

Reprint **Island Tides**

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Saturna salmon cycle begins again ~ Priscilla Ewbank (photos Jenn Neilson and Kevin O'Hara)

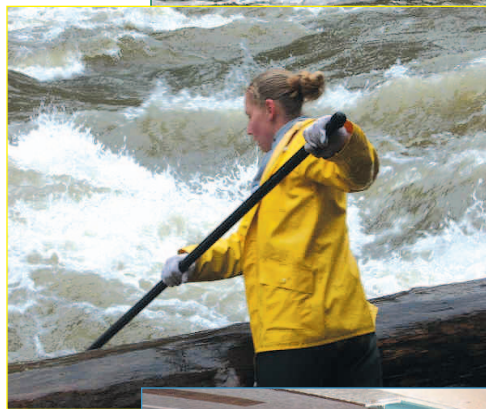
Last week Saturna's salmon enhancement group went up to Cowichan River to collect salmon eggs destined for Lyall Creek on Saturna. Don Piper, Grant Dickey, Rick Mayher, Darryl Jones, Jennifer Nilsen, Kevin O'Hara, Mike Jacks and Rick Jones, all went to the Cowichan Salmon Enhancement Centre and netted salmon out of the roaring river.

Netting a big salmon out of a turbulent river takes lots of strength and skill. Jen found it wonderful fun and said she could make about eight passes and then had to rest. The process took all day to do—and then some to dry out!

Salmon are waylaid during their upstream migration to spawning areas where females would have dug shallow beds in the river gravel and deposited their eggs which would then have been fertilized by male milt.

Cowichan River Hatchery provided the gear and all the equipment for fertilization and gestation. Saturna's job was to catch the fish—and extract two bags of sperm for every bag of eggs.

Thanks to this group's efforts we now have ten trays, each with ten thousand fertilized Chum salmon eggs. The eggs will gestate at Cowichan and then be moved down to the Goldstream hatchery before they come to us.



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