational memoir, that celebrates the comic circus of life; Sarah Hayward's one-woman show performs one night only • Ag Hall • 8pm • Tickets: \$20 at the door • Info: www.sarahhayward.ca • **MAYNE**



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Tahltan's Sacred Headwaters

David Suzuki

Few places on our planet have been unaffected by humans. Satellite images taken from hundreds of kilometres above Earth reveal a world irrevocably changed by our land-use over just the past few decades.

From Arctic tundra to primeval rainforest to arid desert, our natural world is being fragmented by ever-expanding towns and cities, roads, transmission lines and pipelines, and pockmarked by mines, pump jacks, flare stacks and other infrastructure used to drill, frack and strip-mine fossil fuels.

Areas that have remained relatively free of industrial development have thus taken on a special significance. They're places where a wide range of animals feed, breed and roam in large numbers, where rivers run wild and indigenous people fish, hunt and practise traditional ways.

In Canada, they include awe-inspiring landscapes like the boreal forests of Pimachiowin Aki in northern Manitoba, Gwaii Haanas off Canada's West Coast and the Sacred Headwaters (called Tl'abāne in the local Tahltan language and pronounced Klabona in English) in northwestern BC. The latter is the birthplace of three of the continent's great salmon rivers, the Stikine, Skeena and Nass.

The rivers of the Sacred Headwaters originate close together, as small streams percolating from beneath rich meadows on the high plateau. Fed by waters from the surrounding mountains and valleys, they drive toward the North Pacific Ocean with great force, shooting through gorges that rival the Grand Canyon in grandeur and cascading over breathtakingly beautiful waterfalls.

Unblemished by dams, clearcuts or mines, and with an abundance of wildlife, including grizzly bears, wolves, caribou and the world's largest population of stone sheep, the Sacred Headwaters has been called the Serengeti of the North.

Places like the Sacred Headwaters owe their continued existence to indigenous peoples who have lived there for thousands of years, and who have consistently resisted incursions of industrial development that would harm their ancestral lands—often putting their own bodies on the line to block trucks, earth-movers and drilling equipment.

But while Pimachiowin Aki and Gwaii Haanas are now thankfully protected under law, the Sacred Headwaters is not. It remains at risk from a multitude of proposed mines, railways, transmission lines and other projects that will eviscerate the landscape if approved.

The projects include a 44-square-kilometre open-pit anthracite coal mine that would level Klappan Mountain, at the very

heart of the Sacred Headwaters. The mine, proposed by Fortune Minerals, a small company based in London, Ontario, would devastate land which the BC government led the Tahltan Nation to believe would be protected.

The Tahltan are not opposed to all industrial development, and have partnered with many resource companies to generate jobs and economic opportunities for their community. But they believe some places, like the Sacred Headwaters, are too important to be developed and should be safeguarded. The Tahltan earlier stopped one of the world's largest corporations, Royal Dutch Shell, from fracking the area for coalbed methane gas. On August 16, they issued Fortune Minerals an immediate eviction notice.

The Tahltan, including elders who were arrested while keeping Fortune Minerals out of the Sacred Headwaters a decade ago, have gathered at their usual hunting camp on Klappan Mountain to peacefully oppose the mining company, which began test-drilling earlier this summer, with the government's approval.

Tahltan First Nation members have been joined by non-aboriginal allies, such as the Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition. With the support of the wider community, which has brought food, water, firewood and other essentials, the Tahltan are vowing to stay on Mount Klappan until Fortune Minerals leaves the Sacred Headwaters for good.

American poet Gary Snyder has been quoted as saying, 'The most radical thing you can do is stay home.' The phrase has

come to have many associations, most notably to describe a sense of place and the profound power of communities coming together to protect it.

Snyder's poetic description of what is a radical is an appropriate portrayal of the Tahltan's peaceful defence of their Sacred Headwaters home. The word 'radical' originates with the Latin for 'root' or 'having roots'. The Tahltan's presence in the Sacred Headwaters is ancient and deeply rooted and will not easily be removed.

Written with contributions from David Suzuki Foundation Ontario and Northern Canada Director-General Faisal Moola. Learn more at www.davidsuzuki.org.



Island Tides' Update

Following the Tahltan Elders 24-hour 'Eviction Notice' on August 16, on September 23, Fortune withdrew its drilling crews from the Klappan Valley. This was a few days after the government of BC announced the appointment of a mediator, Geoff Freer, 'in an effort to allow the Arctos project (Klappan Mountain) to proceed'.

Freer is a former Assistant Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources responsible for the Mining and Mineral Division, and was Vice President of Venue Construction for the 2010 Olympics.

Salt Spring metal recycling operation limited

John Quesnel, owner and operator of Salt Spring Island Metal Recycling, signed his consent on September 25 in the Supreme Court of British Columbia to stop crushing metal on his Rainbow Road property and to apply to the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee for a Temporary Use Permit by October 30. Under the terms of the order, Quesnel agreed that his use of the land for commercial salvage contravenes the Salt Spring Island community's zoning bylaw (Bylaw #355) and also agreed to stop using his property for 'rebuilding vehicles and crushing or dismantling vehicles, vehicle parts, appliances or scrap metal.'

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee agreed that Quesnel could continue other parts of his operation, provided he complies with the requirement to apply for a Temporary Use Permit. The order is in effect until the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee makes a decision on Quesnel's Temporary Use Permit application. The proceeding to require Quesnel to comply with Salt Spring's zoning regulations has also been adjourned pending the outcome of the Temporary Use Permit application.

Issuing a Temporary Use Permit is a public process and community members can provide input on the application for the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee's consideration. More detailed information about the application process and opportunities for providing input will be advertised in local media and in a notice to be sent to neighbours.

The long-standing issue dates back to 2006, when neighbours first complained to the Islands Trust's bylaw enforcement office that Quesnel's use of the property does not comply with the rural zoning that has been in place since 1971.

Over the years the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee has asked staff to help Quesnel find a solution. Islands Trust planning staff have met frequently with Quesnel and proposed a range of solutions. With no action taken by Quesnel in mid-2008, no voluntary compliance with the bylaw and on-going complaints from neighbours, the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee initiated legal action in November, 2008.

In May, 2011 the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee agreed to adjourn legal action pending the outcome of an application from Quesnel to amend the Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw by rezoning his Rainbow Road property to permit industrial and affordable housing use. The property's zoning and the Official Community Plan would have required amendment to accommodate the industrial uses and the density of housing that Quesnel was then seeking. The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee did not advance his application.

'The issue is not the need for this type of business, but that it be located in an appropriate location with the right zoning,' said David Marlor, Islands Trust Director of Local Planning Services. 'While there appears to be general community support for on-island recycling, it doesn't work when someone just starts up this type of operations in a rural residential zone without due process. It's important that we respect the community input that has gone into the Official Community Plan and zoning regulations. People want to be confident that the zoning bylaws in place when they purchase property will be upheld and that changes will not be made without their input.' To ensure that Salt Spring Island has sufficient industrially-zoned land to support future community needs, the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee has been working to identify the need for industrial lands on the island and is considering recent recommendations from an Industrial Advisory Planning Commission.

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