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# Strait of Georgia Island Tides

Uniting The Salish Sea - From Coast To Coast to Coast

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## Juan de Fuca bylaws to stand during appeal

The BC Supreme Court has granted a stay of proceedings to the Capital Regional District regarding the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (JDFEA) local area planning bylaws, which will allow recently passed bylaws concerning rural resource lands to remain in place while the case is heard. The Capital Regional District also launched an appeal of the Court's December 2008 decision. The stay of proceedings pertains to the bylaws, not the current voting arrangement, and is effective immediately.

The bylaws were passed in response to the unexpected release of 28,000 hectares of land from Tree Farm Licenses 6, 19 and 25 on Vancouver Island by the Minister of Forests. The land, owned by Western Forest Products, included approximately 9,000 hectares in the JDFEA.

The bylaws were passed in order to give more time for planning and development decisions by the Juan de Fuca Planning Department.

'Responsible, sustainable decisions for the Juan de Fuca Forest Lands are imperative for the protection of our region's rural resource lands,' said CRD Board Chair Geoff Young. 'My expectation is that this appeal will uphold the CRD's interpretation of the *Local Government Act*, revalidating bylaws which were created to prevent unregulated growth in Juan de Fuca.'

The CRD Board has amended the  
**BYLAWS, please turn to page 2**



Photo: Derek Holzapfel

On the last day of February, Pender children made 26 nestboxes for Violet-green Swallows and Chestnut-backed Chickadees. The 2nd annual event was hosted by Pender Island Conservancy Association.



Photo: Derek Holzapfel

Orca whales watch the ferries go by.

## Quadra Islanders oppose Bute Inlet power project

A standing-room-only crowd packed the Quadra Island Community Centre on Sunday, March 1, proving the value and importance of a public process that almost didn't happen. The town hall meeting was hosted by the BC Environmental Assessment Office and chaired by local Strathcona Regional District Director Jim Abram.

Dozens of speakers came forward from the 340 local residents of many of the nearby islands that are most impacted by the Bute Inlet hydroelectric project proposal; each expressed concern for the Plutonic Power project. As the meeting progressed a show of hands declared unanimous opposition to the project.

Many speakers questioned the economic justification for the project and called for alternative approaches to BC's Energy Plan with more emphasis on conservation and reductions in consumption.

An experienced mountain guide gave a slide show that demonstrated the world-class grandeur of the area and voiced apprehension about permanent visual impacts. Local fisherman spoke about the difficulty of determining existing fish populations in silt-laden waters and the need for multi-year baseline studies. Local loggers provided vivid descriptions about the hazards and challenges of operating in such rugged terrain with frequent catastrophic events and extreme weather conditions.

Disappointment was conveyed that the proponent, Plutonic Power declined to attend or send any representative to present the proposal or answer questions from the community most affected.

'What is needed is a land use plan for the Sunshine Coast to be completed and there needs to be a comprehensive alternative energy planning process to determine the need, the best technology and the siting of any alternative power projects. There are better technologies that produce more power and more jobs while reducing our dependence on fossil fuels globally,' said Jim Abram, Director for the islands and inlets of the Strathcona Regional District.

There are many questions still to be answered. Will this power generation actually reduce the use of fossil fuels as claimed rather than allow more demand? Will the loss of wilderness and existing jobs in the tourism and recreation sector be offset by the jobs created? There are also concerns around the privatization and industrialization of BC rivers, the effects of NAFTA; and the cumulative effects of the past and future projects that are being proposed.

Currently the EAO (Environmental Assessment Office) and CEAA (Canadian Environmental

**BUTE INLET, please turn to page 3**

## Canada to protect endangered killer whales

Since British Columbians celebrated the unexpected sighting of two newborn Orca whales in mid-February, there is another cause for hope for BC's imperilled whale population—now down to 85 whales. This week, the federal government issued an order that will provide legal protection for the endangered species' habitat. The new regulation has environmental groups cheering; they claim the policy reversal follows a lawsuit they launched in 2008. The order is the first one that Canada has ever issued under the *Species at Risk Act* to protect critical habitat.

### Lawsuit

Last year's lawsuit was filed by Ecojustice, (formerly Sierra Legal Defence Fund) on behalf of nine of Canada and BC's leading environmental organizations. It alleged that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans had failed to require much-needed legal protection for the killer whales' critical habitat. DFO had claimed instead that existing laws and voluntary guidelines were sufficient to protect the orcas' habitat from serious threats such as toxic contamination, acoustic degradation and declining salmon stocks.

### Action Plan Needed

Environmental groups, however have some reservations about the next step. 'To recover, killer whales need more than the status quo from the federal government and so we're thrilled our lawsuit forced it to issue this habitat protection Order,' claims Ecojustice lawyer Lara Tessaro. 'Now we'll be pushing to ensure this Order leads to action.'

However, the order does not reference threats to critical habitat documented by scientists in the government's Resident Killer Whale Recovery Strategy. 'We know we need to change the way we care for our marine environment to protect killer whales and their habitat,' said Kathy Heise, Marine Scientist with Raincoast Conservation. 'We hope to work with DFO to incorporate the needs of killer whales into the management of our salmon fisheries.'

'To give this Order teeth, DFO must keep killer whales' critical habitat free of tanker traffic and the risk of catastrophic oil spills,' adds Will Horter of Dogwood Initiative.

**WHALES, please turn to page 2**

## Local groups lobby for Trust Area exemption from PMFL

Key to settling the conflict over what uses are permissible in Galiano Island's forest lands is resolving the overlapping jurisdictions of the *Islands Trust Act* and the provincial *Private Managed Forest Land (PMFL) Act*. This legislative conflict has troubled Islands Trust Council since the *PMFL Act* was proclaimed in 2004.

The Trust Act mandate is to preserve and protect the trust area and its unique amenities and environment. The Trust Policy Statement provides clear forest management directives. But the *PMFL Act* prevents a local government, such as Islands Trust, from adopting bylaws that restrict forest management activity on private managed forest land.

Managed forest land represents a sizable portion of some local trust areas, particularly those covering Galiano and Valdez Islands.

Because the *PMFL Act* didn't wipe out pre-existing local forest land bylaws, Galiano's Official Community Plan (OCP) still regulates

forest land. However, if OCP amendments affecting private managed forest lands are made, it could force the OCP to conform to the *PMFL Act*, making many regulations such as Development Permit Areas unenforceable.

This is the dilemma that faces the new Galiano Local Trust Committee (LTC) as it initiates an OCP Review, a process aimed at updating its land use bylaws. At stake is land use control over approximately 40% of Galiano. As a solution to maintain local control, Islands Trust staff has suggested that Galiano Trustees might choose not to consider items related to the Island's Forest lands in the OCP Review.

Meanwhile, the Gulf Islands Alliance and the Galiano Residents and Owners Association has been requesting the province to exempt the entire Islands Trust Area from the parts of the *PMFL Act* that prohibit adopting local bylaws that may restrict forest management activities. Such an exemption is allowed by the *Act*.

**PMFL, please turn to page 3**



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- Nanaimo—South Parkway Plaza ● Mill Bay—Island Highway @ Frayne Rd ● Port Alberni—Shoppers Drugmart Plaza, 10th Ave



## Artists' competition

Artists and designers, resident in BC for at least three years, who work in jewelry, glass, wood, fibre, clay and metal or in textiles, furniture, weaving, ceramics, book-binding, paper, fashion and industrial design are eligible to enter the fifth annual BC Creative Achievement Awards for Applied Art and Design.

An artist may be nominated or self-submit to this juried competition. Up to three awards of \$2,500 will be presented by the British Columbia Achievement Foundation.

The British Columbia Achievement Foundation is an independent foundation, established and endowed by the Province of British Columbia in 2003 to celebrate excellence in community service, arts, humanities and enterprise.

The deadline for submissions/nominations is March 31. Visit [www.bcachievement.com](http://www.bcachievement.com) for details or call Nora Newlands 604-261-9777 or 1-866-882-6088.

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## Water right of way threatened - Patrick Brown

The ancient common law right of citizens to travel Canada's waterways may have been permanently damaged, particularly if they travel in small craft. Changes to the federal *Navigable Waters Protection Act* (NWPA) will give the Minister of Transport the power to exempt waterways and specific projects from the *Act*, and consequently from environmental review.

The changes are buried in the federal 2009 *Budget Implementation Act*, and are intended to remove what BC Premier Campbell has termed outdated legislation. In his throne speech, he asked that the federal NWPA 'be repealed and replaced by legislation that meets the legitimate needs of the 21st century'.

The NWPA was adopted in 1882 to legislate what had for centuries been a common law right-of-way, the right to navigate on the nation's streams and rivers. The legislation required government approval for any 'works' (particularly named were bridges, booms, dams and causeways) which might interfere with water transportation on any 'navigable' waters. In those days, canals, rivers, and lakes were important transportation routes, and canoes and shallow draft boats were still much used, so the definition of navigable waters became very broad.

The legislation still exists today (or at least until the *Budget Implementation Act* is implemented) but in recent years it has taken on new importance as a 'trigger' for federal environmental review of projects.

This is what led to its inclusion in the federal budget legislation, for this environmental review is seen by Premier Campbell and project developers as a major source of delay in the approval of infrastructure projects; and such projects are a major part of the 'stimulus' proposed by the federal government.

Briefly, the changes proposed to the *Act* would provide broadly inclusive definitions of 'vessel' and 'works' but would at the same time leave to the Minister of Transport's discretion the decision as to whether a particular waterway or particular works were subject to review under the *Act* (and hence environmental review). The result would probably mean that projects that

impact smaller waterways would no longer be reviewed, but since the Minister's decisions to exclude would not be publicly debated, it remains unclear where he would draw the line: size of waterways (navigable by oil tankers, or vessels over one metre draft, for example?), or size of projects (run-of-river power, aquaculture, roads and bridges, dyking?).

In June 2008, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities deliberately recommended that the government 'ensure that the 'trigger' mechanisms contained in other pieces of relevant legislation for environmental assessment and fisheries habitat assessment are not done away with or impeded'.

The committee also recommended that the government 'amend the definition of navigable waters to exclude minor waters and clearly define what constitutes a navigable water' but the budget proposals clearly shrink from this, leaving it to the Minister, again with no public consultation. It also recommended increased enforcement and fines, but this was not mentioned in the budget.

The federal government does not appear to intend to bring the legislation into the 21st century, only to weaken it, because of its potential to 'delay' projects. That 'delay', of course, is the time required to assess not only whether proposals may impede navigation, but also to assess their wider environmental effects.

In order to avoid 'delay' to stimulative infrastructure projects, the federal government had a clear alternative—to provide more resources for environmental review, possibly targeted towards the needed projects. The federal government chose not to provide more resources and Premier Campbell has actually cut funds for BC's Environment Ministry.

Impediments to navigation are generally permanent, which is why the *Act* was adopted in the first place. In today's rush to 'stimulate' the economy, projects just might escape both government and public oversight.

### BYLAWS from page 1

make-up of the Juan de Fuca Land Use Committee, which will now be comprised of the Electoral Area Director and six locally nominated residents, appointed to the committee by the Board.

The CRD has also reverted to its previous voting arrangement in dealing with any incoming development approvals. This will see a return of Land Use Committees A and B, with Directors from relevant municipalities and the JDFFEA Director voting. Land Use Committee A consists of the JDFFEA Director and Directors from the City of Colwood, the City of Langford, the District of Metchosin and the District of Sooke. Land Use Committee B consists of the JDFFEA Director and Directors from the District of Central Saanich, The District of Highlands, the City of Langford and one Director from the District of Saanich.

The CRD is committed to working with landowners in the Juan de Fuca EA to resolve outstanding land use issues. Meetings with residents are being planned, and the CRD is also looking at ways to accommodate landowners in the JDFFEA whose properties have been affected by the bylaws.

### WHALES from page 1

#### Action Plan Team

'DFO is scheduled to release an action plan within the next four years, but still has not created an action planning team with independent orca scientists. Is this another hollow promise or will the federal government do the right thing and prohibit harmful activities in the orcas' critical habitat?' asked Sarah King of Greenpeace.

Kim Elmslie of the International Fund for Animal Welfare stated, 'We will continue to monitor DFO to ensure that every effort is made to protect this critically endangered species for future generations.'

'This is one landmark victory on the long road to killer whale recovery. We're relieved to see the government using the *Species At Risk Act* and we look forward to seeing similar habitat protection orders for other endangered species,' said Aaron Freeman of Environmental Defence.

A protected area has been proposed for Swanson Channel and the west side of the Pender Islands. Meanwhile plans for a National Marine Conservation Area stretching along the eastern Strait of Georgia from south Gabriola Island, to the Canada /US border seem to have stalled. Rights over the seabed seem to be the sticking point for the provincial government.

For more information, visit [www.ecojustice.ca](http://www.ecojustice.ca) or contact: Dogwood Initiative, Environmental Defence, David Suzuki Foundation, Raincoast Conservation Society, Sierra Club of BC, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Greenpeace, Georgia Strait Alliance or the Wilderness Committee.



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## One million green acts give the environment a March break

If you are going travelling this March, 'One Million Acts of Green' has some green acts for Canadians to consider as they enjoy their spring break. Started by CBC's George Stroumboulopoulos the online challenge is already at 1.25 million acts of green, but you can't have too much of a good thing.

If you are visiting a sunny coastal holiday destination, choosing sustainable seafood can make a big difference for the environment. Healthy oceans are critical for our planet and over the last century, commercial fisheries have drastically reduced fish populations and altered the world's marine ecosystems. Visit [www.seachoice.org](http://www.seachoice.org) to download a wallet-sized card that outlines sustainable seafood choices, and when you get home visit CBC's [www.OneMillionActsofGreen.com](http://www.OneMillionActsofGreen.com) and register this act.

Here's another tip; consider taking the train. Trains emit much less greenhouse gas per passenger mile than airplanes, especially on short trips. Rail travel is another act that Canadians can register.

If you are taking a plane, you can always neutralize your environmental impact by purchasing carbon offsets. Carbon offsets help fund projects that produce clean energy, such as wind and solar power, projects that absorb carbon, like planting trees, or projects that improve energy efficiency.

Before you leave home, remember to turn down your **GREEN ACTS, please turn to page 6**

## Landmine treaty ten years old

March 1 marked the 10th anniversary of the day the *Ottawa Treaty* banning landmines became international law.

In October 1996, Canada challenged the world to eliminate landmines. This effort culminated in the signing of the Ottawa Treaty on December 3, 1997—outlawing production, use and trade in anti-personnel landmines. The Ottawa Treaty required forty ratifications to come into effect and became international law on March 1, 1999.

Promoting, negotiating and implementing of the treaty gave Canada a new role and a distinctive voice on international issues and gave the world a precedent on how to stop humanitarian disasters. Canadian Landmine Foundation President Scott Fairweather said, 'This treaty marked the first time in the history of the world that government and civil society, working together, outlawed the use of a weapon.'

Across Canada fundraising dinners are being held to support the removal of mines around the world. 'Through the efforts of the Canadian Landmine Foundation in partnership with Rotary Clubs, United Churches and others, Canadians continue to lead the way,' said board of directors chairman Tom Molloy.

The Canadian Landmine Foundation is Canada's leading awareness building and fundraising organization for humanitarian landmine action. Directors include former Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, past Rotary International President Wilf Wilkinson, and former Canadian Ambassador for Mine Action Dan Livermore.



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Railgate Commentary by BC Mary

# More Tracks, More Connections, Less News

Why haven't we heard more news from the BC Rail corruption trial? It's the most important trial in British Columbia's history. I can't think of a single factor that unites north, north-central, and southern BC more than BC Rail. It was Canada's third largest railway, running from North Vancouver up to Prince George, Mackenzie, Dease Lake—wherever people with lumber, grain, cattle needed a railway. Then suddenly, BC Rail was sold, despite Liberal election promises not to do so.

Next came the first-ever police raid on a parliamentary precinct, and then the charging of two former ministerial assistants, Dave Basi and Bobby Virk, with fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in connection with the \$1-billion privatization of BC Rail and, originally, with claims of money laundering and drug trafficking—hence the raids.

Meanwhile, I created a blog, 'The Legislature Raids'. Why? Because nobody knew why a police raid was necessary. No such raid on a peoples' parliament had ever happened in Canadian history. 'I know nothing more than you know,' said the premier, a week or so after the raid, when he got back to Victoria from that Hawaiian Christmas. Prime Minister Paul Martin said the same thing. Neither of our leaders said, 'Rest assured, I'll do everything I can, to find out what's going on.' They shrugged and walked away.

That's when I began watching, day by day, the things which got left out of BC's news.

In particular, I watched for Jasmohan Singh Bains. Why him? Because he was one of the eight people arrested soon after the December 28, 2003 raid. And because Bains had been overheard on the phone to his cousin working in the Ministry of Finance. His cousin is Dave Basi. The same Dave Basi now facing trial over fraud and bribery with regard to BC Rail deal.

However, initially it was a drug trafficking investigation which took police into the Legislature. That's how police overheard remarks about BC Rail—while listening to the wiretaps between Dave Basi and Jas Bains. And RCMP Staff Sgt John Ward had told us on December 29, 2003, that organized

crime had reached critical mass in the previous two years. Jas Bains certainly looked like the key to the larger puzzle—if you could see him, that is.

Neal Hall (*Vancouver Sun*) mentioned that Bains would go on trial in 2008. That's all. I watched and waited, but found no further mention of Jas Bains. Nothing. Then, at the Basi-Virk-Basi pre-trial hearings in Vancouver Supreme Court, somebody heard lawyers mention that Bains had been sentenced to 9 years; realizing that this was big news, he informed my blog.

I have to admit that I couldn't believe it. I held the comment back for two days, rather than publish an error about such a significant event. I worked hard digging up the facts. And it was true: Bains had gone to trial in June 2008, been found guilty, and sentenced to 9 years ... and no news media had mentioned it. Big Media missed it by a mile. Please, someone tell me what that means.

So my December 11, blog headline was Jasmohan Bains sentenced to nine years (for drug trafficking). I knew that Google wouldn't miss it, and neither could anyone searching. I kept mentioning the puzzling absence of news about Bains' sentencing. But another 2 months passed quietly.

Then one day, while complimenting Ian Mulgrew on a column he had just written, I said I wished that he had been assigned to the BC Rail Case—then maybe we'd have heard about the Bains trial and ... bingo!

On February 16, Ian's column titled 'Drug dealer linked to Legislature Raid imprisoned' appeared in *Vancouver Sun*. I hope Ian Mulgrew wins a Jack Webster Award for that story.

But on the other hand, doesn't it make you wonder about Big Media? Where were they for eight silent months since Jas Bains' trial at Victoria Courthouse, just a few blocks down the street from *Times Colonist* offices!

I must ask this question, too: how different is denying or avoiding the news—as compared to delaying or avoiding the disclosure of documents—now ongoing in the BC Rail case?

RAILGATE, please turn to page 6

## BUTE INLET from page 1

Assessment Agency) are reviewing public comments. Plutonic will then be given final Terms of Reference for the application and the environmental impact statement it must prepare for the process to continue to the next stage.

Plutonic Power and General Electric are proposing a mega project for Bute Inlet with 17 river diversions, hydroelectric facilities, 85 km of penstock, 267 km of permanent roads and 443 km of high-voltage transmission lines through some of BC's most remote and beautiful coastal wilderness. To learn more about the proposal, go to [www.ButeInlet.net](http://www.ButeInlet.net).

## PMFL from page 1

The Province has indicated that a request for a Cabinet Order in Council for a pilot exemption for Galiano would be received favourably. Next week the Galiano LTC and Trust Council are expected to adopt resolutions to move this outcome forward.

This would permit at least Galiano's OCP review to proceed freely.

*The Gulf Islands Alliance is a grassroots organization made up of islanders actively dedicated to supporting the Islands Trust in achieving its legislated object. Founded in 2006, the Alliance consists of members from throughout the Islands Trust Area.*

## Island Tides

AT FULFORD HARBOUR  
MARCH

Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.	Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.
10 TU	0456	10.8	3.3	18 WE	0033	9.8	3.0
	1040	6.2	1.9		0526	9.2	2.8
	1610	9.5	2.9		0726	9.2	2.8
	2220	3.6	1.1		1624	3.3	1.0
11 WE	0518	10.8	3.3	19 TH	0138	10.2	3.1
	1119	5.2	1.6		1725	3.3	1.0
	1719	9.5	2.9				
	2301	4.6	1.4				
12 TH	0539	10.8	3.3	20 FR	0226	10.2	3.1
	1158	4.3	1.3		1828	3.6	1.1
	1824	9.5	2.9				
	2343	5.6	1.7				
13 FR	0559	10.8	3.3	21 SA	0301	10.2	3.1
	1237	3.6	1.1		0916	8.2	2.5
	1929	9.5	2.9		1125	8.2	2.5
					1925	3.6	1.1
14 SA	0026	6.6	2.0	22 SU	0328	10.2	3.1
	0621	10.5	3.2		0928	7.9	2.4
	1317	3.0	0.9		1304	8.2	2.5
	2038	9.5	2.9		2014	3.6	1.1
15 SU	0113	7.5	2.3	23 MI	0350	10.2	3.1
	0642	10.2	3.1		0945	7.2	2.2
	1358	3.0	0.9		1422	8.5	2.6
	2152	9.5	2.9		2057	3.9	1.2
16 MO	0207	8.5	2.6	24 TU	0409	9.8	3.0
	0702	9.8	3.0		1004	6.6	2.0
	1442	3.0	0.9		1526	8.9	2.7
	2314	9.8	3.0		2135	4.3	1.3
17 TU	0318	9.2	2.8	25 WE	0425	9.8	3.0
	0719	9.5	2.9		1026	5.6	1.7
	1530	3.0	0.9		1625	9.2	2.8
					2211	4.9	1.5

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## Island Tides

AT POINT ATKINSON  
MARCH

Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.	Day	Time	Ht./ft.	Ht./m.
10 TU	0509	15.1	4.6	18 WE	0008	13.5	4.1
	1115	7.5	2.3		0516	11.8	3.6
	1648	13.5	4.1		0837	12.5	3.8
	2307	4.6	1.4		1656	4.9	1.5
11 WE	0536	15.1	4.6	19 TH	0119	13.5	4.1
	1155	6.2	1.9		0715	11.8	3.6
	1745	13.5	4.1		0917	11.8	3.6
	2347	5.6	1.7		1759	5.2	1.6
12 TH	0602	15.1	4.6	20 FR	0218	13.5	4.1
	1234	5.2	1.6		0835	11.2	3.4
	1841	13.5	4.1		1046	11.2	3.4
					1905	5.2	1.6
13 FR	0027	6.9	2.1	21 SA	0301	13.8	4.2
	0629	15.1	4.6		0912	10.5	3.2
	1313	4.3	1.3		1244	11.2	3.4
	1939	13.5	4.1		2006	5.2	1.6
14 SA	0108	8.2	2.5	22 SU	0335	13.8	4.2
	0655	14.8	4.5		0939	9.8	3.0
	1352	3.9	1.2		1412	11.5	3.5
	2039	13.5	4.1		2057	5.2	1.6
15 SU	0151	9.5	2.9	23 MO	0403	13.8	4.2
	0721	14.1	4.3		1006	8.9	2.7
	1432	3.9	1.2		1513	12.1	3.7
	2145	13.5	4.1		2140	5.6	1.7
16 MO	0240	10.5	3.2	24 TU	0426	14.1	4.3
	0745	13.5	4.1		1032	7.9	2.4
	1514	3.9	1.2		1605	12.5	3.8
	2255	13.5	4.1		2219	5.9	1.8
17 TU	0342	11.5	3.5	25 WE	0446	14.1	4.3
	0810	12.8	3.9		1101	6.9	2.1
	1601	4.6	1.4		1653	13.1	4.0
					2255	6.2	1.9

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## Editorial: Time for a global carbon tax

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**ISLAND TIDES PUBLISHING Ltd**

Box 55, Pender Island, BC, V0N 2M0

Owner, Publisher & Editor: Christa Grace-Warrick

Assistant Publisher: Jill Moran

Contributors: Patrick Brown, Derek Holzapfel

Judith Myers, George Zawadzki, Priscilla Ewbank

Richard Best, Susan Banjavich

Tel: 250-629-3660 • Fax: 250-629-3838

Email: [news@islandtides.com](mailto:news@islandtides.com) & [islandtides@islandtides.com](mailto:islandtides@islandtides.com)

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Included in the 1300 pages of the recently passed *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009* are budget figures that anticipate the implementation of a cap-&-trade atmospheric carbon reduction system to provide incentives to Americans to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Calculations, from figures included in the *Act*, give an average price of around \$11 per tonne. However that price, as in Europe, appears to be too low to provide the necessary incentive for carbon emissions reduction.

At an estimated additional 1¢/kWh on the cost of coal-generated electricity, and around 2¢/litre for gasoline, the US plan is clearly not sufficient to provide an incentive to significantly reduce CO<sub>2</sub>, either by improved technology or reduced consumption.

With all due respect to the new US President, a reconsideration of this cap-&-trade proposal is needed. It's not too late to change course and lead the world to an international carbon emissions taxation system.

A carbon tax, applicable to all US emitters, including industry, would be infinitely simpler to administer than cap-&-trade and would not encourage speculation on the carbon credit market. It would inevitably result in harmonization within NAFTA for Canada. But it could be fixed at rates which would ensure adequate incentives and provide some certainty about future government revenues.

Revenues raised by the tax could then be allocated to assist in a variety of ways with the costs of reducing GHG emissions, the development of alternative energy sources, and 'tax shifting'—reductions in personal income tax.

Imports from countries without equivalent GHG charges could be taxed on entry—a clearly fair and easily collectable tariff. The result could well be an international system of carbon taxes—far more effective than any *Kyoto Protocol*.

Now is the time to embark on such a path and if the US's ineffective, cumbersome cap-&-trade scheme is implemented the moment for a worldwide move on climate change will be lost.

## Readers' Letters

### Microcredit a Better Place for RRSPs & Foreign Aid

Dear Editor:

There's been controversy over foreign aid—who's pocketing the millions of dollars we put into aiding the poor? While targeted aid can make a huge difference, it is sometimes hard to know exactly where all the money ends up going. There are, however, alternatives to aid.

Muhammed Yunus' initiative in providing microcredit (very small loans) to the poor of Bangladesh is an example: microcredit has been a central factor in Bangladesh's success in climbing out of poverty. Given the proven success of microcredit, we should be investing more of our foreign aid budget in microcredit programs. They're effective—borrowers not only lift themselves out of poverty with loans as small as \$50, but they also boast a 95% repayment rate.

This is the heart of grass-root development—the funds get where they ought to be, in projects the people actually care about. It also makes a stable investment for households: Citizens Bank's RRSP eligible Shared World microcredit investment fund currently pays 2% annually—a far better investment deal than one the scoundrels of Wall Street will guarantee you.

Cat Wilson, Mill Bay

### More On Microcredit

Dear Editor:

With the financial crisis still at hand, mass job loss, and slowing industries, we can't seem to think about the good things. With people losing much of what they have built up, it seems as if many people have lost much hope. But some people tell a different story. These people are investors in microcredit, which is a thriving system of microloans to the poorest of the poor in developing countries. With a 95% repayment rate for microloans it proves that this is one of the most solid investments around. And with the added bonus of not having to gamble with the stock market because there is a 100% return rate plus 2% interest on microcredit investments. These investments are available through VanCity, Citizens Bank, and Oikocredit.

After some research, I am sure that microcredit is the safest, and most rewarding way, to make the world a better place.

Nicholas Miller, Victoria

### Bute Inlet Run-Of-River Power

Dear Editor:

I am a resident of Quadra Island, and in my family, I am a fourth generation elder in a line of six generations of people who have lived, and are living still, on this coast. I was born on an inlet north of here. I know how alive this land is and these waterways are.

It is a misunderstanding of this coast to see it as a potential green power corridor. This is the southern extension of the Great

Bear Rainforest, a rugged and delicately balanced and wildy-giving presence in our lives.

I find it an odd idea that life should be sacrificed for electricity—for power that might even be used for further excesses instead replacing the fossil fuel we need to stop using. It may just delay our coming to grips with how badly we need to cut down our usage. It has been strange these months to have had to study and address details of specific run-of-river plans when we citizens of BC (while also mindful of the world as a whole) have never agreed that any run-of-river projects would be worth the loss.

I'd like to see Plutonic paid for the work they've done, and our government take back, and hold on to, control of our land and fresh water resources.

It may seem that we need this much electricity and more, but we haven't begun to turn off everything unnecessary. Better that unnecessary public and business and industrial lights go off at night than to produce more electricity to be also wasted or sold to the US to waste.

We have a paper mill shutting down here; that should make a large change in calculations.

If we find we genuinely need more electricity, or want to be ready in case, then my research suggests going with least-harm geothermal extraction, boring down right in Vancouver, for instance, where it's used, and also finding ways to put solar panels on all our roofs. We want to be involved in taking care of this.

We need public meetings with BC and Federal Government people listening (like February 2 in Campbell River and March 1 on Quadra) but to address what comes *before* such projects are considered, like: whether we really need more power; how to establish quickly what's really essential; how to engage us all in a sharp shutdown of power use; and to decide whether, for any amount of money or power, we're actually willing to sacrifice our first-born rivers and tributaries and valleys, and all the life-giving water they carry, and life they support, including human.

Carol Anderson, Quadra Island

## Local food for Vancouver

Mayor Gregor Robertson has announced that a portion of the City Hall lawn will be converted into a community garden. The idea to grow local food on the grounds of City Hall is the first 'Quick Start' recommendation to come from the Greenest City Action Team.

'If we want Vancouver to be a truly sustainable city, City Hall needs to lead the way,' said Mayor Robertson, 'By converting part of the City Hall lawn into a community garden, Vancouver is walking the talk when it comes to producing local food.'

The move is a symbol of the Vancouver's commitment to develop 2,010 community garden plots by 2010, as an Olympic legacy. A portion of the community garden space will be allocated to communal plots where vegetables will be grown for donation to food providers in Vancouver's inner-city neighbourhoods.

The City will be partnering with SPEC (Society Promoting Environmental Conservation) to develop and design the garden. SPEC runs two demonstration gardens in Vancouver and works

LOCAL FOOD, please turn to page 7

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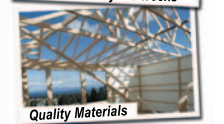
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### Friday & Saturday, March 20 & 21

**Grace Jordan is 'Shirley Valentine'**—a comedy by Willy Russell; show part of the 2009 westcoast tour • South End Hall, 141 Sturdies Bay Road • 7:30pm • Tickets: adults \$18, students \$10 Galiano Books 250-539-3340 or at the door • Tour details [www.shirleyvalentine.ca](http://www.shirleyvalentine.ca) • ON GALIANO ISLAND



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### Fri, Sat & Sun, March 13, 14 & 15

**Rock & Gem Show 2009: 'The Magic of Crystals'**—display of members crafts & art; retailers from Western Canada, gold panning; faceted jewels, beads, fossils; Kiddies Corner; door prize; silent auction; refreshments & more • Leonardo Da Vinci Centre, 195 Bay Street • Fri 1-9pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-4:30pm • Tickets: Adults \$5, Seniors/Students \$4, family (4) \$10, 6 & under free • Info: [www.islandnet.com/~vlms](http://www.islandnet.com/~vlms) • IN VICTORIA

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### Saturday, March 14

**An Afternoon of Ideas**—Saanich Gulf Islands Federal Liberal Riding Association presents Briony Penn, PhD and Dr. Keith Martin, MP; come share your ideas and tell us about the issues that are important to you; learn what policies are moving from this riding into the national spotlight in May at the 2009 Liberal Convention; music and refreshments • ArtSpring • 1:30pm-3:30pm • Free admission • ON SALT SPRING ISLAND

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### Fri & Sat, March 20 & 21 & April 3 & 4

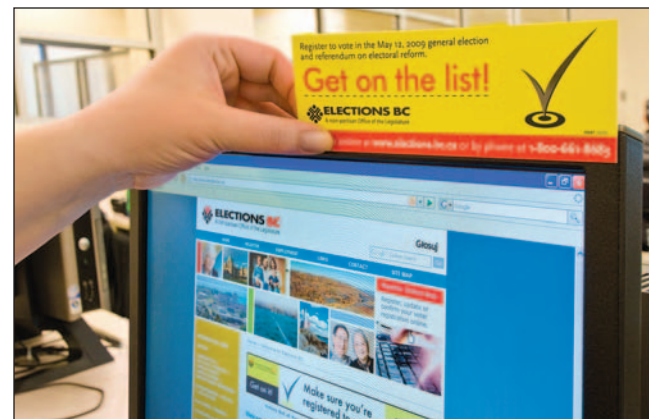
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**The Who's 'Tommy' in Concert**—Little Lamb Artist Group present the classic rock opera with professional singers and musicians from Vancouver, Victoria and Salt Spring • Artspring • 8pm • Tickets: \$20, \$12 students, Mar 24: 'pay what you can' 250-537-2102 • ON SALT SPRING ISLAND

## Are you on the list?

What's a monitor sticker? In this case it's a 'Get on the List' reminder to register for the May 12 election. Ten thousand of Elections BC's bright yellow tags will be seen above screens at BC's public libraries, which host 2,900 public-access computers, and at colleges, universities and some government offices.



'It's an idea we came up with to remind people they need to be on the voters list,' says Harry Neufeld, BC's Chief Electoral Officer. 'Since they're already at a computer, we're hoping they'll click over to the Elections BC website and use our online registration system, which is the easiest way to make sure you're on the list.'

The major effort of the enumeration project is a mail-out of two million enumeration notices to households throughout BC. In the province, 3.2 million people are eligible to vote, however people must be registered in order to vote in the May 12 election and the referendum on electoral reform.

## Saturna Notes - Priscilla Eubank

While gardeners may not yet be out in the garden, except to prune and plan, tent caterpillars' eggs are lurking and growing! Saturna has not had a noticeable infestation since our last big one in 2005, which was the peak of 30 years of monitoring. Other peak years in the cycle were 1976, 1984, and 1996.

Tent caterpillars love rose and apple tree leaves, eating every leaf on every branch during high population years. It is mournful to see a magnificent rose on a green stick! The native plant they equally devour and infest is the local red alder, spinning big white tents in the branches spawning gazillions of crawling



TENT CATERPILLARS  
Judith Myers

caterpillars. Apple crops are quite affected because the trees have to produce another set of leaves, after the ravaging horde has morphed, at the expense of the fruit.

### Tent Caterpillar Facts

In the last weekend in February, UBC zoologist Judy Myers, her daughter Isla, and several friends inspected Haggis Farm's orchard for egg clusters and found eleven scattered among the pears, plums and apples. The clusters are less than an inch wide, like dried spit, silvery-grey, and encasing a branch. The wood can be cut out and burned.

Judy reports that tent caterpillar infestations 'have turned around' at Gulf Islands more southern sites—Saturna, Mardarte Island (a 7-hectare island, east of Sidney Spit) and Sidney Island; although they were practically non-existent on Galiano last summer. This is a strong sign of population increase. There will not be a huge population this coming summer, but people will begin to see more. From our observations it appears that Galiano will be safe for another two years. South Pender may be more like Saturna.

The caterpillars have a variety of parasites, including the fly that lays the white eggs on caterpillar heads. But what really gets them when they are at high population is a viral disease. The disease came a year earlier to Saturna in the last outbreak. All of the observed populations declined from the disease the following year.

Tent caterpillars can be controlled with Bt-based sprays such as Dipel which is acceptable for organic production. Birds do not like the big hairy caterpillars but will eat the pupal stage.

### Lighthouse Station Tour

East Point Lighthouse was a busy place the last Saturday in February. About 30 people came to tour the lighthouse site, and Saturna's new Discovery Centre in the refurbished foghorn alarm building, with our last lighthouse keeper Ian McNeil. Ian and Joan served from 1965 until the light was automated in about 1993.

Besides the locals, 'Team Saturna', five graduate students from the Centre for Digital Studies in Vancouver attended. Led by part-time Islander Geri Sinclair, the team interviewed Ian McNeil, and also Gloria Manzano, whose family were the first lighthouse keepers.

Team Saturna were billeted and fed on the Island for three days. They traveled in the Saturna Ecological Education Centre's yellow schoolbus. The series of short historical documentaries of Saturna that they are making will be a great asset to the little theatre in our Discovery Centre.



EASTPOINT'S FOGHORN BUILDING MORPHS INTO THE 'DISCOVERY CENTRE'

Soon to be completed is a digital model of the *Santa Saturnina* allowing a person to 'be inside' the ship. It will be available on the website when that is completed.

Meanwhile finishing the interior, doing the research, and creating graphics are progressing. The building's exterior will be finished as soon as the weather is dry.

SATURNA, please turn to page 7



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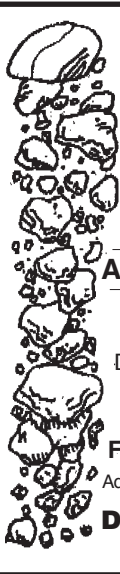


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**General Board Meeting  
 Presentation on  
 Royal Jubilee New Patient Care Centre  
 &  
 Open House  
 Wednesday, April 1, 2009**

The Vancouver Island Health Authority Board of Directors is holding its regular General Board meeting:

**Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at 1:30 pm**

**Auditorium, Queen Alexandra Centre for Children's Health  
 2300 Arbutus Road, Victoria, BC**

In addition to conducting its regular business, there will be a presentation on the new Patient Care Centre at Royal Jubilee Hospital. There will also be limited amount of time set-aside during the meeting for scheduled presentations from the public and to respond to questions submitted in advance of the meeting.

**Presentation Guidelines:**

A written request is required to make a presentation to the Board. Requests should include the general nature and viewpoint of the presentation and groups/organizations must identify one individual as the spokesperson. Presentations will be limited to a maximum of 10 minutes.

**Questions for the Board:**

Questions must be submitted in advance of the meeting to allow for a formal response, which will be distributed in writing at the meeting and posted to our website following the meeting.

**Note:** Should the number of applications exceed the time available at the meeting it may not be possible to schedule all presentations. You will be contacted to confirm whether or not you have been selected to make a presentation.

Presentations will not be accepted without prior arrangement. There will be a limited amount of time set aside for questions from the floor regarding the Patient Care Centre Presentation. Other questions will either be addressed in writing as noted above, or responded to during the Open House.

Written questions or requests for presentations to the VIHA Board **must be submitted before 4:00 pm on Tuesday, March 17, 2009** by fax to (250) 370-8750 or by email to [ann.bozoian@viha.ca](mailto:ann.bozoian@viha.ca) or by mail to: Vancouver Island Health Authority, Executive Office, 1952 Bay Street, Victoria, BC V8R 1J8

**Open House**

**Immediately Following the General Board Meeting**

Following the General Board meeting there will be an Open House to allow for a general exchange of thoughts, suggestions and concerns between the VIHA Board and senior management staff and the general public.

## Shock Doctrine wins Warwick Prize

Canadian author Naomi Klein has been awarded the £50,000 Warwick Prize for her 2007 book, *The Shock Doctrine*. This is the inaugural year for the biennial Warwick Prize, which is financed and awarded by the University of Warwick, located on the border of Coventry and Warwickshire in England.

Klein's book traces how free-market capitalists have taken advantage of natural disasters, ideological change, wars, financial collapses, and other similar opportunities to profit and shift power from government to the private sector. It covers some fifty years of economic history, describing how University of Chicago Nobel economist Milton Friedman and his students used crises to promote economic change, privatization, plutocratic government, and the shadow banking system.

Klein clearly views these developments as destructive in themselves, yet the Wall Street Journal said of *The Shock Doctrine* that 'you must read what may be the most important book on economics in the 21st century.'

Anyone connected with the university may nominate any book published in English in the last two years for the prize, which this year set as its theme 'complexity'. (In 2011, the theme will be 'colour'.) Asked to explain the theme, David Morley, described as the 'architect' of the prize, said, 'If we accept that

writing makes you think, and that the formation of knowledge depends partly on the complex and often playful process of writing, then what role does the process of writing perform on that very edge of 'not knowing' and 'knowing'—a place of creativity, energy and adventure?'

This theme may be hard to understand, but clearly focuses on the art and process of writing rather than the form or subject matter. It naturally qualifies a huge variety of books, fiction, poetry, non-fiction, etc. In addition to Klein's book, the short list this year included a study of women and mental illness (Lisa Appignanesi's *Mad, Bad and Sad*), a history of 20th-century music (Alex Ross's *The Rest is Noise*), an investigation into the murder of a Guatemalan bishop (Francisco Goldman's *The Art of Political Murder*), Stuart A Kauffman's *Reinventing the Sacred*, and Enrique Vila-Mata's *Montano's Malady* (the only novel).

Chief judge China Miéville said of *The Shock Doctrine* that it was 'brilliant, provocative, outstandingly written investigation into some of the great outrages of our time' which has 'started many debates, and will start many more.'

Klein is also the author of *No Logo* and *Fences and Windows*. She has just completed *The Take*, a film made with her husband Avi Lewis (son of Stephen Lewis). ☺

**GREEN ACTS from page 2**

thermostat, use light-timers and shut down your computer and other electronics. You can register these acts on One Million Acts of Green website.

For those enjoying March Break at home, One Million Acts of Green has some ideas that can help keep the kids busy with green projects around the house.

The concept behind One Million Acts of Green is that as we combine individual acts, the positive impact on our planet is much greater. On the website, users can log green acts (as small as turning off a light when not in use to as big as installing geothermal heating in your home). The website records all acts and calculates how much greenhouse gas is saved.

CBC's partner, California company Cisco, one of the world's largest suppliers of Internet hardware and software, calls this the Human Network Effect: a network of people with the power to change the world in which we live and work. Over the network, people can come together and transform business, communities, governments, schools and lives. ☺

**RAILGATE from page 3**

The BC Rail corruption trial is the most important trial in British Columbia's history. It affects us all. Me, I want to know what happened to BC Rail ... how it happened, why it happened, and whether it was legal.

I also want to know how business is done in the BC Legislature and if organized crime is operating within it.

Here's one more nagging question: 'bid-rigging' is a criminal

## Ferry fares up again April 1

BC Ferries have announced their annual fare increase effective April 1—the date is just a coincidence (it's the start of the government's fiscal year). The increase is 3.74% on the three major routes which cross the Strait of Georgia, and 7.25% on the other routes. As examples, the underheight vehicle fare from Tsawwassen—Swartz Bay will be \$45 (up from \$43); Nanaimo—Gabriola return will be \$20.50 (up from \$18.55), less a fuel cost rebate of 75¢.

Ferry fares are, as usual, on autopilot. The current formulas for annual fare increases are: main routes: 2.7% + (CPI x .49), and other routes: 5.7% + (CPI x .73). These formulas have been set for 2009, 2010, and 2011, and have been authorized by the Ferry Commissioner. Cost information which might justify fare increases will not be available until the Annual Report at the end of June. However, the latest quarterly report indicated reduced ridership and falling profits. ☺

offence. CPRail and OmniTrax both complained (in writing) of unfair actions during the bidding for BC Rail. Was that OK? Or should we be checking that out via the BC Rail trial?

*BC Mary's blog, tirelessly collecting information on the complex issue of the Legislature Raid and its connections to the BC Rail sale deal, is probably the most intense citizen scrutiny of a political scandal ever made in BC. To read more: visit BC Mary's blog at <http://bctrailofbasi-virk.blogspot.com/>; also [www.islandtides.com](http://www.islandtides.com)'s 'BC Politics' archive to read 'North to Alaska' November 18, 2004, 'Riding the rails: tracking the BC Rail deal' November 17, 2007, 'Basi-Virk trial fogged in technicality and secrecy' December 13, 2007, and 'Justice and Politics' August 7, 2008. ☺*

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# NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

### Prepaid Paper Tickets to be Discontinued

Prepaid paper tickets account for one percent or less of all payments made on BC Ferries' smaller coastal routes. As a result, prepaid paper tickets will be discontinued on the majority of these routes as follows:

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**June 1, 2009:** Prepaid paper tickets will no longer be accepted as payment toward fares. Tickets can continue to be converted to dollars on BC Ferries Experience™ Cards.

**April 1, 2010:** Prepaid paper tickets will no longer be accepted for conversion to BC Ferries Experience™ Cards.

For conversion purposes, prepaid paper tickets purchased prior to April 1, 2008 will be valued at the March 31, 2008 prepaid price.

**NOTE:** This notice does not apply to the following routes:

- Mill Bay-Brentwood Bay
- Langdale-Gambier-Keats Island
- Quadra-Cortes Island
- Denman-Hornby Island

For more information on this change and the routes to which it applies, visit [www.bcferries.com](http://www.bcferries.com), select Service Notices and your desired route. **Questions?** Please call 1 888 BC FERRY (1 888 223 3779).



# Bulletin Board

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**SATURNA from page 5**

Many of the people on Ian's tour have volunteered for various tasks and took on whole chunks of research—including including the 'Pig War', early exploration, Saturna pioneers, and natural history, with the help of Parks Canada.

The East Point site, part of the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, is a gorgeous, compelling place, surrounded by such vibrant natural and human history. Contact Richard Blagborne if you have any interest in joining the project.

**Lamb BBQ Photo Book**

Here is a Gulf Islands-wide call. For those of you that have photos of the Saturna Island Lamb BBQ we are looking for pictures from the past 60 years. Sandi Crowley is putting together a pictorial book of this event to sell at the Lamb BBQ. So many times Islanders who are putting on the BBQ hear, 'I came here first with my parents in 1961 and now I bring my own children.' Hopefully we can connect with some of these people and put together a fun book for all those 'children' and their children to enjoy.

**BC-STV Meeting**

Single Transferable Voting is back on the front pages. British Columbia missed out on introducing this voting strategy by the smallest of margins in our last provincial election. Now we have another chance for a modern voting system, on May 12.

Brian Dixon Warren hosted a talk at the community hall given by two members of the Citizens Assembly that worked out the BC-STV.

Wendy Bergerud and Diana Byford gave a power-point presentation to a crowd detailing exactly how the process works.

When you see a picture of the entire Citizens Assembly you see it was a mix of all of us—old, young, and all sorts of mixes of heritage. Wendy and Diana explained that although the assembly studied many possible ways of voting, 95% of the assembly members recommended Single Transferable Vote. I appreciate the fact that you can choose and rank more than one candidate.

When we had our Saturna all-candidates meeting for the most recent federal election, every candidate was in favor of STV and felt it was a crucial change that needs to happen. The questions at the meeting were good; Wendy and Diana had thoughtful answers and the discussion was informative—that's a start to good governance right there!

Wendy and Diana are willing to travel and inform the public at their own expense because they are so dedicated to this form of democratic representation and very little government money is available this time around. Arrange a meeting on your Island.

**New Trail At Winter Cove**

Parks Canada will begin work in Winter Cove shortly. They will be 'decommissioning' the shoreline trail and putting a loop trail in through the forest, east of the shoreline. The old and new trails will each access Boat Pass. Staff will be on hand to oversee trail works and will post maps of all proposed changes.

**LOCAL FOOD from page 5**

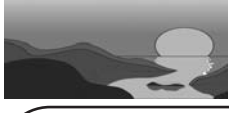
with groups who want to start their own community gardens.

'There is a huge demand from people in Vancouver to have the opportunity to grow their own food—there are waiting lists for community gardens across the city,' said Mayor Robertson. 'Converting a portion of the under-used City Hall lawn for gardening is something that should have happened a long time ago for a city that likes to talk about being green.'

The idea to create a community garden at City Hall is the first 'Quick Start' recommendation to come from the Greenest City Action Team. The Team, which met for the first time on February 25, is focused on immediate steps the City can take to improve its environmental performance. Members of the team include Dr David Suzuki, Former Premier Mike Harcourt, and Vancity CEO Tamara Vrooman.

**Chicken Motion**

In another motion towards sustainability, food security, and eating local, City Council in Vancouver has proposed an amendment to an animal control by-law that will repeal the prohibition of keeping backyard hens in the city. Policy guidelines to 'protect the health and welfare of citizens and ensure the humane treatment of hens' will be developed prior to the legalization of free-range chickens in Vancouver backyards. It's a step in the direction already taken by other urban centres like Victoria, Seattle and New York City.



### SCHOOL DISTRICT #64 (Gulf Islands)

#### Consideration of Local School Calendar Option for 2009/2010

March 4, 2009

On September 10, 2008 the Board of Education passed the original motion, the context of which is stated below. At the February 11, 2009 Board meeting, the Board of Education revised the date and the motion was passed as follows:

"To give ample time for public input and discussion, be it resolved that the Board of Education will consult with the community in accordance with the School Act and the School Calendar Regulation to seek input and feedback regarding the proposed Local School Calendar. Written submissions may be made to the Board throughout the school year until **April 22, 2009**. Additionally, time will be allotted for public input on each island community immediately following the Regular Public Board meeting held on each island. Proper notice will be given in each community as to the time and date of these meetings."

Further opportunities to provide feedback include:

- Email through [www.sd64.bc.ca](http://www.sd64.bc.ca) - click on 'Four Day Input Form'; Individual written submissions addressed to the Board of Education, through Dawne Fennell, Executive Assistant;
- Public Meeting of the Board of Education – April 8, 2009 at Mayne Island School at 1:00 p.m.
- Special Meeting of the Board of Education – April 22, 2009 at the School Board Office at 1:00 p.m. At this meeting the Board will make a decision on whether or not to adopt the local school calendar for 2009/2010.

To view the draft calendar to be considered for approval for 2009/2010 please refer to <http://www.sd64.bc.ca/district.html#calendar>.

A draft of the Preliminary Financial Projections for 2009/2010 will be available on the web by April 2, 2009. Copies of these documents will also be available at each school.

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# Round The Islands

Christa Grace-Warrick

I was wrong about the snow last edition, as this February 26 picture from Susan Banjavich of Gabriola



SNOW ON GABRIOLA FEB 26 - Susan Banjavich

shows! What a tough winter it has been. As our newspaper circulation expands north, I am coming to understand more about the Salish Sea's weather. That seawater may be warm on the shores of Hornby but those arctic outflows sure blow cold up there. Not to mention, it's snowing as I write from the balmy Southern Islands!

Speaking of understanding more, *Island Tides* would love to have more news tips from all our ports of call. We can write the stories if

you point us in the right direction. Nowadays people need cheering up and inspiring, so let us know about community-benefitting projects Islanders have begun, together or as individuals; fascinating history; and information about the beauty of our fascinating ecosystem. As a caveat, promotional pieces about business don't work. It's a fine line but we do have advertising for businesses, and our current advertisers would, rightly, be offended by business-boosting articles.

On the other hand, don't forget *Island Tides* offer (editorial, last edition) to give free word ads to any Islands' shovel-ready project, see one on page 7. Enjoy, and be inspired by, the shovel-ready Island projects featured in 'Round The Islands' this time.

### www.leftcoastevents.org

Janine Bandcroft tells us that her emailed events listing for Vancouver Island and Vancouver now has a website. A total of \$400 and donations in kind from individuals and organizations got the Left Coast Events website going. The indefatigable and very grateful Janine invites you to visit [www.leftcoastevents.org](http://www.leftcoastevents.org).

### Local Food—Pizza Garden

Pender Island Spring Leaves family learning group has submitted the record of one of its projects to the BC Green Games competition.

Last year the dozen or so parents and children grew a 'pizza garden'—including the wheat. They harvested the garden, created flour for dough and eventually ate their pizzas. The powerpoint record is truly delightful and can be viewed at [www.bcgreengames.ca](http://www.bcgreengames.ca).

Until March 15 you can also vote at the web-site, (if you can take the time to create a sign-in) and give Pender elementary school, with which the group is affiliated, a chance to win a \$2,000 prize.

### The Art of Housing

What began as an Emily Carr University of Art and Design project to highlight affordable answers to homelessness is attracting a lot of attention on Bowen. This was precisely the objective of the 'Homes For Less' project, 'to construct an experience about the reality of homelessness that would connect with people more than the statistics we keep seeing—and get more of us talking about real solutions,' said Emily Carr Associate Professor Christian Blyt.

The installation was shipped from Granville Island to Bowen Island and set up on a vacant site next to an art gallery in Snug Cove as an awareness-raiser for Bowen Community Housing Association (BCHA). The 'houses' are built of pine beetle wood and 30% recycled material and cost about \$1,500 apiece. They are 64 square-feet each, with a bunk, storage space, a door and windows. They certainly got a lot of attention and some nervous nimbys asserted it would attract the homeless to Bowen.

On March 21, BCHA is holding a 'Membership Fair' at the installation. An Emily Carr instructor and some students will be on hand, there will be displays by BCHA, the Affordable Housing Working Group of the Municipality and Abbeyfield Society. Bowen's Morris Dancers will bless the first day of spring event and a local cafe will cater with some pizza.

As to the fate of the 'houses', the most recent option is an Islander's offer of free land and to buy the units in order to provide the homeless on Bowen Island an opportunity to live and farm on her property.

### Southern Artists Get Boost

Five local arts organizations will share over \$45,000 in funding through the BC Arts Council. Galiano's Audrey Thomas is receiving \$6,800 for a new novel *Kindling*; MAC Farrant from North Saanich is receiving \$10,000 for a collection of fiction, *Down the Road to Eternity*; Pender's Christopher Harris is receiving \$5,000 for a new work *Resume*; Salt Spring Arts Council is receiving \$6,410 and the Community Arts Council of the Saanich Peninsula is receiving \$17,246 to assist with operating costs.

This latest round of grants is part of the BC Arts Council's annual funding budget. An additional \$7 million has been allocated for distribution to arts and culture groups through the council.

### Gabriola Radio Gets Competition, Shovel-Ready Project Delayed

Gabriola is the only Island to have a community radio station close to going on-air. However the radio cooperative founded in 2002 and registered as the Gabriola Radio Society in 2005 has run into a new stumbling block.

Last month, the society made application to the CRTC for a licence for frequency 98.7FM, one of the very few frequencies still available. However at the beginning of March, Rogers filed for an expansion of their licence (98.5FM) which is currently for an area 93kms around Victoria. If granted, the expansion would effectively knock out the Gabriola application as an incumbent's application is considered ahead of a new application, and the two frequencies are too close to co-exist.



'SHELTER' INSTALLATION UNLOADS AT SNUG COVE  
Richard Best

In response to the Rogers application, Galiano Radio has had letters of support from the National Community Radio Forum and from several community radio organizations. In approximately 30 days, there will be a public comment period and a subsequent hearing for the Rogers application.

Ken Zakreski, developer for Gabriola Radio, explains the plan for a 40-metre radio tower, proposed for Stoney Ridge, with a 60-watt transmitter (a laptop generates about 65-watts). The transmitter is designed to be low-power so as not to interfere with close frequencies such as Rogers. He says that Gabriola Radio Society is firmly committed to the belief that CKGI, 98.7FM, run by and for the community would become a platform for increasing awareness of global and local issues.

The channel would serve all of Nanaimo Regional District Electoral Area B, plus the central core of Nanaimo, Cedar, Ruxton and part of Valdes, as well as the heaviest trafficked part of Georgia Strait.

In order to get on the air, the society is willing to take another channel, if one can be found, and they can be compensated for any additional costs.

'On land, sea or in the air, all would benefit from our service,' Zakreski says. He is encouraging people to stay tuned and to send in their comments during the public response period. You can email [gabriolaradio@shaw.ca](mailto:gabriolaradio@shaw.ca) or be a friend on Facebook at Gabriola CoopRadio.

### Gabriola Bookstore's Spring Offering

One of the places on Gabriola where you can get your copy of *Island Tides*, Pages Resort Marina, has opened a bookstore. Three of the titles you will find there for spring are *Gardening When It Counts*, *Food Security For the Faint of Heart* and *Hollyhock Cooks: Food to Nourish the Body Mind & Soul*, all published by Gabriola's own amazing book publisher, New Society Publishers.

### PARC Seeks Community Input

The Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission is developing a strategic plan for the next ten years and it is seeking public input this spring. Chair Rob Wiltzen commented that whilst many retirees are expected to come to the Island, 'we must ensure that we continue to make Salt Spring an attractive community for working-age people'. Comments can be submitted electronically by emailing the commission at [parc@saltspring.com](mailto:parc@saltspring.com)

### Saturna Documentary On TV

Saturna Ecological Education Centre(SEEC)'s documentary 'Creating Community' will be broadcast by SCN (StarChoice 352, Bell 266) on May 4, May 8, Jun 8 and Jun 12 at 10:30pm, Saskatchewan time. (Please check to figure out what time that will be where you are!)

The innovative environmental education centre is signing up for the next school-year: students take an exciting semester of experiential ecological learning on Saturna. More information on SEEC's website: [www.seec64.ca](http://www.seec64.ca)

## Looking for a creative way to save on property taxes? Interested in protecting your piece of Gulf Island paradise?

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