

Working for women's rights worldwide

Helani Davison

Human rights activist Sally Armstrong was the speaker for the Grand(m)others To Grand(m)others' 'The Fine Art of Protest' event on Salt Spring, September 19. With boldness and candour, Armstrong delivered a speech riddled with brutal facts regarding the injustices against women that still prevail in conflicted countries. Armstrong—recipient of seven honorary degrees, author of three books and a documentary filmmaker—is a member of the International Women's Commission at the United Nations, and three-time Amnesty International award winner.

As a journalist, Armstrong has written from zones of conflict all over the world. She highlighted the courage of women, young and old, 'who are claiming their space and propelling universal change.' Armstrong remarked that the status of women and the state of the economy are closely related, emphasizing that there is new meaning to protest through the women's movement.

The Artspring auditorium audience was reminded of misogynist men with 'old' attitudes who are still trying to prevent women from gaining equality throughout parts of the world. Women are still often seen as second-class citizens, even though they represent more than half the world's population.

Armstrong gave three pertinent examples of how women are taking action against oppression.

In Afghanistan, a group called 'Young Women For Change' is empowering women and girls in a country where women who have been raped are sent to jail, and women have been killed for giving birth to a girl. Young Women For Change have organized lectures, art exhibits and street marches to protest the discrimination and harassment they encounter every day.

In Kenya, Armstrong described the '160 Girls' case, a collaboration to sue the state for failing to enforce the existing criminal law on rape and for allowing the rape of these 160 girls ages 3-17 to go unpunished. 'In Kenya, a woman is raped every 30 minutes,' said Armstrong. Their plight is ignored while the rapist is treated with impunity.

In Manzini, Swaziland in 2010, Armstrong reported on 'The Gathering', an event that culminated with a march of 2,000 grandmothers, including 44 Canadian grannies, to raise awareness of the plight of grandmothers.

The Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign was organized through the Stephen Lewis Foundation. The campaign responds to the emerging crisis faced by African grandmothers as they struggled to care for their own grandchildren who had been orphaned by AIDS.

Armstrong commented that courage is required of more people in the arena of human rights, saying that violence is 'everybody's business'; an innocent by-stander is an oxymoron. In closing, Armstrong quoted political theorist Hannah Arendt saying, 'Evil thrives on apathy. Hence apathy is evil.'

You can learn more about this topic online, at www.grandmotherscampaign.org.

International Explorers Club comes to Galiano Island

Trying to remember what happened last week or a month ago is sometimes a challenge—imagine trying to picture what life might have been like on Galiano Island 5,000 years ago. That is what members of The Explorers Club pondered at the annual BC & Yukon Chapter meeting, held at Montague Harbour, September 7-9. Sponsored by The Explorers Club and the Galiano Conservancy Association, the meeting brought together experts in archaeology, biology, coastal mapping and underwater sonar, with Salish elders, spelunkers, students and many others at Galiano for talks and a field expedition.

The theme was to learn about the people who inhabited Montague Harbour centuries ago, during the time when the Pyramids of Gizeh were being built, and integrate that information with observations of what the coast of the Salish Sea is like today.

The BC & Yukon Chapter has held its annual meeting on Salt Spring Island for eight years; this was the Club's first visit to Galiano. Montague Harbour was selected so that the Club members could combine the meeting with exploration of the harbour's shoreline and seabed.

The Explorers Club is 'an international multidisciplinary professional society dedicated to the advancement of field research and the ideal that it is vital to preserve the instinct to explore'. Founded in 1904, the New York City-based club has served as a meeting point and unifying force for explorers and scientists worldwide. Members of The Explorers Club have been responsible for an illustrious series of famous firsts: first to the North Pole, first to the South Pole, first to the summit of Mount Everest, first to the deepest point in the ocean, first to the surface of the moon.

Introducing the meeting at Montague on Friday morning, and setting the stage for the weekend theme, 'A Sense of Place', were John Harper from the Explorers Club, Ken Millard of the Galiano Conservancy Association and Penelakut elder Florence James. John introduced the program, Ken described the impressive strides taken by the Conservancy Association and their plans for the future, and Florence gave a deep sense of place along with a link to the past through traditional knowledge and spirit.

Senior archaeologist Daryl Fedje, formerly with Parks Canada, described the age and significance of archaeological sites on Haida Gwaii and Sidney Island. He indicated that people were hunting bears on Haida Gwaii 11,000 years ago, and that tools have been found there dating to 10,700 years ago. Sea level rise and fall over the millennia have submerged many sites, to depths of over 100 metres in some places on Haida Gwaii.

Eric McLay, a doctoral student at the University of Victoria described the richness of the cultural history of the Montague site and its key place in understanding the archaeological sequence of human occupation in the Salish Sea.

Florence James told the group about her life as a young girl born on Galiano and raised on Penelakut Island. She relayed stories about the importance of the land to her parents and grandparents, how parts of the island were used for spiritual and foodgathering places. She also said that the Salish word for midden was *stubnip*, which means 'ancient ground.' Montague Harbour was named *Sum'Nuuv*, which has several meanings, one of which is 'echo sound inside a cave.'

In the afternoon, a team led by Mark Atherton and Brian

Abbott, international experts in sector scanning sonar from Vancouver, and Paula Romagosa, head aquarist from the Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre in Sidney, launched the high-tech sonar and Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) with video to view the seabed of Montague Harbour. They showed how these instruments could find subtle differences in features on the seabed that reveal evidence of former sea levels or human-made features. The sonar unit and ROV showed video images and sonar scan of the seabed on monitors onboard the support vessel.

While the underwater team was at work, Washington State University archaeologist Colin Grier led a walk around the harbour to explain evidence of former habitation along the shore. The Explorers heard how archaeologists find layers where fires were once lit, how to identify fire-cracked rocks left from cooking, and

how ancient sites are detected and mapped.

At the same time, Eric McLay and Florence James strolled around Montague field and shoreline, while Florence spoke about her culture and her life in the local area. Eric described how traditional knowledge from today's elders is so important to helping understand his research findings.

Naturalist Rob Butler showed other members of the Explorers how he captures the spirit of the places he visits by making sketches in the field, using watercolours and a quick pen and ink drawing. He explained how his drawings help him remember the place better than snapping a quick photograph, even though most of his sketches are done in just ten minutes or so.

On Friday evening, the group gathered for dinner on the lawn at the Galiano Conservancy office. Prior to the meal, Conservancy staff and directors had an opportunity to make presentations about their current work. These included a talk by Lia Chalifour about efforts to protect rockfish; Ken Millard presenting the Galiano Restorative Learning Centre and the protected area to span mid-Galiano (see special centre-section, this edition, for more info); and Keith Erickson describing the Conservancy's mapping projects. During the meal, Annie Brown provided fiddle music. The evening provided a delightful opportunity for members of The Explorers Club and the Galiano Conservancy to discuss mutual interests.

On Saturday afternoon, the meeting convened at the Galiano Community Hall where several Explorers gave talks on a wide range of topics. Journalist, geoscientist and extreme snorkeler Susan Eaton spoke of a recent expedition to Antarctica. Maeva Gauthier talked about filmmaking and traditional knowledge on an expedition to the North Slope of Alaska, and how she worked with Inuit youth and elders to make videos of their community, highlighting their desire to document the drastic changes occurring due to climate change.

Rob Butler, Explorers Club Fellow International, spoke about the birds of the Gulf Islands from the Age of Pyramids to today. He described how fauna found in middens dating back thousands of years are similar to those found today. He also

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Photo: Mary Morris

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The Nexen-CNOOC Deal & The Unmasked Question -Elizabeth May, MP

One of the hot topics in Parliament these days is the proposed \$15 billion takeover of Canadian energy giant Nexen by the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC). Industry Minister Christian Paradis claims there will be a thorough review against the Investment Canada Act test for 'net benefit.' The NDP have started challenging the deal, finally joining me in raising concerns about the takeover of Canadian oil sands companies by Chinese state-owned enterprises. Conservative MPs claim the review will include national security concerns, but the refusal to include a definition of 'national security' in the 2009 amendments to the Act does not inspire confidence.

Meanwhile, there is an even larger issue that no one is asking about. On September 8, when Prime Minister Harper was in Vladivostok, he and President Hu signed the Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPPA) between China and Canada. The text is still secret. I asked last week in Question Period when the text would be public and if we would be able to debate it in the House before the Nexen decision is made. Unfortunately, I got the pre-prepared answer from Minister Paradis about the thoroughness of the Nexen review with zero relevance to my question. The summary on the

Foreign Affairs website about the FIPPA and various analyses by large trade-focussed law firms suggests it will operate the same way Chapter 11 of NAFTA works.

Chapter 11 of NAFTA set the template for what are generally called 'investor-state provisions.' I talked to our negotiators for NAFTA a few years ago and believed them when they told me the idea was only to create a binding agreement to ensure any expropriation of investor property was compensated. But the provisions of Chapter 11 of NAFTA have been interpreted in a far more damaging way. The term 'tantamount to expropriation' has been interpreted to mean changes in domestic laws that reduce a foreign corporation's expectation of profits.

Chapter 11 of NAFTA is now understood to allow corporations from Mexico or the USA to claim damages against Canada if any level of Canadian government (municipal, provincial or federal) causes them to experience less profit than had been anticipated. Canada actually repealed a law limiting a toxic gasoline additive, MMT, when the US-based manufacturer, Ethyl Corporation of Richmond, Virginia sued under Chapter 11—and we paid over \$10 million in damages. The reality is that for the company to win in the Chapter 11 claim

there was no need to show any scientific or policy flaw in the government's decision. As Barry Appleton, the Toronto-based lawyer who represented Ethyl Corporation said at the time, if you were making a profit adding liquid plutonium to children's breakfast cereal and a government made that illegal, you can claim damages under Chapter 11.

Canada has also paid millions in damages to a PCB disposal company, SD Myers of Ohio, for loss of profits when Canada banned the export of PCB contaminated waste. And without waiting for any decision from the NAFTA Chapter 11 arbitration, in 2010 Prime Minister Harper ordered a payment of \$130 million to US-based Abitibi Bowater when Newfoundland and Labrador insisted the company had no right to keep water rights and forest cutting rights to sell to a new buyer when it closed its mill. At the time, the Prime Minister said he will create a mechanism to ensure that if provinces create liability under investment rules, provinces would have to compensate the federal government. The fact there was an argument to be made by Newfoundland and Labrador (Abitibi Bowater was benefiting from a 99-year lease, with water rights and logging contingent on running the mill) never got noticed as the money was paid out. The Prime Minister did not listen to the merits of the argument, cutting Premier Danny Williams off at the knees. Williams was left looking like a Canadian version of Hugo Chavez.

The idea that decisions by municipal, provincial and federal government can result in multi-million dollar payments to multinational corporations is quite distressing. As Steven Shrybman, lawyer for Council of Canadians, has said, 'Chapter 11 is fundamentally corrosive of democracy.'

This outrage only gets more outrageous if the claims for multiple millions in damages come not from a private corporation, but from corporations which are branches of a foreign government. In the case of China, the FIPPA could mean that an authoritarian enormous country will have the right to claim damages if any level of democratically-elected government in Canada passes a law China claims hurts profits. China will, if offended by any new health, labour, or environmental law, be able to make a claim for damages. I have already witnessed the chilling effect of Canada knowing a US-based corporation can sue under Chapter 11. It was rumoured that former Liberal Health Minister Allan Rock refused to ban cosmetic use of pesticides for fear of Chapter 11 claims by US pesticide manufacturers.

What happens when Canadian laws, passed democratically, are struck down in hotel room arbitrations over claims launched by the Communist Party of China?

I hope against hope that the text, whenever we see it, does not convey Chapter 11-like rights for state-owned Chinese enterprises to claim damages in retaliation against Canadian laws. If it does, I will hope for support of my constituents to do whatever is required to protect Canadian sovereignty and democracy.

After this article was filed, on September 26, the FIPPA text was tabled. MP May promises an analysis as soon as possible.

'What happens when Canadian laws, passed democratically, are struck down in hotel room arbitrations?'

Capital Regional District



North Galiano Island Fire Hall Referendum

Notice Of Application to Volunteer as a Scrutineer & Advance Voter Registration

Public notice is hereby given that the assent of the electors is required with regard to:

- Bylaw No. 3843, "North Galiano Island Fire Protection and Emergency Response Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 4, 2012"; and
- Bylaw No. 3844, "North Galiano Island Fire Hall Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1, 2012"

Qualified electors of the North Galiano Island Fire Protection and Emergency Response Service Area, within the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area, will be asked to vote on the following question on **Saturday, November 24, 2012**:

Are you in favour of the Capital Regional District Board adopting both of the following bylaws:

- Bylaw No. 3843, "North Galiano Island Fire Protection and Emergency Response Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 4, 2012" authorizing the Capital Regional District to increase the maximum annual requisition so that it will be the greater of **two hundred sixty seven thousand dollars (\$267,000)** or **\$1.60 per one thousand dollars (\$1,000)** of net taxable assessments for the purpose of funding the annual costs for the service, including operating costs and costs to design and construct a new fire hall on North Galiano Island; and*
 - Bylaw No. 3844, "North Galiano Island Fire Hall Loan Authorization Bylaw No.1, 2012" authorizing the Capital Regional District to borrow an amount not to exceed **six hundred seventy thousand dollars (\$670,000)** for the purpose of designing and constructing a fire hall on North Galiano Island.*
- YES or NO?*

Scrutineers

Applications to act as a scrutineer for those organizations for and against Bylaw Nos. 3843 and 3844 shall be received at the offices of the Capital Regional District (CRD), PO Box 1000, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC V8W 2S6 between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm from **Monday, October 22, 2012 until Wednesday, October 31, 2012**. Application forms and information on the requirements and procedures for making an application are available at the CRD by telephoning toll free 1.800.663.4425 local 3129 or 250.360.3129 or at the address noted above.

List of Registered Electors

Beginning Wednesday, September 26, 2012 until Friday, October 12, 2012 a copy of the List of Registered Electors for Galiano Island will be available, upon signature, for public inspection at the CRD office listed below, between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday, exclusive of statutory holidays. You may also call to enquire whether your name is on the List:

- CRD Legislative Services Dept., 5th Floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC, Telephone Toll Free 1.800.663.4425 local 3129 or 250.360.3129.

Notice of Advance Voter Registration

Advance Voter Registration closes on Wednesday, October 12, 2012 for the List of Registered Electors for Galiano Island. Voter qualifications are set out below. You may also register on voting day if you meet these qualifications: You are entitled to vote as a Resident Elector or Non-Resident Property Elector if you: are 18 years or older on voting day (November 24, 2012), are a Canadian Citizen, have resided in British Columbia for six months, and either:

- have resided in the North Galiano Island Fire Protection and Emergency Response Service Area for 30 days prior to voting day. If registering as a Resident Elector on voting day, you must provide two documents proving identity and residency, one of which must have a signature; OR
- have owned and held registered title to property within the boundaries of the North Galiano Fire Protection and Emergency Response Service Area for 30 days prior to voting and do not qualify as a Resident Elector. If registering as a Non-Resident Property Elector on voting day, you must provide the following information:
 - a recent land title registration of the real property or a property tax notice, which will show the names of all the registered owners; and
 - 2 pieces of identification (one of which must have a signature), and
 - in the case of more than one owner of the property, a completed consent form signed by the majority of the owners designating you as the person entitled to vote for the property.

For more information about registering as a Resident Elector or a Non-Resident Property Elector, call Toll Free 1.800.663.4425 local 3129 or 250.360.3129.

Dated this 13th day of September, 2012

Thomas F. Moore
Chief Election Officer

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showed maps of birds and marine mammals from a recent survey of the islands for Parks Canada, and new results of breeding bird distribution maps for the BC Breeding Bird Atlas. Fellow International Cathy Hickson spoke about volcanoes in the Pacific Northwest, explaining many examples in BC where large volcanoes formed under glacial ice sheets, creating lava beds and flattened 'tuya' shaped mountains.

Mark Atherton and Brian Abbott tag-teamed a talk on recent investigations of shipwrecks in Lake Michigan, Greece and Sweden. Brian showed some unusual rock formations in the shallow waters of Lake Michigan that appear to be made by humans thousands of years ago, but are now out-of-sight underwater. Lynn Danaher described the restoration of ancient stone statues called 'moai' by the Rapa Nui people on Easter Island (Rapa Nui) and described her plans to visit Polynesian Islands.

Local caterer Martine Paulin lived up to her slogan 'fine food with flair' and provided a fabulous dinner at the Community Hall. Afterwards, many Galiano residents joined the meeting to hear about the teams' observations over the weekend. Everyone was spellbound listening to Florence James describing her connection to Montague and to Galiano. Eric McLay and Colin Grier spoke about the long history of archaeological research at Montague and on Galiano, with photographs of the Montague excavations done in the 1960s. They also explained how coastline sites are being lost to erosion and the importance of the long cultural history of humans living on the changing shorelines of the Salish Sea for thousands of years.

The meeting concluded on Sunday when a group of Explorers joined in a tour for the future home of the Galiano Restorative Learning Centre. They also visited a few spots of interest on Galiano Island to further explore the archaeological history there. All in all, the weekend event was a memorable occasion for all.