

Gulf Islands' Island Tides

Every Second Thursday and at www.islandtides.com

Volume 15 Number 19

Tsawwassen to Vancouver Island & On-line

Sept 25 - Oct 8, 2003

Attractions & Accommodation

Vancouver Island & The Gulf Islands, Page 8

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Photo: Gail Neumann

Jamie Rokeby-Thomas and Fiddleworks performed for the crowd at Salt Spring's annual fall fair. This year the fair theme was 'Something to crow about.' In addition to a fine line-up of performers the fair offered kids rides, exhibitions and displays, livestock, 4-H activities, and plenty of fine food. Good weather drew in the crowds and good fun kept them smiling.

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Award winners announced

Islands Trust Council announced the winners of the 2003 Community Stewardship Awards on September 12 during its quarterly meeting on Gabriola Island. Four winners were chosen from the nineteen nominations.

Council gave awards in the 'group' category to the Bowen Island Forest and Water Management Society for creation of the Bowen Island geolibrary and to the Islands in the Salish Sea Mapping Project for the production of a well-received series of artistic island community maps.

Individual awards go to Tony Quin for his work towards acquisition of the Link-Parsons property on Hornby Island and to Jenny Balke for her work removing barriers to salmon on Valens Brook, Denman Island.

David Essig, Chair of the Islands Trust Council comments: 'We were very impressed by the quality and variety of projects nominated. We want these awards to recognize and encourage those who work to support the Islands Trust mandate. The nominations really demonstrate the commitment people have to their communities.'

Presentation ceremonies will be held during the fall in the island communities where the recipients live.

You will be able to nominate individuals, groups or business for next year's awards in the spring of 2004. Information will be available on the Islands Trust website at www.islandstrust.bc.ca/

GREENS, turn to page 2

BCUC forces Hydro to try 'Plan B'

The September 8 refusal by the BC Utilities Commission to permit BC Hydro to build a natural gas powered generating plant at Duke Point, near Nanaimo, has resulted in a rapid change of direction by the public utility. Hydro's 'Plan B' includes a Call for Tenders for alternative supplies of electricity for Vancouver Island, the possible future construction of a new 230kv power line from the mainland, and a renewed emphasis on conservation through its PowerSmart program.

The Utilities Commission felt that Hydro's estimates of future Vancouver Island electricity demand were exaggerated, and that the Duke Point proposal was not the most cost-effective approach to supplying future Island requirements. In fact, they hinted that it was overkill.

While the BCUC was not asked to rule on the proposed Georgia Strait Crossing (GSX) pipeline, it is now difficult to believe that this project, financed by BC Hydro, would go ahead without Duke Point.

Many Alternatives

An important factor in BCUC's ruling was the variety of alternative power generation strategies that have surfaced, including gas-fired co-generation at NorskeCanada's three mill sites on the Island, Quinsam Coal's proposal for coal-fired generation near Campbell River, various wind power and small hydroelectric schemes, and a wood-waste burning generation plant at Gold River. In addition, Terasen Gas suggested that they increase the capacity of their existing natural gas pipeline to Vancouver Island (at a cost significantly less than the proposed GSX pipeline). Possibly as a part of this plan, they have also recently indicated interest in finding a site for a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) storage facility in the Cowichan Valley.

A Call for Tenders

BCUC has suggested to Hydro that they should immediately set out to obtain firm quotations on alternatives to the Duke Point proposal, and Hydro say they expect to have a bid package issued by the end of this month, for a decision by next April.

The Duke Point/GSX proposal is not completely dead, however, since alternative proposals will be measured against it. Hydro has emphasized that since the additional generation capacity is required for peak demand, it must be absolutely reliable, which might work against sources such as wind power, which cannot necessarily produce power on demand.

Evaluation of Proposals

Hydro has already sunk close to \$100 million into the Duke Point/GSX project, and has used this as an argument that proceeding with the original plan would be cheaper now than any other alternative. But BCUC rejected this argument. The Commission also recognized costs of \$3.68 per megawatt-hour for greenhouse gas mitigation; this may be the first time this has been recognized as an operational cost.

So would the proposal evaluation process be fair, as it is to be run by Hydro? BCUC hinted yes: 'It is the panel's impression that bidders into the call for tenders can anticipate a fair and transparent process, especially given Hydro's willingness to engage an independent reviewer and the Commission's eventual review of a certificate application.'

BCUC have suggested that they might be prepared to give a fast decision on Hydro's eventual choice provided that they are satisfied with Hydro's evaluation process. This might mean no further oral hearings.

BCUC, turn to page 10

Greens reject merger, but will talk

Some prominent British Columbians propose to create a 'coalition' to avoid splitting the vote against the provincial Liberals in the 2005 election. Adriane Carr, provincial leader of the Greens, has firmly rejected a merger with the NDP. However, Carr has indicated a willingness to discuss the concept of 'electoral accommodation.'

At present, the NDP have two seats in the 79-seat provincial legislature, and the Green Party has none. Recent polls have indicated that each party has the support of close to 20% of the electorate. The suggestion that the two opposition parties would have a better chance of success in the April 2005 provincial election if they were to merge has been the topic of considerable discussion during recent NDP leadership debates.

This proposal, for a 'coalition' to oppose the Liberals, is signed by a group including David Chudnovsky, past president, British Columbia Teachers' Federation; Lisa Barrett, Mayor of Bowen

Sharp-tailed snake gets safe haven - Clare Frater

The Islands Trust Fund has agreed to work with North Pender landowners Don and Teresa Williams to create the first-ever conservation covenant to protect Sharp-tailed snake habitat. The covenant will protect 354 sq. metres (0.088 acres) of land.

Why would the Islands Trust Fund put resources towards such a small area of land? The answer is that while this covenant area may appear small to us it is of critical importance to this endangered and elusive species.

As one of only eight known sites in British Columbia, the area to be covenanted provides exactly the habitat needed for the nationally and provincially endangered Sharp-tailed snake. Much of the current understanding of

Sharp-tailed snake biology in British Columbia originates from this site on North Pender Island.

Last March when Carolyn Stewart, the



Photo: Kristina Ovaska

Islands Trust Fund manager, walked the potential covenant site with Christian Engletoft of the Sharp-tailed Snake Recovery Team and landowner Don Williams, they

SNAKE, turn to page 5

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Galiano's forest strategy moves ahead

Galiano Island's controversial long-term strategy to limit residential density in its forest lands is starting to work. Over the past two years, there have been three applications to rezone parts of the former MacMillan Bloedel forests; one was completed in 2002, and two others are in process.

Under the Community Plan and past bylaws, Galiano's forest landowners can build one house for every fifty acres. But one of the options available to forest landowners is subdivision of about one-quarter of each forest parcel to five-acre rural residential lots, provided that the remainder of the property is restricted by long-term covenant to supervised, sustainable forestry.

Galiano's Forest

MacMillan Bloedel's privately owned forest lands, about half of Galiano Island, had been managed as a tree farm since 1954. But in after several attempts to rezone the entire tree farm to 1500 small residential lots (a strategy termed 'The Urbanization of Second Growth'), MacMillan Bloedel put the land, divided into District Lots, up for sale. After the Galiano community's unsuccessful attempt to purchase the entire forest, the land was sold in District Lots, ranging in size from 51 to 216 acres.

In January, 1992, the Galiano Trust Committee passed *Bylaws 81-85*, which increased the minimum lot size in the forest to 20 hectares (49.4 acres), with no residential use, but providing for rezoning to one house per lot (accessory to the principal use of forestry) provided that certain conditions were met.

MacMillan Bloedel disclosed these limitations to all purchasers, but at the same time challenged the bylaws in BC Supreme Court, seeking and obtaining a Judicial Declaration that they were 'void for illegality'.

However, the Islands Trust appealed this decision, winning the appeal in August 1995. In the interim, the bylaws were not enforced, and the Minister of Municipal Affairs refused to freeze development until the appeal was heard. So twelve houses were built on forest lands, 52 smaller lots were created by subdivision, but the actual legal process to void the bylaws was never completed. Consequently, when the Appeal confirmed that *Bylaws 81-84* were legal, they had, in fact, been in effect continuously since January 1992, their original date of adoption.

A New Community Plan

In 1996, local trustees once again set out to write a new Official Community Plan (OCP), with bylaws which would provide options for now frustrated forest land owners. This was the origin of the idea of limited subdivision rights for forest lands in exchange for firm covenants for sustainable forestry.

The then Minister of Municipal Affairs sought advice from his staff, and the report he received (recently obtained, in somewhat censored form, through a Freedom of Information request) characterized the subdivision proposal as requiring a 'donation' of forest land to the community. It suggested to the Minister that '... rejection (of the proposed bylaw) could be based on ownership of land to be extracted.'

Former Island Trustee Margaret Griffiths takes strong exception to this description, particularly the terms 'donation' and 'extracted'. She points out that the proposal was that the unsubdivided forest land is to be protected by a covenant, and

would remain the property of the original owner. This is the proposal that has come to be known as the 'Heritage Forest' option.

Ms. Griffiths attributes delays in the Minister's approval of Galiano's new plans to this 'false statement' in the staff report. This also appears to have been the source of information used in an article in the *Scrivener* (the professional publication of the Notaries Public), and an article in the *National Post*. Wishing to clear her name, she notes that the *Scrivener* article has been retracted, but no correction has appeared to the *National Post* article.

Bylaw 127 provides options

The 1995 Official Community Plan, *Bylaw 127*, provides a number of options for forest lot owners. There are 94 F1 zoned lots, which do not allow any use but forestry, but which may be rezoned to F3 or FLR, both of which allow one dwelling per lot, or to RR/FH (see below). There are 6 F2 zoned lots, which were not part of the MacMillan Bloedel sale, and which allow one dwelling per lot. There is one F3 zoned lot (and one in the rezoning process), which permit one dwelling per lot.

There is one FLR lot, the restrictions on which generally follow the province's rules for Forest Land Reserve, permitting one dwelling. The province appears to be in the process of phasing out the Forest Land Reserve, but it may continue to exist as an assessment classification.

The Heritage Forest Subdivision Option

The option that has attracted the most attention is one which permits up to one-quarter of a forest lot to be rezoned to Rural Residential (RR), resulting in approximately the same number of residential lots that would have been produced by subdivision of the entire property into 20 acre parcels.

RR permits five acre lots, but these are each balanced by approximately 15 acres rezoned to Heritage Forest (FH). This rezoning to sustainable, managed forest land constitutes the 'amenity' provided by the landowner in exchanged for enhanced subdivision rights.

Each RR lot may have one dwelling and one cottage. Each dwelling must have highway access (road plan has been set out), and no more than one-third of waterfrontage can be rezoned to RR. This is intended to prevent the concentration of houses along the waterfront, and encourages a loose clustering of the residential lots.

The Heritage Forest covenant is intended to bar any future subdivision without the permission of three covenant holders. Two of these are the Galiano Club and the Silva Forest Foundation. The Galiano Club is currently nominated to manage the heritage forest sustainably.

Initially, this subdivision option was put in place for two years, but this period has recently been extended. The Local Trust Committee's Forest Lands Initiative anticipates the development of a 'template' for covenants (presently under discussion) which will accomplish the objectives set out in the Official Community Plan.

Rezoning and subdivision under the RR/FH option could prove profitable to some forest lot owners and not to others, depending on the topography, the size of the lot, and the costs of development and roadbuilding, sometimes on steep slopes. So far, only one owner has completed the approval process, but others are on the way. /

Island Tides

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Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.	Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.
23	0055	8.9	2.7	01	0220	1.6	0.5
	0825	3.0	0.9		1045	10.5	3.2
	1615	10.2	3.1		1455	9.2	2.8
	2140	7.9	2.4		1910	10.2	3.1
24	0210	9.2	2.8	02	0320	2.0	0.6
	0910	3.0	0.9		1205	10.5	3.2
	1635	10.2	3.1		1705	9.5	2.9
	2205	6.9	2.1		1945	9.5	2.9
25	0315	9.5	2.9	03	0420	2.3	0.7
	0950	3.3	1.0		1310	10.8	3.3
	1655	10.2	3.1		1930	9.2	2.8
	2235	5.9	1.8		2045	9.2	2.8
26	0425	9.5	2.9	04	0530	2.6	0.8
	1030	3.9	1.2		1405	10.8	3.3
	1710	10.5	3.2		2020	8.5	2.6
	2310	4.9	1.5		2240	8.5	2.6
27	0530	9.8	3.0	05	0640	3.0	0.9
	1110	4.9	1.5		1450	10.8	3.3
	1730	10.5	3.2		2055	7.9	2.4
	2355	3.6	1.1		DI		
28	0640	9.8	3.0	06	0030	8.5	2.6
	1150	6.2	1.9		0740	3.3	1.0
	1755	10.8	3.3		1525	10.8	3.3
				2125	7.2	2.2	
29	0040	2.6	0.8	07	0200	8.5	2.6
	0755	9.8	3.0		0830	3.6	1.1
	1240	7.5	2.3		1550	10.5	3.2
	1815	10.8	3.3		2150	6.6	2.0
30	0130	2.0	0.6	08	0310	8.9	2.7
	0915	10.2	3.1		0915	4.3	1.3
	1335	8.5	2.6		1615	10.2	3.1
	1845	10.5	3.2		2220	5.6	1.7

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No local control over aquaculture, says Bill 48

Patrick Brown

Bill 48, introduced by the government in the last days of the spring session of the provincial legislature would remove local control over aquaculture operations. David Essig, Chair of the Islands Trust, has written to the Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Fisheries, expressing his concern. Green Party leader Adriane Carr called the bill, 'An end-run around local government.'

Meanwhile, the government has approved 47 new licenses to existing fish farming companies to farm halibut and sablefish. The David Suzuki Foundation, the Canadian Sablefish Association, John Cummings, MP, and Carr have raised objections to this latest move.

Bill 48, the *Agriculture, Food, and Fisheries Amendment Act*, 2003, looks innocuous enough. It has had first reading only and no debate; it is expected to be raised during the session of the legislature which starts early in October. Apparently, all it does is extend the protection of the *Right to Farm Act*, 1996 to Crown Land used for farming.

But aquaculture is now included in the definition of farming, and the definition of Crown Land includes all waters below the high tide mark.

Cabinet Control of Farming Designation

In a striking parallel to Bill 46 (the equally innocent-looking *Land Amendment Act*) it gives the provincial cabinet the right to designate any Crown land (or water) as a farming area.

The *Right to Farm Act* restricts local governments (including the Islands Trust) from regulating farming through zoning and other bylaws, so the combined effect of Bill 48 is to prevent local governments from regulating the aquaculture industry on Crown Land and in Crown waters.

This is, of course, particularly important to Island and coastal communities, and this is the subject of Essig's strong letter to Minister John van Dongen, on June 17. Essig makes the point that the policy of the Islands Trust supports local attempts to control aquaculture around Island shores as a logical part of the Trust's 'preserve and protect' mandate.

AQUACULTURE, turn to page 8

GREENS from page 1

Island; David R. Boyd, environmental lawyer and professor, Pender Island; Murray Dobbin, Council of Canadians; Patty Ducharme, Regional Executive Vice-President (BC), Public Service Alliance of Canada; Dr. Gabor Mate, physician, Vancouver; and Robert Smith, former moderator, United Church of Canada.

A Strategy Proposed

They say: 'Thousands of British Columbians who voted for the Liberals but are today appalled by where they are taking our province should be invited to participate. The strategy should include the New Democratic Party and the Green Party and British Columbians who have never been involved in electoral politics before.'

Their suggested platform:

- increased support and resources for public health care and public education
- a sustainable, diversified economic strategy
- levels of social assistance and publicly-funded, community-based supports and services that provide security, dignity and inclusion for all
- public services that are accountable to and meet community interests and needs

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Fossil Fuels: Feast and Famine? – John Carlton

'Thank heavens there is lots of oil.' After all, we even put out forest fires with it. Not directly of course, but through the engines of water bombers, helicopters, bulldozers, buses, trucks, chainsaws and on and on. If nothing else, warming summers with more and bigger fires illustrate again our absolute dependence on oil, and the extent to which it is woven into the fabric of society. Oil is the biggest, the best, and the most loved of all energy sources. It is easy to pump and to ship, and we know an awful lot about where it is and how to get it. Transportation runs on oil largely to the exclusion of all else, and indirectly it is used in one way or another to mine or manufacture all other sources of energy.

But is there really that much left? We are used to being told that the oil supply is for practical purposes unlimited, and if it ever falters, we will have alternatives waiting in the wings. However there are appearing diverging viewpoints from some surprising sources. Interestingly, none of these people have anything to do with either Greenpeace or the Fraser Institute. They are an increasingly vocal body of very senior geophysical scientists, economists, and bankers who have worked for decades within the oil industry. They include consultants to governments on energy resources, and heads of a variety of international organizations and think tanks. Methodology varies, and debate continues around details, but the conclusion is that the day when oil ceases to be an unrestrictedly available energy source is much closer than we have been given to believe. Further, there really are no alternatives that will work the way we need them to.

There is no conspiracy suppressing this information, no wild-eyed website ranting about Armageddon, just knowledgeable people collecting their data and publishing. An excellent compendium of these conclusions, as well as contrary arguments is: *The Party's Over: Oil, War and the Fate of Industrialized Societies* by Richard Heinberg, a faculty member at New College of California. It is Heinberg's book that I am summarizing in this review, of our energy sources, current and future, real and imagined, starting with oil and gas.

Finding It & Getting It Out

Until the early 1980s new discoveries easily outstripped production, and production easily kept up with demand. However, real cracks in the world oil supply started to appear in 1970 when US production reached its peak. By 2000, US production had fallen to half that peak. Similarly, world production is expected to peak sometime between now and 2015 and by 2050 will drop to about a third of its present level. Demand has however increased exponentially and this trend can be expected to continue, despite the most optimistic of conservation measures.

Supply figures tend to be pessimistic, especially when it

comes to more oil. The thirty years between 1950 and 1980 were a period of enormous discovery, but since that time, the discovery curve is pretty much dead flat. Although the huge Shaybah field in Saudi Arabia, entered production in 2000, it was actually discovered in the 1970s, and this is true of pretty much all 'new' huge fields. There are also many examples of huge fields discovered in the '60s that peaked in the '70s, and are in decline. The Samatlor field in Siberia and Prudhoe Bay in Alaska are typical, presently producing only 16% of their peak production. The North Sea, Britain's winning lottery ticket for the last thirty years, peaked in 1998, and Britain is again a net oil importer.

The only 'elephant' field actually discovered since 1985 is the recently found basin in Khazakistan. This is despite the oil industry crawling all over the planet and drilling wherever there is any chance of discovery no matter how difficult or uneconomical it may be to bring a well to production. In fact we are finding only one new barrel of oil for every three or four we consume. A huge amount of oil is burnt looking for more oil, to the extent that exploration worldwide is presently burning one barrel for every four it discovers. This means that a quarter of every barrel we find is in effect burnt before it gets out of the ground, and these ratios are getting worse.

The Complex Research Center at the University of New Hampshire calculates that by 2005, the energy required to explore for, drill for, put into production, transport, and market the output from new wells within the US will exceed the energy that the wells produce. Production figures outside the US are similarly affected as oilfields reach peak production. Most have done so already, and new discoveries tend to be smaller and more difficult to exploit. At the start of the oil boom in the 1930s, one barrel of oil, or energy equivalent invested, produced over a hundred barrels of oil in return. This figure in overall use has dropped to a present level of a little less than one for ten, and it is falling rapidly.

How Much Is Left?

Oil reserve figures tend to be exaggerated, or at least reported as optimistically as possible. This occurs everywhere from exploration investment prospectuses to within OPEC, where production is limited to a percentage of known capacity. Revisions of total reserves by OPEC members in 1986 and 1987 effectively doubled their known reserves, from 1250 Billion Barrels (Gbo) to 2400 Billion Bbls, in turn doubling their permitted production. This was a purely paper revision and did not reflect a single major discovery in any of their territories.

Half Full Or Half Empty

So where did the rest of the oil go, the inexhaustible reserves that we were told about?

Several things have to be understood in looking at reserve figures. The official UN reserve figure for Saudi oil, for example, is 81 years. The crucial point is that this figure represents the time when the well runs bone dry, no more at all. It does not mean the length of time that oil will flow the way it does now. Using the same figures, and apart from Iraq and Iran, which will by then be close to dry, all the rest will be long gone. We do not have anything like the eighty years that this figure superficially suggests. Imagine what the world will be like at this point. One way or another, dependency on the very last oily rag will be long past.

Not an artificial and politically driven supply crunch like the one of the '70s, but a real one when there simply cannot be as much oil produced as is demanded by the market. Its date is variable, depending on economic pressures. In a robustly oil-burning economy this may be as early as 2006. In a recession damped economy, it may be delayed to about 2010, and in a full blown depressed economy as far as 2020.

Whether this will be because the world, and particularly the western democracies, has re-arranged itself into a saner and less energy-dependent society, or whether it will be simply a case of 'last man standing' is in a sense irrelevant. The oil era will be over.

Now try to imagine the world in forty years, halfway to this point. We will by then be on a very obvious downhill slide, and witness to a variety of economic and social events, the extent and nature of which will reflect the wisdom of world policies set in place in the immediate future, or the lack of such wisdom.

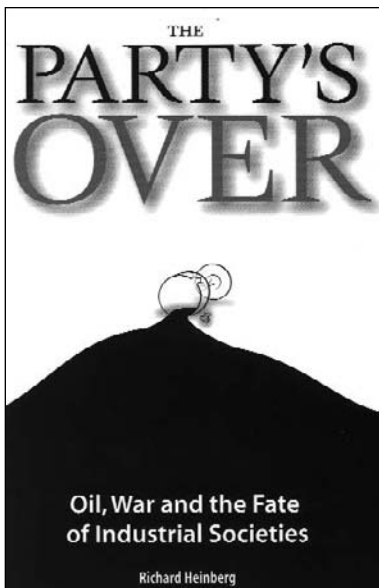
Common sense would say that the best way to push this date into the really distant future is to put in place policies that dramatically change the way that we use energy, particularly changing our dependence on all fossil fuels. Sadly, such policies would result in lifestyle changes that no politician could espouse and hope to be elected by a gluttonously consumptive electorate. Given present US foreign policy, it is easy to predict ongoing chaos and wars fought using the remaining oil to claim the very last. As a friend of mine said recently, with more than a hint of irony, 'Just how did our oil get hidden under all that sand, anyway?'

Other Fossil Fuel Sources of Energy

Two other sources of oil and one of gas need to be considered that despite existing in huge quantities, when looked at carefully, are not as rosy as they would seem.

The first is 'Shale Oil.' This is actually not shale, nor is it oil. It is rock, containing a solid organic, 'Kerogen.' To turn this into anything useful it needs to be first mined, in enormous quantities, then transported, and then heated to 900°F, when hydrogen, principally an oil based product, is added and very toxic waste in even larger quantities is required to be disposed of. The process also uses a huge amount of water, another commodity with its own problems of supply. Many major oil

OIL, turn to page 9



Saturna Notes – Priscilla Ewbank

They are all leaving us! Just because the bugs went, the swallows, nighthawks, red winged blackbirds, and numerous little grey birds are heading off, south mostly. The turkey vultures are lingering, riding the updrafts and scouring for the dead and nearly dead, till October when the whole lot bunch up in Sooke and wait for the right conditions to cross the straits of Juan de Fuca. Now, we can wash the windows and they stay clean. It is sure quiet in fall without the migrant birds.

Rain. Rain is the weather forecast for today, not PoP, black cloud rain. Yesterday was one of those transition days. There was lots of blowing and low and high cloud and then for a three minutes or so you would think it was summer from the softness and warmth. I'm always on the run outside on this kind of fall day. What needs to be done while it is still dry—for the woodshed, the animals, the garden, the house? I and the birds that stay here for the winter are busy getting our houses in order!

Inter-Island Ball Playing

On August 24, two Galiano teams, Mayne Island and the Saturna Oystercatchers had pre-tournament games at the Galiano Lions ballfield. Saturna won a first place trophy.

Saturna Oystercatchers, Mayne Island, Salt Spring Island and two Galiano teams played slow-pitch on Galiano on September 14 in the first annual Roddy Wilson Memorial Tournament. Saturna beat Galiano, Salt Spring and Mayne to place first and win a beautiful Native Art Orca plaque. Thanks to Al and Marie for hosting this tournament. Thanks to the Galiano Lion's Club for keeping the Saturna team well fed and fortified to keep up that winning strength.

Staying Healthy

The Saturna Health Committee has prepared a pamphlet outlining health care on Saturna. This informative page includes everything you need to know about making appointments, home support services and

SATURNA, turn to page 8

Galiano Gifts Galore! Treat Yourself—& Those You Adore

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Treats & Treasures

Another bumper issue—don't you love the pictures in colour? I fear I may become addicted! We have BC Hydro's ad, page 12 to thank for them. It's also great to have the twelve pages because we can cover so much more ground. Our contributors know that the wait time to get published is far too long. It is such a pleasure to get great articles into print faster.

It will be hard to go back—but you know if more people sent in voluntary subscriptions we would have the money for colour or twelve pages more often. Every little helps. People often say to me that they mean to send in their subs but forget, so please don't forget. And thank you to everyone who has sent in a subscription. And thank you for the great letters—we keep scrapbook of them and treasure every one.

Island Tides has gained another treasure, Gillian Allan, my new next-door neighbour. Gillian is taking over production and office management, as well as writing and editing duties. Her first 'Round the Island' column is on page 6. She will also be developing our website for us.

This leaves me freer to sell advertising in order to fund the paper (thanks to all our advertisers—shop with them!) and perhaps to do more writing. Not to mention some outside activities—sorely missing these last 15 years (thank goodness kayaks don't rust).

I also hope to get out and about more—so see you around!
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The research vessel *Heraclitus* has been forced to head straight for Seattle for repairs instead of calling in at Pender Island this week after four months at sea (see letter, below. South Pender's Sally Kranzler had planned to greet her 23-year-old daughter Kira, a crew member, when the ship docked at Bedwell Harbour.

This 84-foot Chinese-junk-rigged vessel is a special ship with a special crew on a very special quest. The voyages of the *Heraclitus* are voyages of global discovery, part of a great enterprise to save one of the greatest riches on Earth. The crew of fourteen young adventurers and scientists from seven countries is travelling to research coral, the world's largest living organism—visible from space.

The RV *Heraclitus* is chartered by the Planetary Coral Reef Foundation (PCRF) to conduct an ongoing expedition to map and monitor the world's coral reefs. Called the 'rainforests of the sea,' coral reefs are the greatest expression of ocean life, and the most biodiverse ecosystem on Earth, with the exception of the rainforest.

A Helping Lifestyle

Coral lives a symbiotic life. (Symbiosis occurs when two organisms create a mutually beneficial union.) Inside the sac of each coral polyp lives a one-celled algae called *zooxanthellae*. The algae gives off oxygen and other nutrients that the coral polyp needs to live and in return the polyp gives the algae carbon dioxide and other substances the algae needs.

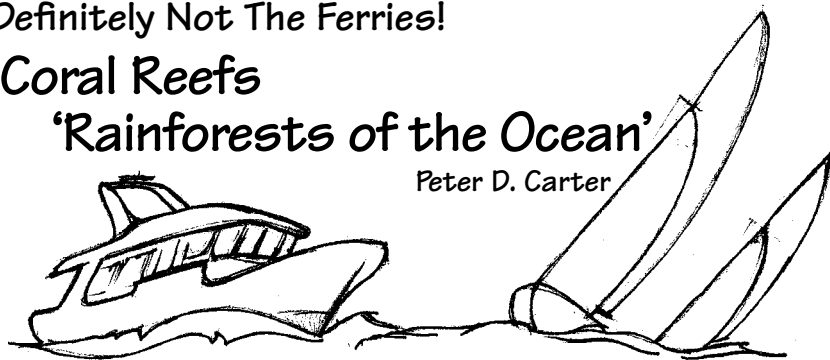
Symbiosis helps to create the coral reef community. The reefs, through their community building, are home to a quarter of all fish species and probably a similar percentage of all marine species. Many of the other plants and animals that live in and around coral reefs also have symbiotic relationships. For example, fish with troublesome parasites allow other fish to pick off the parasites. The infested fish gets rid of the nasty bugs and the helper fish gets a free meal.

Lining 60,000 miles of shoreline along 109 countries, coral reefs and their habitats play a vital role in the global economy, providing resources such as fish, and services such as tourism

Definitely Not The Ferries!

Coral Reefs 'Rainforests of the Ocean'

Peter D. Carter



and coastal protection, worth an estimated \$375 billion a year.

Coral reefs are also an indicator of the health of the world's oceans and, by extension, a key indicator of our global environment. They are among the most ancient of ecosystem types, dating back to the Mesozoic era some 225 million years ago. Modern reefs can be as much as 2.5 million years old. But researchers have discovered, over the last few decades, that coral reefs are dying at an alarming rate worldwide.

An estimated 58% of the world's coral reefs are at risk today and an estimated 10% have already disappeared. Of the reefs in Southeast Asia, ('the most species-rich reefs on Earth') the focus of this most recent voyage by the *Heraclitus*, 88% are believed at risk. Damage to the world's coral reefs include pollution, over-fishing, dynamite and cyanide fishing, sedimentation, and bleaching caused by rising ocean temperatures.

Although true coral grows in tropical areas (between 30° north and 30° south of the equator), it is very sensitive to increases in ocean temperatures, as is occurring from global warming. Is it possible that humans, through global climate change and indiscriminate resource exploitation, are destroying the global living organisms that evolved over hundreds of millions of years and protect all the communities of advanced living species on the planet?

Next: Mapping From Space

Unlike the rainforest, there is no comprehensive global baseline map of living coral reefs. This is urgently needed. The

CORAL, turn to page 11

Readers' Letters

The Ship That Did Not Come In

Dear Editor:

To the friends that we have not yet met, the people of Pender Island and all those who were preparing to meet us, we are so utterly sorry not to be making our first contact in North America with you. We are aware that our arrival in Pender was gathering momentum, that you were putting extreme effort into making the first step of our homecoming into something truly unique. We are saddened that we will not be greeted by you in traditional canoes, that we will not receive your blessings in person and explore your island that has become truly beautiful in our imaginations. But we hope that your blessings will reach us across the waters instead, and perhaps help to bring us home on these last stages of our long journey.

As you all know, it has been a journey with its own challenges, and until the ship is safely tied to a dock, the journey will not be over. We lost our foremast back in the beginning of June—one of our sails, with the mast and all its rigging, went overboard after a storm. Nobody was hurt but this slowed us. However, it could not deter our will to reach America, to meet with its people and to share with them our experiences from the planet's coral reefs. The weather patterns have not matched those that we had expected, in fact those that we had banked on for a swift crossing of the North Pacific. Combined with our reduced sail area, we found ourselves moving slowly.

And now, just two weeks ago, our main mast showed signs of weakness too—a crack appearing, making our forward movements even more cautious. Our priority upon arrival in America has shifted towards repairing our tired ship, replacing what is lost and taking care of what is broken. Four months at sea has taken its toll on the physical structure and the engineering systems of the ship. The journey down the west coast in another long haul, and the ship must be in a first-class state again before she is ready to head for San Francisco.

This journey is testing our limits, testing our endurance, testing our motivations for coming to America and our timeline is closing on us—if we do not reach San Francisco in time to

take part in the coral reef awareness campaigns—the focus of this five thousand mile journey—then there will be little opportunity for our efforts to reap a benefit for the future of our coral reefs. It is with this knowledge that we have made this difficult decision to make straight for Seattle, without stopping at Pender Island, without meeting you, our friends and supporters. We appreciate all the work you have already done and all the rest that you intended to do to greet us in a spirit of true celebration of life. To any of you that have the opportunity, we hope to see you in Seattle, and share our stories there.

Orla, Michel, Eibes, Kira, Nicole, Eddie, Sebastien, Christine, Carol, Reka, Stijn, Linda, Ferdinand, Heather

Finer Points of Salmon Names

Dear Editor:

I would like to make three points with reference to John Carlton's tongue-in-cheek column about salmon names.

The term 'Jack' is most commonly used to describe the salmon equivalent of a horny teenager. A Jack is an immature but precocious male who has decided to return early and attempt to breed along with his older cousins. Although his fumbling attempts to pair up with an older girl may not be very successful in competition with larger, stronger fish, his sperm is thought to play a useful genetic role in providing some inter-generational diversity. The number of returning Jacks also is a useful indicator of the likely size of the next year's run.

The occasional 'violent argument' about the difference between a 'Jack' and a 'Jackspring' probably stems from the fact that many people don't realize that there are two types of Spring salmon, 'ocean' and 'stream-type.' The 'stream-type' spends a year or two in fresh water before migrating to the open ocean. Except for the Jacks, they are large fish by the time they get back to the coast. The 'ocean-type,' by contrast, migrate into salt water in their first year but then stay near the coast as resident fish where they are vulnerable to harvest while the size of a stream-type Jack, but still some time away from any reproductive urge.

Finally, I have to object to Mr Carlton suggestion that Dog or Chum salmon are 'not much fun to catch.' Having learned how to catch them, recreational anglers have discovered chum are a blast. They have a repertoire of tricks that compare favorably with the most aggressive coho! Give one of the guides in Campbell River a call if you want an entertaining and productive day on the water this fall!

Gerry Kristianson, Piers Island ✓

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Prostate cancer group urges men to get tested

While BC men have the lowest mortality rate from prostate cancer in Canada, the disease is still the third most common cause of cancer death for males. One in eight Canadian males will contract prostate cancer. Each year in BC, 27,000 new cases are diagnosed and an estimated 530 men die of the disease. That translates into ten deaths a week.

The Canadian Prostate Cancer Network is mounting a publicity campaign to encourage men to have check-ups. Early detection greatly increases recovery. A modicum of embarrassment is a small exchange for more years of life. A number of survivors of the illness are giving time to help others get the message, like Rick Stuart below.

Biker Rides Again

Astride his beloved Harley, with his shaved head, longish goatee and leather vest, Rick looks like he'd be more at home at a gathering of motorcyclists than at a prostate cancer support group meeting.

And that, in fact, is the case. Rick had always thought of prostate cancer as an 'old man's disease,' so his encounter with the illness was very much unexpected. 'I was only 46 at the time and I didn't have any of the normal symptoms you hear about,' explains the 49-year-old from Quesnel, BC. However, a recurrent burning sensation after sex led Rick to his family doctor for an exam, 'which just about sent me through the roof,' he

recalls. The first suspected cause was prostatitis. When things didn't improve after a round of antibiotics and when the PSA test came back elevated, Rick went for a biopsy. Six weeks later he was on his way to Calgary for a radical prostatectomy.

That was in May of 2001. Rick is currently enjoying good health. 'This hasn't stopped me from doing anything,' he says. 'I'm still working at the pulp and



paper mill and I still work out three times a week. I lift weights, hit the heavy bag and do lots of sit-ups.' And he still likes to ride. In fact, Rick and his brother, Gary, toured Vancouver Island this summer. Next year they plan to trek down to Sturgis, South Dakota for the biggest motorcycle rally in the world.

'My experience has given me a new appreciation for life and, for me, life is all about moving,' he says.

However, Rick takes nothing for granted, knowing that the thought, at least, of prostate cancer may be part of his life for some time to come. 'They tell me that this cancer can come back at any time,' he says. 'It's not like other cancers where after five years clear they say you're cured.' Rick also lives with the memory that his father died of prostate cancer. That's why Rick wants to do his bit to spread the word about early detection.

One day, while surfing the internet looking for information, Rick stumbled on the Canadian Prostate Cancer Network website (www.cpcp.org) and noticed the ad for poster boys. 'I thought, Oh man, I don't look like any of these guys. I'm not exactly what you'd expect to see on a prostate cancer poster.'

Thinking his image might help drive the message home to younger men, Rick contacted CPCN. 'I'm willing to do whatever it takes to get the message out,' Stuart says. 'I take every opportunity to encourage my friends and fellow workers to get themselves checked out. If I had my way, I'd get on national television and scream the message, 'Just get the friggin' test!'

Rick Stuart's face and testimony, along with those of many other Canadian men, should help raise prostate cancer awareness to another level, and just might save a few lives in the process. For more information, call the Canadian Prostate Cancer Network toll-free at 1-866-810-2726. /

SNAKES from page 1

spotted three snakes—a rare sighting of this secretive species.

The Sharp-tailed Snake's range extends from southern California to southern British Columbia. The snakes are relatively common in suitable habitats in California and southern Oregon, but are found in only a few isolated locations in British Columbia and Washington State.

The snakes are chestnut brown in colour, about as thick as a pencil, and up to 30cm long. They are one of the smallest snakes in British Columbia and are rarely seen, possibly because they spend most of their time underground or hidden.

Like garter snakes, the snakes are non-venomous and completely harmless to humans. They may be confused with garter snakes but can be distinguished by the sharply pointed scale at the tip of their tail, for which they are named, and the distinctive black and white banding on their belly. Unlike garter snakes, of which there are 11 species in North America, and three species in British Columbia, Sharp-tailed snakes have no close relative. This unique snake is the 'only child' of the genus *Contia*.

The snakes are typically found on south-facing, rocky slopes and in small openings in Douglas-fir/Arbutus forests. They appear to prefer areas that have rocks, rotting logs, or boards for the snakes to hide under and stay moist. Tidying a property and removing these sources of cover may make the snakes more vulnerable.

Humans and Sharp-tailed Snakes often share habitat which means that the snakes can become victims of cars, weed eaters, outdoor cats, and indirectly, a loss of their habitat to development, including backyard projects. Gardeners may be pleased to learn that small slugs are most likely the favourite food of the Sharp-tailed snake, an added incentive to provide

suitable habitat.

Females lay between three and five eggs at a time, underground, in cracks between rocks or among grass roots. The eggs are laid in late spring or early summer and hatch in the fall. Female Sharp-tailed snakes have been known to share communal egg-laying sites with other Sharp-tailed snakes and with other reptiles. Hatchlings, which are a bright reddish brown and about the size of large earthworms, will coil up into a ball when handled, demonstrating a defensive behaviour that probably makes them more difficult for predators to swallow.

Unlike most other snake species in British Columbia, Sharp-tailed snakes are most active during cool, moist periods in early spring and fall. They are thought to hibernate from mid-November to February. During the hot, dry periods in the summer they are likely inactive under some sort of cover.

The scarcity of Sharp-tailed snakes, combined with the fact that they live in one of the most densely populated parts of British Columbia, means that the future of the Sharp-tailed snake is insecure.

Sharp-tailed Snakes are protected under the *British Columbia Wildlife Act*. Most known sites and potential habitat are located on private land on southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. To report a possible sighting, please email: Sharp-TailedSnake@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca. Sharp-tailed snake workshops for Mayne and Galiano Island are being planned, call 250-405-5171 for more information.

Conservation covenants are one of many tools that will be used to protect this species. The Islands Trust Fund hopes to work with other supportive landowners in the future. /

Nanaimo's piano tuner honoured at Gala

On September 20, at its 5th Anniversary Gala, Nanaimo's Port Theatre honoured Robert William Booth. In the early days, every south-central Vancouver Island piano, in church, school or home, knew Booth. He kept them in perfect tune.

Robert William Booth and his wife Lillian were kindred spirits in a 45-year marriage where he was the ears for his deaf wife and she was the sight for her blind husband. Booth's father was a coal miner and brought his family to Nanaimo in 1895. Eleven years later, in the woodshed of their first home, young Robert found a small tin box. His vigorous efforts to open the lid resulted in an explosion of the blasting caps inside, leaving Robert blind in one eye. Then during surgery in England his optic nerve was accidentally severed, leaving him completely blind.

But Robert was a determined young man, learning the trade of piano teaching and tuning in Berkeley, California. Moving back to Nanaimo, he arranged with a young woman who lived around the corner to read to him. She introduced him to her sister, Lillian, who had been deaf since a childhood bout with whooping cough. Robert Booth and Lillian Holland eventually married and the basement of their home on Fitzwilliam Street was where he often overhauled pianos.

The Booths' two sons, Norman and Douglas, eventually helped drive their dad to tune pianos all over the Vancouver Island. In later years his wife accompanied him either by taxi or bus. Daughter Thelma Bradbury says that she remembers how people would call and say to her father, 'Mr Booth, I've left the key under the mat for you, let yourself in and have a cup of tea, there's cookies in the jar, and just put the key under the mat when you're finished.'

When Mr. Booth died in 1964, Lillian sold his piano tools to a young man who wanted to learn the trade, Nanaimo's Leo Clayton. After Lillian died in 1989, Thelma often wondered who it was that bought those tools and where they might be. Recently, she received a phone call from the Nanaimo District Museum saying, Clayton's widow wanted to give back the piano tools to the Booth family. So, after 40 years, the tools Booth used on all those Island pianos have come home. They are currently being displayed at the Port Theatre.

In 1993, Thelma established the Robert William Booth Memorial Piano Fund—for the purchase of a concert grand piano for the new theatre. Since then, many generous donations allowed the Port Theatre to buy a Steinway Concert Grand in March 2002.

But there is still \$25,000 owing on the piano. The September 20 Gala was a benefit for the piano fund. Paying off the Steinway will save every group renting at the Port Theatre from the huge extra expense of piano rental. /

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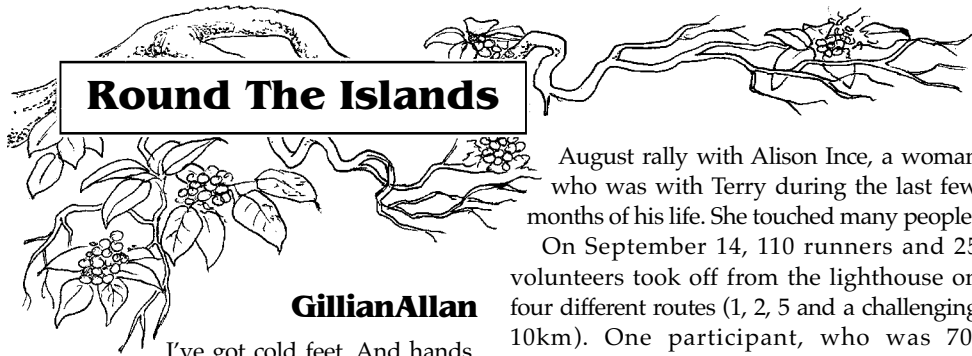
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Round The Islands

Gillian Allan

I've got cold feet. And hands. Perhaps it's because it's the first time I've written this column... But perhaps it's the first chill of autumn that has reached the Islands. Our dry summer has crisped the leaves on many of our trees and the ground is littered with colour.

Fall fairs on Salt Spring, Pender and Mayne came and went. The late plums and pears are ripening. Beans and tomatoes are spilling off farm stands along the roads and nuts are showing up at the markets and stands. Thank-you Island growers for filling our pantries with such delicious food!

Islands of Plenty

As a new Islander, I've been sampling the wide variety of apples on the Islands that are only available directly from the grower. First came the Transparents (for cooking only), then the Gravensteins (delicious straight from the tree - I was picking them just this weekend), the Wealthy (so sweet, yum!), the Duchess...

With the Salt Spring (September 28) and Mayne Apple Festivals (Thanksgiving weekend) coming up and an abundance of apples available on the Islands, now's the time to eat plenty of crisp apples and process the windfalls. I spent an afternoon canning applesauce with my family—really a grand family bonding activity. Mmmmm, I'm dreaming of homemade applesauce with waffles on a rainy winter morning.

Running to Beat Cancer

Salt Spring, Mayne, Galiano, and Pender Islanders ran in the annual Terry Fox run to



Photo: Brian Haller

Over a hundred runners on Mayne set off on their run for cancer on September 14.

support cancer research and celebrate Terry Fox's unbeatable spirit. My dad actually found a hotel for Terry and had lunch with him when he passed through Perth, Ontario (the small town I grew up in). Impressed by Terry's spirit, my dad remembers the occasion fondly.

About 150 Salt Spring Islanders ran on September 7, raising \$12,000. The seven-kilometre race started (and ended!) at the Fernwood Elementary school. There was a lovely BBQ at the school, with entertainment by the Young Jazz Players.

Mayne Islanders were inspired by an

August rally with Alison Ince, a woman who was with Terry during the last few months of his life. She touched many people.

On September 14, 110 runners and 25 volunteers took off from the lighthouse on four different routes (1, 2, 5 and a challenging 10km). One participant, who was 70, promised each of his friends he would run the 10 kilometre route in under 70 minutes if they each gave him a dollar (he wanted to raise \$70). Well, he raised that and ran the race in 69 minutes! Mayne Islanders broke their record and raised \$5,695.39!

The Galiano Terry Fox Run, which took place on September 14, raised \$4,318! About 50 participants, including the school kids, ran on 3 routes, ranging in length from 2 to 8.8kms.

Bright and early at 9am on September 14, 29 Penderites ran, cycled and walked on 3 routes (1, 5, and 10 kilometers), starting and finishing from the Community Hall. The participants ranged in age, starting at age one, and about \$1,490 was raised. Local businesses donated refreshments for the participants and the rain held off. Congrats to all the participants!

Years of Island Thriftiness

Thrift stores are an important part of Island life and are a social event for many. Without them, how would we pass on our cast-offs and fund so many community events?

The thrift store movement on the Islands probably started back in the 1960s! In the early 60s Mayne Islanders started a little thrift store, which moved to its current location in downtown Miner's Bay in 1974 (the store is still quite little). Like all the Island thrift stores, it's run by volunteers and every penny goes back into the community. The thrift store is right across from the Farmer's Market and is open from 10am-1pm every Saturday.

The Salt Spring thrift store started in the

summer of 1971 when Juanita Brown and about five other women started a thrift store on Ganges Road. The first store was only open in the summer because they had no lights or water! Always operated by volunteers (there's about 40 volunteers!), they've come a long way. All the money raised goes to the Lady Minto Hospital and Greenwood Seniors Residence. If you'd like to visit, they're open 10am-4pm, Monday to Saturday, except the last Monday of the month they're closed for organizational meetings.

RTI, please turn to next page, below

Emergency Preparedness: Lessons from the Kelowna Forest Fires ~ The Honourable Pat Carney

The following statement was addressed to members of the Senate by the 'Senator from Saturna' on September 17.

I wish to draw your attention to the outstanding service performed by BC firefighters and emergency planners in combating some 2,476 forest fires which threatened lives, devastated communities and destroyed some 250,951 hectares of forest and park land in the province this summer. The threat is not yet over, with 580 active fires still burning today.

In Kelowna alone, fire destroyed 238 homes and forced nearly 30,000 to flee their homes in front of a firewall of flames. The entire community of Louis Creek, including its sawmill, was consumed by fire while Barriere, Sun Peak and East Kootenay communities were also damaged or threatened.



Photo: Steve Devries

Coming to a dock near you? Help prevent this from ever happening on the Gulf Islands.

Yet despite the dangers, the fires have been contained, property protected and people evacuated without one single loss of life or serious injury. While firefighters on the ground and in the air have been commended for their bravery and exhausting effort, credit should also go to the emergency planners in the operations centers of the various communities whose years of preparation, practice and procedures paid off big time when their expertise was needed to save lives, communities and heritage forests.

We lost a lot in Kelowna and other parts of BC, but the losses would have been far greater if those backroom planners had not been in place, 24/7, for weeks at a time.

On August 28, I visited Kelowna to meet with the Mayor Walter Gray and some of his councilors to pledge my support for the efforts of our colleague Senator Fitzpatrick, who was

actively involved in seeking funds and help.

Kelowna's fire chief Gerry Zimmerman invited me to visit the firehall's busy operations center to view behind the scenes activity. There I met key personnel like emergency Planning Official Sid LeBeau, Assistant Firechief Rene Blancheil, City of Kelowna Engineer John Voss and others.

One of the lessons I learned from them included the importance of emergency preparedness practice sessions. Years of tedious mock emergency sessions resulted in a smooth operation when the real thing came along. Officials told me that while the first phase, response to the emergency, went well, more attention should be paid to the recovery because you do not get a chance to practice that phase very often.

Another lesson was the need to integrate

various jurisdictions. Kelowna's operation included two regional districts and the city itself, plus fire personnel in Kamloops and nearby municipalities. Agencies such as the RCMP, emergency social services, fire department, public health, BC Forest Service and others, such as the Red Cross and the Salvation Army, worked as a team. Fire crews and equipment from other parts of BC were quickly dispatched and smoothly integrated in the field. The role of the volunteers who staffed the kitchens and sent the food prepared by restaurants out to

the fire lines was important.

Next was the need to coordinate communications and all mapping, extensively used in Kelowna to delineate the areas burned or threatened, with everyone using the same sets and systems.

Finally, the role of the media and the need to keep information flowing is vital, Chief Zimmerman told me. He said the BC media did an outstanding job in getting the word out about fire front developments.

The forest fires will spark many debates about practices in BC and elsewhere: but I hope it ignites more attention to emergency planning and emergency preparedness. Our lives may depend on it.

Ed's Note: An emergency preparedness exercise took place on Salt Spring on Friday, September 18, another in the series of exercises that have taken place throughout the Gulf Islands in recent years. /

Scientist unearths mammoth link

When Grant Zazula helped unearth the most impressive and well preserved fossil find in the Yukon last summer (July 2002) he almost screamed: 'Yabba-dabba-doo.' The favourite exclamation of Fred Flintstone, a prehistoric cave dwelling cartoon character on TV, would have been appropriate from Zazula—as a child, the Simon Fraser University doctoral student of biology was a fan of the Flintstones.

Now a paleontologist studying animal and plant fossils near the Alaska/Yukon border, Zazula is living out his childhood dreams of discovering colossal prehistoric mammals. 'The woolly mammoths on the Flintstones inspired my fascination with ice age animals as a kid,' laughs the Edmonton-born Zazula.

While exploring an Arctic creek bed near Dawson City last summer, Zazula and Duane Froese, a postdoctoral fellow at SFU, made discoveries that led them to co-write a paper

recently published in nature. They found, encased in frozen earth, a 25,000-year-old woolly mammoth tusk, 10 feet 6 inches long, with a maximum circumference of 22 inches and weighing 183 pounds. 'The bearer of this tusk was about one and half times the size of an African elephant. Considering that such an elephant eats about 275 pounds of food a day, a mammoth would have eaten a lot more to survive in the Arctic,' emphasizes Zazula.

What really got the scientist thumping his chest, a la Fred Flintstone, was his team's subsequent discovery and analysis of microfossils. Bits of ancient plants, seeds, leaves, and insects were embedded in the tusk's icy earthen tomb. They confirm paleontologists' long-held suspicion that the Arctic, now inhospitable to most mammals, had the vegetation to support mammoth creatures during the last ice age. /

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ICBC reports that seatbelt use is improving in the province. When seatbelt use was made mandatory in BC in 1977 the wearing rate was only 30%. A 2001 Transport Canada survey reports that overall usage is now at 91%. However a 2002 survey indicates that rural usage lags—at only 79%.

It is estimated that the proper use of a lap/shoulder belt reduces the likelihood of death in a motor vehicle crash by 50%. People unsecured by seatbelts have been killed in crashes at speeds as low as 10 kilometres an hour, reports ICBC.

'Get the Boys to Buckle Up' & The Fatal Mix

Most fatal injuries occur in single-vehicle crashes on rural roads when a person is thrown out of the vehicle. The person killed, on average, is less than 25 years old and usually has consumed alcohol. Younger males aged 19-25 continue to have the lowest rates of seatbelt use. ✓



Photo: Jennifer Brinkman

Galiano's Peter Renner has been having baking up a storm once a month and selling his bread at the Mayne Saturday Market this summer. The proceeds go to St Margaret of Scotland food bank on Galiano.

Southern Gulf Islands women and children survey

Thanks to a recent grant from the Canadian Women's Foundation, the Gulf Islands Women's Resource Network will be taking a look at current services in the Southern Gulf Islands for women and children affected by violence and abuse, says Executive Director Nancy Boyce. As a first step towards problem solving, the Safety & Access Project aims to document some of the unique challenges and barriers facing women in our island communities who need the services

Priorities are connecting with interested groups, individuals

and service providers on Mayne, Saturna, Galiano, Pender and Salt Spring to develop an up-to-date directory of available services for islanders relative to family violence issues. Raising awareness about existing resources and working to improve access for women are also key components of the project.

The Gulf Islands Women's Resource Network operates the Salt Spring Island Transition House and 24-Hour Gulf Islands Crisis Line. For further information, call 250-537-9194 or leave a toll-free message at 1-877-435-7544. ✓

RTI from previous page

On Galiano the St. Margaret of Scotland Thrift Shop started in the late 1970s in the rectory of St. Margaret church. Run by five or six volunteers in the early days, the thrift store now has 25 to 30 helpers. At the end of the year the society decides which charities they will donate to, last year they purchased a defibrillator for the Health Care Society. The store also donates a percentage of their profits to the church. The displays are a 'must see,' done by a talented local volunteer. The store is open from 10am-noon on Friday and Saturday.

Pender's secondhand store, the Nu-to-You, is celebrating its twentieth anniversary this September. The celebrations included the unveiling of a new sculpture on September 13. The funky sculpture—a long-lashed female shopper decked out in a hat and complete with shopping basket—was designed by artist Steve Larouche with objects scavenged from the Nu-to-You. The thrift store, run by the Pender Island Community



Services Society, funds various community programs. Open from 10am-4pm on Fridays and Saturdays, Penderites line up for the best finds every Friday morning. The society needs more volunteers, so if you live on Pender, consider helping out.

Please be a kind neighbour and don't leave trash at your local thrift store. Island Thrift stores have found everything from used diapers to rusty car engines and spend hundreds in dollars disposing of trash—money that would be otherwise put to good use in your community.

Music Time Again

There's nothing like music to get rid of the chills and next month the Islands' concert series are beginning for another season. I've been running around telling all that the Bill Hilly Band is coming and they must go!

I've seen the band in concert before and they are excellent musicians who are too fun to miss. ✓

2003 Island Tides Voluntary Subscriptions

Did something in this edition of Island Tides:

- inform you?
- pique your interest?
- amuse you?
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- make you a good contact?
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(\$20 + \$1.40gst = \$21.40) to:

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Thank You!

And a special 'Thank You' to those of you who have sent subscriptions and letters!

MARRIAGE COMMISSIONER

The British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency is looking for individuals to serve as Marriage Commissioners for Pender Island. The individuals will perform civil marriages within their community on behalf of the Agency.

QUALIFICATIONS: Retired from steady employment with no other conflicting activities, interested in providing public service in a professional and responsible manner. Must have excellent interpersonal skills and be self-reliant, mature and well-groomed. Preference will be given to individuals having access to computer equipment with the capability for Windows software applications, internet access and facsimile services.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Resident of Pender Island, with possession of a valid driver's licence. Individuals must have a suitable location/residence available to perform civil marriages as required.

An eligibility list may be established at this time.

Interested individuals are requested to enquire by mail or fax before September 30, 2003.

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Famous fliers remembered

Sunday, September 14 was a day of remembrance in Victoria and at the Maritime Forces Pacific Headquarters in Esquimalt. A service was held at Christ Church Cathedral, a parade proceeded to a ceremony at the Legislature cenotaph and the 407 Maritime Patrol Squadron executed a fly-past during the ceremony.

The occasion was in honour of Canadian air crew who died in the Battle of Britain in 1940. That epic air battle over the skies of Southern England raged from August to September and was a decisive battle of World War II. Unable to control the air, Hitler postponed Operation Sea Lion, the plan to invade Britain.

When the battle was won, Winston Churchill made his famous speech praising the airmen—'Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.'

The Battle of Britain is commemorated annually on the Sunday closest to September 15. /

AQUACULTURE from page 2

New Sablefish and Halibut Licenses

Meanwhile, according to the David Suzuki Foundation, the government has approved licenses for seven halibut farming operations and 22 for sablefish, as well as 18 applications from existing salmon farms to add sablefish. The locations of these farms are unavailable, but they are expected to be in areas where juvenile wild halibut and sablefish already flourish.

Adriane Carr, leader of the BC Green Party, expressed dismay, suggesting that those making these decisions had 'no understanding of the wild ecology.'

John Cummings MP, and Eric Wickham, of the Canadian Sablefish Association (fishers of wild sablefish) have already raised the question of possible disease transfers between farmed and wild sablefish. Their concern is that damage to wild stocks may parallel the situation with salmon in the Broughton Archipelago.

There, the transfer of sea lice from farmed salmon to wild stocks necessitated the shutdown of some salmon farms this year during migration of the wild stocks. /

BC celebrates its rivers

Sunday, September 28, is the 23rd annual BC Rivers Day and festivities are taking place throughout the province. The province's waterways rank amongst the finest on earth. Nowadays issues such as decreasing water quality and depletion of fish stocks highlight the importance of protecting BC's spectacular river heritage.

Province-wide coordinator, the Outdoor Recreation Council (ORC) says that the celebration is the largest event of its kind in Canada. 'BC Rivers Day is a great celebration and presents an opportunity for British Columbians to get more involved in caring for our waterways,' said Mark Angelo, BC Rivers Day founder and recipient of the Order of Canada for his river conservation efforts. The day's events include interpretive

tours, community festivals, fish releases, stream clean-ups, musical celebrations, canoe scavenger hunts, parades, educational seminars, and hatchery tours.

In addition to coordinating BC Rivers Day, ORC is also responsible for the annual compilation and release of BC's Endangered Rivers list and the River Recovery project. BC Rivers Day 2003 is made possible by the support of BC Hydro, Mountain Equipment Co-op, TD Friends of the Environment, and VanCity credit union.

For a listing of BC Rivers Day events throughout the province or for information on how a BC Rivers Day event can happen in your community, call Outdoor Recreation Council at 604-737-3058 or visit www.orcbc.ca /

SATURNA from page 3

travel assistance. That our many visitors from other countries and the provinces east of us are on a different pay schedule is touched upon in this sheet. Good effort by the Health Committee.

It's a Girl, a Girl and a Girl

Long-time residents David and Jean McLean sent in this announcement. Son Alister and daughter-in-law, Lisa, have three new daughters, Molly, Jillian and Heather, all very healthy. The family received excellent care from Victoria General staff, friends and family, especially the Grandparents! The family, including big sister Emily, is now back in Campbell River.

Community Club

The Community Club met Monday and discussed many issues. Here are a few...

The Health Committee is looking for someone to replace Mary Barnett who has been our representative to the Greenwood's Hospital Board for five years, meeting once a month. Thanks were given to Mary for her good efforts and time spent in the community's service. Doctors Janice Mason from Galiano and Don Williams from Pender are doing fine interim medical service. Negotiations are still going on for a 'permanent' arrangement for Saturna.

Brian Dixon-Warren reported on the GroundWater Committee. The Islands Trust sponsored a two-day event in Nanaimo to collect water information, disseminate it throughout the Islands and to come up with an informative poster to use throughout the region promoting water conservation. This dry summer has put everyone on high alert about water quantity and quality.

Dr Diana Allen from Simon Fraser, who has been monitoring many of our wells with lots of volunteer help, has a website (part of which is devoted to Saturna's wells). The website can be found by entering SFU Earthsciences into a search engine.

The new kitchen floor at the hall is beautiful, Vice-President and Hall Maintenance person, Jacques Campbell, asks to hear no comments to the contrary. Michael McKenzie prepped the project, thanks.

Islands Trustee, Brian Hollingshead mentioned the Natural Area Tax Exemption project is up and running and gave specifics as to how it works.

Brian also read a letter from TimberWest, regarding the possibility of logging the Tsawout and Tseycum First Nation's Reserve IR#7 that stated they are looking for options to the

proposed building of a log loading ramp at Fiddler's Cove.

Lamb BBQ Proceeds

We did very well on the Lamb BBQ and the money is about to jump from the BBQ Committee account to our Community Club account. This money is used to support the Community Hall maintenance, the various groups that come under our umbrella such as the Health Center and it allows us to support other community efforts as they arise.

The new Lamb BBQ Committee seems to be functioning

well and delivered an extensive and formidable Annual Report and Financial Statement! Jim Campbell, as he has done for so many years, moved that we hold a Saturna Lamb BBQ on July 1, 2004—it was passed unanimously.

Parks and Recreation News

Parks and Recreation nominated Barb Ropars to serve on the Parks and Recreation Commission replacing a long-time and active volunteer, Ishbel Elliot. Next Meeting is December 2 and will be a potluck.

Public Notice

If you are backing a vehicle up to the Hall front door and you knock the downspout out, reposition it! As the rain water runs onto the porch instead of down the drainspout and floods the entryway.

Upcoming Events

On October 2 at 11:30am, there will be a Memorial Luncheon at the Community Hall for Barbara Landaur. Barbara left money in her will for all of her friends and Island acquaintances to get together, share a meal, chat and raise a glass in her memory. Everybody is invited.

Two Islanders are having a sale from

11am-2pm of Treasures and Collectible at the Community Hall on Saturday, October 11, all proceeds go to the Church. 'There are some lovely things and some delightful knick-knacks.'

On Saturday, October 18 at 1:30pm the Rec Centre will be having a Ground Breaking Ceremony on the site. A number of official people and politicians are to be invited. All residents and visitors on Saturna are invited as well. The Rec Centre Society is planning a tea at the Community Hall after the ceremony.

Life drawing evenings will resume on Wednesday nights for those interested. For more information call Jack Campbell, 539-5810.

Arts and Concerts

Sunday, October 12, the Saturna Arts and Concerts Society will hold its annual fundraiser at the Saturna Island Vineyard. For \$15 dollars you can buy a lunch, have a glass of wine and take in an exhibit of new art works. At this event you can buy early-bird (cheaper by \$10) season's tickets to the year's concerts.

The first concert is going to be a knockout. The Bill Hilly Band is right on top, energetic with super musicians. They have two CD's out and have played to full houses in Victoria—their hometown, received air time on the CBC and toured extensively. And they are family! Calvin Cairns, ex-Stringband fiddler and leader of the band Romaniacs, married on Saturna to Betty Jardine's daughter Paula, is 'Bill Fiddle II' one of the 4 'Bills'.

New President Elisabeth McColl is very pleased to be heading our Arts and Concert's Society, Margy Cozens is the VP, Secretary Karen Muntean. Many thanks to Jane Dixon-Warren who so enthusiastically headed up the Arts and Concerts Society for years. Also, big thanks to Robert Montgomery who handles the lighting and sound for all of the visiting concert groups.

Additions

Further to the last article about our recent graduates and their higher education, high school graduate, Danika Surm is right in there—a student at UBC.

The Lyall Creek restoration project will not start Monday 22 but will be delayed a few days as MOTH is having difficulty getting a crane on Island for removal of the culvert. /



Saturna celebrates lots of weddings this time of year. Here, Anika Ropars and Deenu Patel wed at the East Point Lighthouse (see September 11, Island Tides). Saturna will be hosting more weddings this month!

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US President Bush's adventure in Iraq is unravelling. Apparently, US officials had no expectation that they could ever be confronted with a protracted guerrilla war. They seemed to have believed the assurances given by some Iraqi exiles (those they sponsored) that US forces would be warmly welcomed. Before the war, an individual described as holding a very senior national security position in the Bush Administration told *American Prospect* magazine that American troops would be welcome with a 'deluge' of 'rose water and flowers'. He said that within a year Iraq would be transformed into a beacon of democracy and stability in the Middle East. International assistance was unnecessary and unwanted; the UN was irrelevant.

On a typical day, US forces in Iraq are attacked about a dozen times. Since May 1, when President Bush declared major combat operations over, they have sustained roughly 679 combat casualties (about 79 killed and 600 wounded in action). To date, the insurgency has been largely confined to the central Sunni region of the country. However, the dominant Shiites are increasingly resentful of the occupation, especially since the assassination of one of their leading clerics, Ayatollah al Hakim, who had advocated a cautious and temporary acceptance of the occupation. It now seems to be only a question of time before some Shiite groups join the insurgency. At that point, there may be little the US or anyone will be able to do to retain control.

Washington initially blamed Saddam Hussein loyalists for the guerrilla war. Lately it has also taken to blaming 'foreign terrorists' who may have infiltrated through Iraq's porous

borders. However, it is clear that this is not the whole story. Several investigative reports in Australian and Asian journals have indicated that there are a myriad of different groups resisting the occupation. Indeed, based on interviews with resistance fighters, the *Los Angeles Times* (Sept. 2) has reported that the resistance is largely 'homegrown' and motivated to varying degrees by nationalistic and Islamic fervour. Their common objective is to drive the occupiers away.

In addition to the military quagmire, the occupation is costing US taxpayers about \$4 billion (US) dollars per month, not including reconstruction costs. These expenses come as Washington faces a budget deficit that is approaching half a trillion dollars. Revenues from the sale of Iraq's oil were supposed to pay for reconstruction, but they do not even come close. For various reasons, including sabotage, oil production is running well below pre-war levels of around 3 million barrels per day. Before the war, Washington had hoped to raise Iraqi oil production to about 6 million barrels per day, which would have the salutary effect (for the US economy) of lowering oil prices. It now appears that a very substantial investment in oil infrastructure is required to realize this goal.

Faced with spiralling costs and a military that is stretched thin and suffering from low morale, Washington is looking for help. It wishes to internationalize the occupation under its direction and has approached Turkey, India and Pakistan for troops. They have refused, citing the need for a UN resolution. However, it is probable that to obtain such a resolution Washington will have to relinquish control of the occupation,

especially over political and economic developments in the country. However, this goes to the heart of its program for Iraq.

What is the US agenda? We are told that the goal is to establish a free-market democracy that will serve as a model for other countries in the Middle East. The important qualifier to this objective is that the new Iraqi government will have to be a compliant, pro-American one. However, it is now clear that a pro-America regime is unlikely to be compatible with genuine democracy in Iraq. The Bush administration is grappling with this grim reality, which is at variance with all of the assumptions regarding post-war Iraq.

As part of its 'democratization' project, Washington seeks to remake Iraq's economy. It wishes to impose neo-liberal reforms, especially the privatization of Iraq's state-owned industries and resources. The most ambitious and sensitive privatization is Iraq's oil industry. This would stand as an example of a reversal of the nationalization of the oil sector that took place decades ago throughout the Middle East. It is also thought that privatization would help provide the investments needed to boost Iraqi oil production. Furthermore, as a collateral benefit, this would open up the oil sector to US oil companies which to date have had little opportunity to partake in the profits from the sale of Iraq's oil.

Finally, a vital objective, which has received far too little attention, is the establishment of permanent military bases in Iraq. In a widely noted interview with *Vanity Fair*, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, mentioned that an important reason for the war was to be able to remove bases and troops now in Saudi Arabia. He hopes that this will alleviate a major irritant for many Saudis and Muslims. (In fact, the departure of these forces from the holy land is one of Osama bin-Laden's objectives.) However, the bases are not to be eliminated, but, in effect, relocated next door in Iraq.

A year ago, Donald Kagan, former co-chair of the Project for a New American Century (PNAC) told the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* 'We will probably need a major concentration of forces in the Middle East over a long period of time. That will come at a price, but think of the price of not having it. When we have economic problems, it's been caused by disruptions in our oil supply. If we have a force in Iraq, there will be no disruption in oil supplies.' The most fervent exponents of the Iraq war within the Bush administration are members of PNAC, including Wolfowitz, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Vice President Dick Cheney.

In this light, it was hardly a surprise when the *New York Times* (April 19) leaked Pentagon plans for four military bases in Iraq, with the possibility of having troops permanently stationed in Iraq. The Pentagon denied the story, but ongoing construction of a huge military facility was reported subsequently in the British press. This is a sensitive subject and to date there's been almost no discussion of it. However, reporter Jim Lobe informed this writer that a recently retired officer who worked on policy at the Pentagon told him that they're 'pouring the concrete,' referring to the four bases mentioned in the *Times* article.

President Bush's failure in Iraq is so great that he has been reduced to asking the UN Security Council for assistance. This is not likely to be forthcoming unless he forgoes his strategic objectives and is prepared to cede political control of the country to the UN. Indeed, French President Jacques Chirac stated that initial US proposals were 'quite far removed from what we believe is the priority objective,' which is the transfer of political responsibility to an Iraqi government as quickly as possible. It is not clear whether President Bush will end up abandoning his imperial project. The hawks in his camp are loathed to see this happen and are now calling for a much greater commitment of US forces.

Faced with growing insurgency Paul Bremer, the American proconsul in Iraq, declared in June, 'We dominate the scene and we will continue to impose our will on this country.' The last few months have proven that this is not so easy to do, even for a great power. /

OIL from page 3

companies have tried and failed to economically produce even crude products economically, let alone a small part of the enormous conventional oil requirement. The amount of oil required to extract petroleum from rock makes it part of the problem, not part of the solution.

Oil Sands

Oil sands follow shale oil with ultimately little superiority, Ralph Klein notwithstanding. Yes, there is an enormous amount of oil in the Alberta tar sands, maybe even more than we have used so far from all sources, and it is in North America, and can be had without political interference, let alone invasion. The downside is again the ratio of energy-in to energy-out. Syncrude produces 200,000 barrels of oil a day by mining 400,000 tons of sand a day. Oil is washed from the sand with hot water, and naphtha, another high end oil product, is added. After mining the sand, heating the water, pumping the waste, and so on, the results are discouraging.

After all the bills are paid, it presently takes two barrels worth of energy to get three barrels out, or a ratio of 0.66 to one. Conventional oil by comparison is 13 times better than this, at 8.6 to one, although this is down from the 20 to one ratio of the 1970s, and is still falling. The Syncrude plant is huge, with an enormous pond holding nearly three barrels of non-recoverable sludge and wastewater for each barrel of oil recovered, and this is just one plant. To replace the current use of crude oil worldwide would require 350 such plants with a waste pond the size of Lake Ontario, if similar in depth and other parameters. Oil sands will become a greater part of future energy resources as other sources decline, and it is reasonable to assume some improvement in the technology, but not even the most optimistic ostriches think the big problem can be solved by sticking their heads into Alberta's sands.

Natural Gas

Natural gas completes the list of petroleum-based fossil fuels and is in many ways very attractive. So attractive in fact that demand is increasing faster than supply and its problems parallel those of oil. Natural gas is used to make nitrogen fertilizer by the Haber-Bosch process and is thus tied directly to food production, and Canadian fertilizer plants are already starting to close due to declining gas supply. Gas is also used directly for a variety of domestic applications, as well as being a possible replacement for oil in general transportation, excluding aviation. It is also, through propane, the source of

polypropylene, the backbone of the plastics industry.

Although electrical utilities are building gas-fired generating plants as fast as possible, they have little alternative, and all are concerned by the long term gas supply picture. Mexico has ceased to export any gas to the US, where reserves are demonstrably declining. In 1999 more than 6,400 wells were drilled in Texas, and production was only just maintained. This compares to 4,000 wells the year before. By the end of 2001, the industry drilled 24,000 new wells with only a slight increase in overall production. Huge reserves of gas do exist in the Middle East, but these will benefit countries within reach of pipelines more than they will benefit the US, since ocean transport of natural gas brings its own problems. It must be cooled to minus 260°F, to liquefy it and requires especially built LNG ships to carry it to especially equipped ports. The proposed one metre diameter Alaska pipeline will deliver less than 2% of projected US use by 2020 assuming demand is unaffected by decreasing oil supply in the interim.

US gas production also peaked in 1970 and has been flat since 1985 at about a third of the 1970 level, despite massive investment in exploration. Some new fields are being discovered, but not faster than existing gas fields are declining. Like oil, many 'new' fields are really older discoveries that due to depth and other technical reasons were uneconomical at the prices of the day. Since transportation problems leave the US much more dependent on its own resources it is likely that declining gas reserves, will actually increase pressure on oil and coal to replace gas. Again, gas may be as much part of the problem as part of the solution.

A lovely example of the complexity of the gas/oil equation is last week's news that a significant number of the gas wells under Alberta's tar sands have had to be shut off because declining pressure in the gas reservoir is making it more difficult to recover the oil-laden sand. This despite its being the very gas that was in large part burnt to provide at least some of the energy used to extract the oil from the sand.

To close the discussion on oil, there are at least two quotes of irresistible relevance from Heineberg's book. The first is from Matthew Simmons, an thirty five year investment banker to the energy industry, and a lifetime Republican, (no tree-hugger he) who said in a speech to the American Association of Petroleum Geologists in 2001: 'A simple check of the facts reveals that every scrap of spare energy [production] capacity around the globe is now either gone, or just about to disappear.' And this piece of current Saudi vernacular: 'My father rode a camel. I drive a car. My son flies a jet airplane. His son will ride a camel.' /

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Self-Counsel Press Book Reviews - John Wiznuk

The business plan for Self-Counsel Press must be based on one simple statement; knowledge is power. For, that is what they offer; inexpensive, accessible books, based on first-hand knowledge and experience that authors bring from their own lives to the specific subjects of their books.

Business is one of their main publishing categories. The titles that they print cover running a business, starting a business, sales and marketing, human resources, legal issues for Canada in general and the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec.

The power that the knowledge in these books gives is not necessarily for the person who wants to take on the world alone. None of the books that I've read negates the seeking of professional advice and services. Rather they put one in a position to work with professionals efficiently, effectively and at the least cost in time and money. These books are really a course in organized thinking and acting. They are written in a common sense, expository style and offer information directed toward actions on the part of the reader.

They are also computer friendly; most of the titles have either a disk or CD attached to the back page of the book. This is especially handy where worksheets, lists and forms are part of the information given as they can be printed out from the computer and used without marking up the book.

In all forty-six pages of their catalog are jam-packed with titles to deal with a multitude of the situations which a person might encounter during the course of a lifetime. I chose three titles from the extensive catalog.

Simply Essential Disaster Preparation Kit

I picked the *Simply Essential Disaster Planning Kit* because as a

volunteer firefighter I know something about this and wanted to compare the information given here with what I had learned. And it does very well. The author, Catherine Stuart, is from the Vancouver area but writes in a way that is usable by anyone in North America. She starts right where everyone should start by encouraging her readers to learn the risks associated with where they live. In the Gulf Islands we have the possibility of dealing with earthquakes, forest fires and extreme weather events.

We are fortunate enough to have an Emergency Preparedness organization in place but we must be able to fend for ourselves as much as possible. Stuart's chapters on developing a family plan and preparing your personal disaster survival kit are the nub and essence of taking a position to emerge in good shape from a disaster; her lists of suggested items for a disaster kit are a fine resource and place to start.

We cannot plan or be totally prepared for all the weird, uncomfortable or downright nasty events that life may whirl us into. But we can all take some prudent steps to come through such events with a degree of relative comfort, ready to pick up the pieces and carry on when it's all over. This book is good value for the worksheets and checklists alone. Suggested retail price, \$15.95, includes disk.

Simply Essential Funeral Planning Kit

The *Simply Essential Funeral Planning Kit* may seem a morbid choice to some. After all, dying is the last thing that we plan to do. That being true, many of us don't plan at all or even talk about it and if death overtakes us suddenly we leave those around us totally unprepared. I remember the sudden and untimely death of my parents and how I was left not only with the grief of their passing but also the stress of arranging

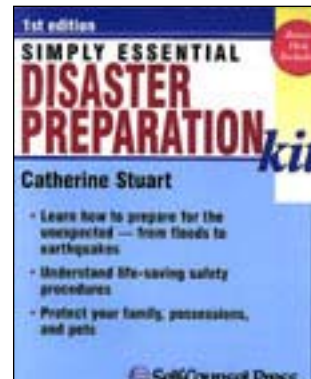
funerals, of which I knew nothing, and taking care of their estates. A very unhappy time.

Don S Cochrane, the book's author, brings fifty years of experience as a family and life skills counselor and a working member of the funeral industry to this publication. His main message is: think about it, make some decisions and write them down. This book is a treasure trove of information for dealing with a subject that most of us find distasteful or intimidating and shy away from. He explains that funerals are in two parts; the spiritual and the physical—the rites, ceremonies and traditions of our leaving this life and the legal requirements along with disposition of the physical remains. Many people have strong views and beliefs regarding these issues and though funerals are for the living the wishes of the deceased are upper most in peoples minds at such times.

Funeral Planning is refreshingly frank and comprehensive and Mr Cochrane willingly discusses what one might expect to pay for different services. The excellent appendix section is a main strength of the book including; a glossary of terms, suggested reading, internet links for the funeral industry, worksheets and a disk to print worksheets from a computer. Maybe not a best-seller but certainly a best buy.

Start and Run a Home Cleaning Business

Some might ask, where I get the nerve to write a review about *Start and Run a Home Cleaning Business*. The only home that I



SELF-COUNSEL continued on next page below

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BCUC from page 1

Local Governments Want a Say

Meanwhile, a motion introduced by Salt Spring Island's Gary Holman in the Capital Regional District Environment Committee suggested that the CRD support the replacement of the derated HVDC powerlines from the mainland by new 230kv lines, and that all local governments on Vancouver Island look carefully at the various energy options and their environmental implications. The CRD Board, at its September 10 meeting, referred the first suggestion back to the Environment Committee for discussion with BC Hydro, but supported the second part. Oak Bay Mayor Chris Caustin said that the CRD should show leadership on the energy issue.

As examples of local government concerns, the Cowichan Valley Regional District has reportedly indicated their support for Terasen's search for an LNG storage site, while the Campbell River Regional District has adopted an amendment to the zoning bylaw for Electoral Area D which would expand the definition of public utilities to include power generation plants, wind farms, etc. and requires a public hearing for any proposals.

Conservation

Another, and increasingly important, part of Hydro's Plan B is renewed emphasis on

conservation, not only on Vancouver Island but throughout BC. Hydro was one of the first electrical utilities in North America to put money into conservation, and its PowerSmart program has been widely imitated (see pg. 12).

PowerSmart has gone beyond changing light bulbs to compact fluorescents and buying up old refrigerators, though these are still part of the program. It now supports energy audits for commercial and institutional customers, and has even gone as far as assisting in the financing of industrial co-generation facilities.

A number of studies have shown that it can be cheaper to invest in reductions in demand than in new generation capacity.

GSX Process Continues

Meanwhile, in the US, Georgia Strait Crossing Pipeline LP (GSX-US, a joint venture of BC Hydro and Williams Pipelines) has asked the Federal Energy Review Commission (FERC) to exempt them from requirements of the *Clean Water Act* and the *Coastal Zone Management Act* on the grounds that the Washington State Department of Ecology has delayed too long in the process of managing the issue of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, and seeks a declaration from FERC saying that this 'constitutes a waiver.'

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The new importance of Power Smart. Or, why we want you to use less of what we sell.

A growing province. A growing demand.

In a province with so many natural resources, it's understandable that we British Columbians would give little thought to the generation of our electricity.

After all, we have had a steady supply of reliable, safe and clean power for decades. And thanks to our heritage of hydroelectric dams, we've received this power at a relatively low cost.

As the province continues to grow, however, so does the demand on our energy supply. In fact, with British Columbia's electricity consumption increasing at a rate of nearly 2% every year, our existing generating resources will be unable to meet the demand before the end of this decade.

A plan to meet the challenge.

At BC Hydro, we have already initiated a plan to secure the resources British Columbia needs for future power generation, while reducing demand through energy efficiency. Power Smart will play a critical role in meeting this challenge.

Power Smart is a series of energy efficiency initiatives, and is the cleanest and least expensive alternative to generating power. Over the next decade, we're counting on our Power Smart programs to offset more than a third of the demand for new energy.

BC Hydro will meet the remainder of our province's energy demands through several means. In addition to new generation for Vancouver Island, we will meet future demand by buying power from independent producers, and through power generated by our industrial and commercial customers.

BC Hydro is committed to ensuring that half of all new electricity is provided by clean sources. We are also actively exploring "green" energy opportunities — technologies with extremely low or even zero environmental impacts.

Rates have remained unchanged since 1993.

Although electricity rates have not increased in the last ten years, future demand will affect costs. Regardless of its source, new electricity generation will be more expensive than our existing supply of large-scale hydroelectricity. In addition, our operating costs, and the ongoing costs of maintaining our infrastructure, have, and will, continue to increase.

As a result, BC Hydro will be applying to the BC Utilities Commission for an increase in rates. While the BCUC will determine the final amount of any increase, our existing low-cost supply, as well as our Power Smart programs, will help to keep our rates among the lowest in North America.

The Power Smart Solution.

Since 1989, our customers have saved over 1.1 billion dollars' worth of energy through Power Smart. And opportunities for energy savings are greater today than ever before. In the weeks and months ahead, we'll be showing British Columbians ways to reduce their electricity bills and help the environment through a variety of Power Smart programs, and new energy-efficient technologies.

We can all play a part in keeping down costs, protecting our environment, and securing the future of our power. When one of us reduces, everyone gains.

If you'd like to find out more, visit us at www.bchydro.com.