

Archipelago

summer 98



news, views, reviews and interviews on island community and conservation

Volume 2, Number 2

Attention, please! We are now arriving at Sturdies Bay on Galiano Island. This is also the transfer point for Saturna Island. Passengers may pro ..."

As the announcement sputters and dies on the loudspeaker, the local ferry committee chairman snaps his book shut with a cynical smile. An earwig, caught between the pages, is squashed at the end of a sentence about the coming computer crash: the Y2K problem, noncompliant mainframes still uncorrected, embedded computer chips in so many systems . . .

"Late as usual, and now this," he grumbles.

At the food counter, a Salt Spring passenger on for the long ride orders fries with gravy and is told to come back in a few minutes, there is equipment difficulty in the galley. Further forward a group of kids kicks at the video game machines which have suddenly gone dead.

Drivers heading for the car deck find themselves groping in darkness down the stairwells, and a faint sense of apprehension hangs in the air. Why are the throbbing engines suddenly silent? Surely the ferry hasn't yet reached the slip? How come the lights are off on the cardeck? Some vehicle engines are starting up too soon.

A Pender Island newspaperman returning from an award ceremony in Chilliwack watches on the foredeck as the ferry slowly loses way a hundred metres from the Sturdies Bay wharf, comes to a dead stop, and imperceptibly begins to drift backward. He turns to look up at the wheelhouse, wondering what the captain has in mind.

What the captain has in mind are his prize lettuces just about ready to harvest on the farm. He is worried about them because the bugs have been so extraordinarily bad this season. And the weeds. And the weather. It's as if the natural world has gone berserk, no longer under control at all.

He is not especially anxious about the fact that the ferry seems to be temporarily out of control too. This old tub has a regular habit of going on the blink,

and the back-up systems always manage to keep her out of real trouble.

"Main power is gone, sir."

"Auxiliary power system?"

"No response, sir."

"Hmm . . . Notify traffic control that we are momentarily shut down, and give them our position."

"GPS dysfunctional, sir. And I can't get any response from Vancouver."

"I see," says the captain, scanning the large instrument panel normally alive with coloured lights, flanked by computer screens regularly flashing. What he sees is a dead console and blank screens, only illuminated by the last slanting rays of the setting sun. With a sinking heart he grabs at his last options.

"Prepare to let go the anchors."

"Yes, sir. I'm sorry, sir, there is no answer on the deck phone. Can we lower anchors without our hydraulics? Or even lifeboats for that

THE LAST

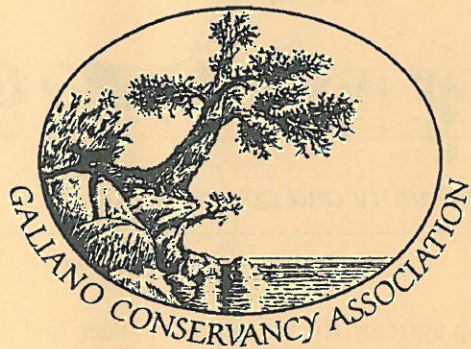
FERRY

matter?" The questions dangle awkwardly like grapnels with no holding ground.

Gurgles along the waterline of the ponderous *Queen of Nanaimo* answer that not all power is gone. Caught in the inexorable back eddy circling through the bay, the big vessel is swung out into the main current of the even bigger evening flood tide, slowly spinning on an unscheduled return passage into the Strait, the quieter Strait. The only other vessel in sight is a four-oared jollyboat called the *Spirit of Discovery* which passes just out of earshot, puzzled by the *Nanaimo's* traffic plan.

Some systems are unaffected by the Year 2000 problem, which has struck here sooner than expected. No noncompliant computer chip embedded in the cycle of the tides, the weather program or the ocean's economy will prevent this voyage from reaching its natural destination. ☞

– Greg Foster



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EDITORIAL:

INVOLUNTARY SIMPLICITY

Voluntary simplicity is a path we respect when we see other people taking it, and we wish our circumstances would permit us to choose it more wholeheartedly ourselves. Have we stopped to consider – poised here on the brink of a baffling future – that the choice may be taken out of our hands? Involuntary simplicity may soon be thrust upon us from any one of several directions, if we can credit the rumblings.

It could arrive on our doorstep in consequence of a global computer shutdown, as circuitous bureaucracies and programmed institutions find themselves unable to adjust to the date of the new millennium. The Y2K (Year 2000) phenomenon. Nobody seems to know for sure how serious the problem is. Although vast sums of money are being squandered in a race to beat the deadline, the best prognosis seems to be: All we can do is wait and see what happens.

As if this weren't enough, Canadian and American geologists are issuing troubling warnings of impending earthquakes and accompanying tsunamis for this corner of the world. They point to a 200-year pattern expected to recur any day now. According to the May 1998, *National Geographic*, the coastal area stretching from northern California to British Columbia is the current "hot spot" in the Pacific Ring of Fire. Unsettling details for small unconnected islands, especially ones already rifted and faulted as dramatically as Galiano.

Meanwhile, a special series in the *Vancouver Sun* (a publication undistinguished for environmental concerns) informs us that we have less than a lifetime to save the Strait of Georgia, perhaps only ten years. It seems the fouling of our

nest by runaway population growth and unregulated industry is going to leave us stranded in "a vast sterile trough" (*Fate of the Strait*, June 5, 1998, *Vancouver Sun*). Parks Canada calls it "the most at-risk natural environment in Canada."

Seriously as these prospects loom in our vulnerable archipelago, the biggest danger signals these days emanate not from outmoded software, seismographs, or fisheries statistics, but from a precarious global economy threatening world-wide collapse. And if the signs are any indication, Canada (especially British Columbia) has already begun to totter. Some vocal locals, who see their jobs and land investment prospects evaporating, would have us believe the crisis is due to Island Trust and Conservancy plots. But the situation is far beyond local – or even national – control.

Could this be part of the reason why so many people are leaving the Gulf Islands? Are we seeing an ominous warning, like rats leaving a doomed ship, that the bubble of endless expansion – with its essential services until now taken for granted – is about to burst? Salt Spring, Pender and Mayne are infested with For Sale signs, fading For Sale signs, and Galiano is not far behind. The problem of over-population in the Islands Trust area is evidently being taken out of our hands. There are at least nine properties on the market just at the south end of Whaler Bay where I live, none of them moving. The local realtor calls it "the island hot spot", a rather unsettling designation.

For those determined to stay (or unable to leave), we could be standing on the threshold of a great adventure in local self-sufficiency. In this issue of *Archipelago* we begin to explore avenues for simpler community-based lifeways ... survival strategies and skills that make sense irrespective of economic breakdown, earthquake or computer crash. It would make such a big difference to voluntarily choose them than to have them involuntarily forced upon us. ☺

– Greg Foster

WINTER GARDENING THROUGH THE MILLENNIUM – Part One

By Barbara Moore, Gary Moore, and Shay Foster

"The most urgent matter," she said, "was to get a late-season garden into the ground."

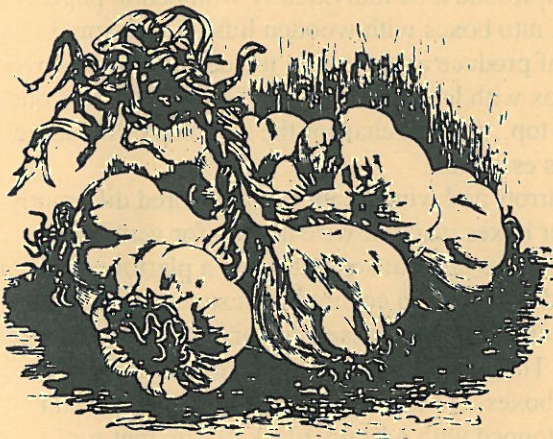
– from the best-seller *Cold Mountain*

In this part of the world, we take our food supply for granted. We seldom consider interruptions in our food sources or the possibility of crop failures or distribution problems which could affect our local food supply.

But in fact, even the most affluent nations have in recent decades often come perilously close to exhausting grain reserves, and even in the best of times, millions of North Americans are undernourished.

Not only do food shortages exist in many parts of the world today, but the very nature of the food we eat is now more and more under threat. Genetically altered foods and products such as "Round-Up Ready" soybeans, bred to withstand herbicide use, can be introduced into many food products without labeling.

If it's true "you are what you eat", then we are more and more in danger of losing track of who we are.



We were reminded of the fragile nature of our technological web of dependency during last winter's Ice Storms in the east. That uneasiness is multiplied many times over if we study the predictions of experts researching the Y2K computer flaw, which may threaten many global systems, including energy, banking, agriculture, transportation and communications.



While the predictions vary, they also abound. *Newsweek's* cover story for June 2, 1997 was "The Day The World Crashes: Can We Fix the 2000 Computer Bug Before It's Too Late?"

Many experts agree we can't. And as one source says, even if only 10 percent of businesses or services fail, we are in for a catastrophe.

"The crash of 1929 will pale in comparison to the *crash of the century.*"

But there are ways which researchers predict may soften the effects of Y2K. First of all, they say, do not plan to be in the air on an international flight near the end of 1999, and stay away from hotels and big cities during the winter of 1999-2000.

And right now, they counsel, "Put in a garden and learn to can."

In fact, the authors of a book (1) we've studied have a lot to say about self-sufficiency and newly valued skills which hearken back to days when we were less dependent on technology and more dependent on ourselves for the basic comforts.

"It has been observed that the ideal community to be in during a downfall would be one of about 1000 residents located 100 miles from a major city in a temperate zone that is surrounded by lots of woods, wildlife, tillable land and fresh water. Probably fewer than one in ten thousand of us will be so lucky."

In such a context, sustainability becomes more than an academic concept. Our ability to survive is challenged. Hopefully this crisis will be averted, but even if it is, we are not harmed at all by being prepared in case it may occur.

* * * *

"Farming was the early economic mainstay of the Gulf Islands. Many of the early settlers began the homesteading process of land-clearing and subsistence farming."

– The Gulf Islanders, Sound Heritage, Vol.V, No.4

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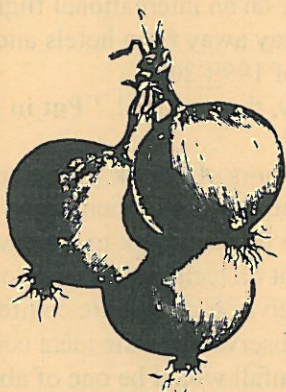
NATURE'S STOREHOUSE

There seem to be more and more good reasons to strive for self-sufficiency and to take back control of our food sources. What can we really count on? And what are the true sources of wealth on Galiano which can be nourished to contribute to our community's sustainability?

One area where we have choice, and can take action that contributes to the overall viability of this place, is to grow our own food, eat seasonally and buy locally. After all, as Wendell Berry says, "Everybody eats for a living."

Even a small lot or a balcony can be a source of abundant crops. Over a year, each of us can grow a lot of food. Growing your own or buying local produce creates satisfaction, just in knowing where your food has come from.

Regaining that sense of what it means to thrive as a human being while leaving only a lightly felt "footprint" seems to be the most challenging of goals. On Galiano we have the luxury of being ideally situated to achieve those goals without great difficulty. Our temperate climate offers year round gardening or at least year round eating from the garden.



As Binda Colebrook says in the introduction to her book *Winter Gardening in the Maritime Northwest*, "the point is that in this climate you don't have to be without vegetables in the fall, winter and early spring if you use the right varieties, observe the right sowing dates, understand the principles of cool season production, and experiment for yourself!"

There are many wonderful gardens on Galiano, and gardening is a veritable passion for many islanders. The following descriptions of visits to two successful winter subsistence Galiano gardens shows that site need not be a limitation and that there are a wide variety of methods which one can use.

One hard working gardening couple have laboriously carved a highly productive garden out of a wet alder bottom (they prefer to remain unnamed).

The garden can only be used from May through October, so they grow as much as possible and store their winter food supply in carefully constructed boxes made of cedar split boards, and don't have to worry about winter power outages. They store the boxes in the shade.



Materials needed are the following: Boards, maple leaves, poles, heavy black plastic, plywood, and 1/4 inch wire netting. The idea is to construct a double-walled storage box to whatever dimensions one requires, with about 6 inches space between walls. This space is filled with maple leaves for insulation.

These folks use one foot square plywood boxes to store the potatoes, apples, etc. Potatoes will last until April for them. Pile them in the small boxes, layer newspaper on top and tack a wire netting over the top.

Apples must be individually wrapped in paper, and put into boxes with wooden lids. These small boxes of produce are stored in the centre of the above large box with leaves all around them and at least one foot on top. A good chart of the contents of the large boxes is essential!

Carrots and winter cabbage are stored differently in larger boxes made of wire netting for ventilation. They must be laid out separately on a platform of sand or wood mulch, then covered with sand between the layers. Rodents love these vegetables, hence the wire boxes. These boxes are then put into larger, double-walled boxes, covered with leaves on all sides, and finally topped with a heavy black plastic tent roof, open at the ends for ventilation.

YEOMANS' GARDEN

The second garden featured here is that of Ed and Bev Yeomans. Ed used to have a farm near Langley, and Bev has "always had a garden". Their overall garden is glorious – an English country garden.

The site of the vegetable garden is unusually protected with a 4-foot high rock wall around two

sides, giving a "sunken garden" effect since the rock walls are set into a slope. Two huge rocks in the middle of the vegetables also help store the sun's warmth in winter, although this area does not get much sun from December to March.

They describe their soil as "much amended", starting out with very sandy, rocky soil and adding manure and large amounts of seaweed. The garden area is approximately 50 feet long by 15-20 feet wide.

* * * *

"We could always live, you know ... I learned to plough and harness a horse. We all had to work. We had to go and pick up potatoes and weed the vegetable garden, thin the carrots, and hoe the cabbages."

— Dorothy Payne Richardson, *Sound Heritage*, Vol. V, No. 4

* * * *

The Yeomans' solution to eating as much as possible from their garden in winter is to specifically plant as many veggies as possible during the first two weeks of August for fall growth and winter holding. When we ask if they use cloches, Bev says, "No! They just survive!"

Many of the root crops such as carrots and parsnips grow sweeter in cold weather. Root crops should have their tops well covered with dirt to keep from getting strong flavoured. Potatoes can be kept in the ground if mulched well.

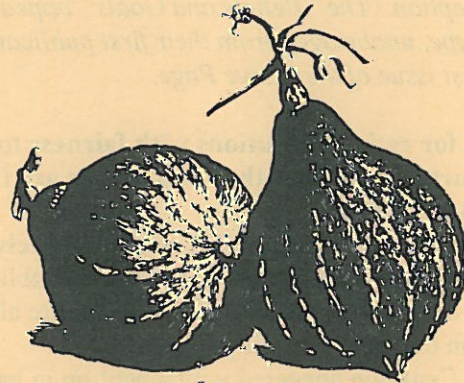
Ed and Bev are enthusiastic about the joys of feasting on chard, spinach, carrots, beets, turnips, parsnips, onions, garlic, and winter squash (such as "Buttercup") during the cold months. They especially recommend growing Jerusalem Artichokes year round as a valuable source of vitamins. Jerusalem Artichokes need to be grown in an enclosed area so they can't spread their tubers throughout the garden, since they multiply abundantly.



J.A.s grow well anywhere but like best a light, sandy soil with well rotted manure and a thick mulch. They are delicious eaten raw like an apple, says Ed, or grated in salads or in raw chunks with a dip, says Bev.

Ron Pither of Galiano and Mayne has been a helpful source of much lore for winter subsistence to the Yeomans.

(1) *How To Survive and Prosper After the "Year 2000" Computer Crash*, Sunset Research Group, Wichita, KS, 1998.



Other useful resources and seed sources include: *Winter Gardening in the Maritime Northwest* by Binda Colebrook, Maritime Publications, 1984. *Territorial Seeds Catalogue* in Vancouver is committed to providing year round gardening information and seed varieties. 206-8475 Ontario St., Vancouver V5Z 3E8, (604) 482-8800. *Abundant Life Seeds Foundation* in Washington State is dedicated to the preservation of genetic diversity. P.O.Box 772, Port Townsend, WA 98368, (360) 385-5660.

Beginning a network of seed savers and a seed exchange would benefit all interested gardeners and provide one more link in the circle of island self sufficiency, interdependency and prosperity. If interested in participating, please contact Barbara Moore, 539-2127.

Are there winter gardening strategies and lessons that you would like to share with our readers? Please write *Archipelago*, RR#1, Porlier Pass Road, Galiano Island, BC V0N 1P0, or leave a message/FAX at (250) 539-2424 and we will contact you.

In Part Two of this series, we hope to include the experience of more gardeners in the Gulf Islands. We also intend to take a look at *Accessing and Storing Fresh Water Without Electricity*. ☺

REVIEW: Beliefs and Goals of the Galiano Island Coalition

Reviewed by Carolyn Canfield

Ed. note: Since the last issue of Archipelago, yet another island organization has emerged. While regular readers will note that Archipelago reviews often include liberal use of quotations, we discourage our reviewers from quoting the entire work. This case is an exception. The "Beliefs and Goals" appear here in bold type, unabridged from their first publication in the August issue of the Active Page.

We seek for rational solutions with fairness to our neighbours. We believe that neighbours are there to help one another.

That's why, in a democratic society, we rely on leadership by lawful election and open and public decision-making. The "rational solutions" are already in place in the Islands Trust processes.

The Coalition appeared with a petition in hand that attempts to undo the last Islands Trust election and dismantle the platform of our Trustees. What could be more unfair and irrational?

The best way we can help our neighbours and the community is by exercising our civic duty and participating in the public process to see that strong and unambiguous bylaws go forward.

We seek for positive and lasting solutions, such as we did during the formulations of our Official Community Plan. We will promote a sense of hope and trust in one another, and will work for the betterment of all in our community.

Happily, the current planning process continues according to law from the process which began with the review of the Official Community Plan. The outcome of this phase will be a Land Use Bylaw.

Trustees Margaret Griffiths and Debbie Holmes are bound by their election to strive for a Land Use Bylaw that accurately reflects the public interest of the Official Community Plan. Islanders can create a clear and consistent bylaw. Only then can we expect a positive and lasting solution.

As for hope and trust, read again the 25-year old Preamble to our OCP. Here's a favourite inspirational sample: "*As the present generation inherited these islands in a relatively preserved state so this Plan attempts to perpetuate this state and preserve the unique environment for future generations.*"

We will look for the opportunities of the future and not dwell on the divisions of the past. Many have lost faith in their fellow man and this lack of trust is a barrier to positive solutions.

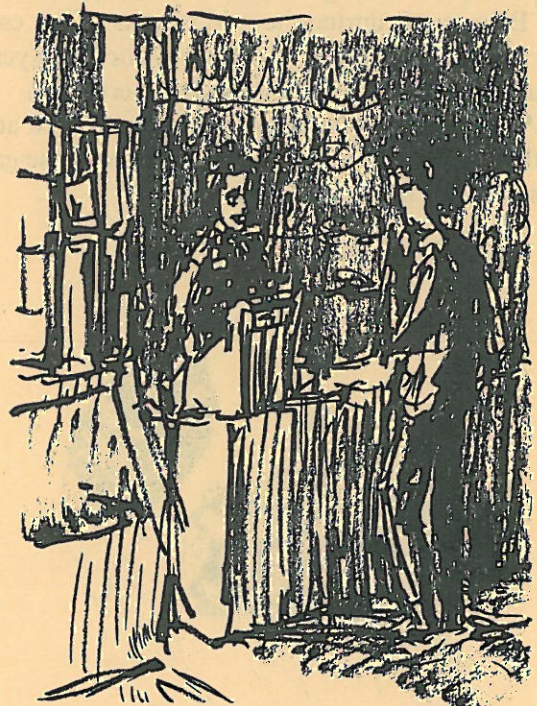
Galiano's future will build on its knowledge of the past. We must all work with our Trustees to bring about an enforceable and reliable Land Use Bylaw that binds Galiano's future to the OCP vision. Poorly drafted bylaws simply invite litigation and opportunism that undermine the very certainty that land use regulation should give us all.

One thing we have surely learned is that a lack of clarity in our Land Use Bylaw will open greed-driven "opportunities" to the detriment of our neighbours, community and our island's future.

We hope to achieve consensus by having broad and diverse representation on all future committees.

What a wealth of diversity we can celebrate in our committees and commissions! For decades Galiano's active citizenry has volunteered precious private time for community work. Diversity has marked official appointment and self-appointment alike. Realtor, logger, social worker, teacher, artist, contractor, grandma, professor, ferry worker, business person, carpenter, student, physician, oldtimer and newcomer: all these neighbours have helped to shape our island.

Would Galiano ever have it any other way? Of course not. In fact, could you really collect a handful of islanders without gathering diversity?



From the sketchbook of Keith Holmes

We believe that it is possible to have a vibrant, sustainable economy that lives in harmony with its natural environment.

Our community has quite a challenge to overcome, given the devastation of our forests and streams in the past few years. The sea's bounty seems dubious, too. Our track record on sustainability is really pretty shoddy. Restoration is the word, not resource extraction.

Galiano is a forest dependent community, no matter what eco-friendly fantasy or destination resort might be in our future. Our water, our air, our seashore and our peaceful setting all depend on a healthy surrounding forest. So for starters, the Forest lands need our help.

We may need to encourage imaginative economic activity that no longer consumes our landscape, but safeguards resources. Meanwhile, as forests disappear daily in coastal BC and worldwide, we will find the remaining groves of timber here have far more value as they stand, not when they fall.

We believe in mutual benefit. It is possible to obtain trail networks and bike paths by involving landowners in a co-operative fashion.

How lucky we are that acts of community generosity so mark the human geography of Galiano Island. Look at our parks and our nature preserves, our community halls, the Activity Centre, emergency services, social supports, institutional buildings and recreation facilities. Everywhere we find that voluntary contributions are given freely and often. The reward of giving to make Galiano a better place to live has been satisfaction enough for generations.

All landowners should feel an equal opportunity to become involved with helping to realize community ideals like trail networks and bike paths, without resorting to road blockades or density demands.

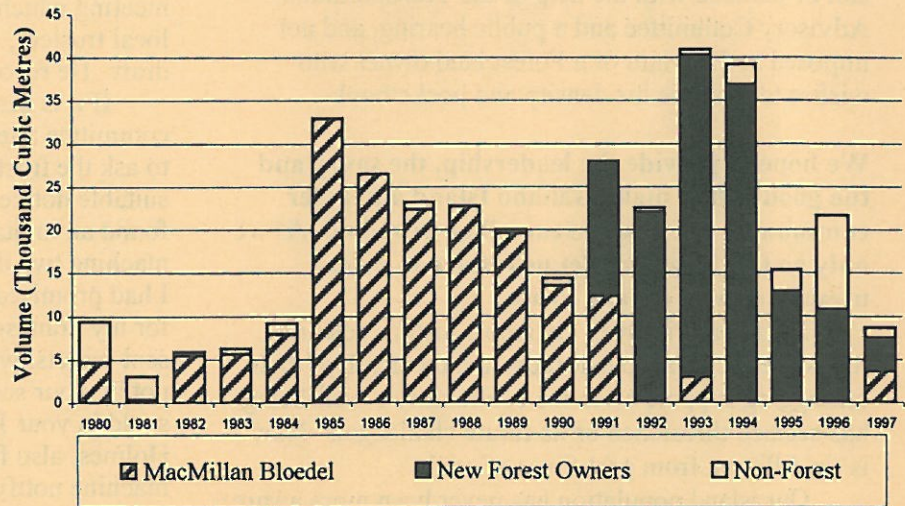
We encourage the provision for the welfare of all ages and income levels such as: senior citizen housing, use of crown land or donated land for subsidized housing, adequate school and park facilities.

No community could boast of a greater social effort to support the needs of all its citizens, if a fair measure is the range of societies and their longevity. Take a look at the new Galiano telephone directory.

Behind each entry is a dedicated group of volunteers who can always use new helpers. Consider what more you can do now. Most often, when Galiano musters enough volunteers to address the need, any property requirement tends to solve itself.

Although the Islands Trust has a limited role to play in providing for social welfare, our Trustees have placed a special premium on finding ways to support affordable housing and recreation.

VOLUME OF SCALED TIMBER HARVESTED
Galiano Island



We encourage protection and enhancement of forests, by allowing forest landowners to live on their properties. We will attempt to reward forest landowners who are caring for their forests.

It is hard to understand how converting Galiano's Forest land to residential use would protect and enhance the forest ecosystems. The Islands Trust Policy compels Trust Council to protect "old forests, Coastal Douglas-fir forests, Garry Oak/Arbutus forests..." and obliges local trust committees to retain large land holdings for forestry and restrain "the location and construction of roads, and utility and communication corridors so as to minimize the fragmentation of forests."

Rewarding forest landowners who care for their forests would seem to extort the public value in responsible stewardship. American essayist Wendell Berry has contemplated private ownership of the Forest Commons, and provocatively remarked, "If the right of land ownership is used only to protect an owner's wish to abuse or destroy the land, upon which the community's welfare ultimately depends, then society's interest in maintaining the convention understandably declines." All land owners would do well to remember that with every right comes a duty.

We hope to provide solutions to allow roads to be open again to all our beaches, parks, etc., for the benefit of all our citizens.

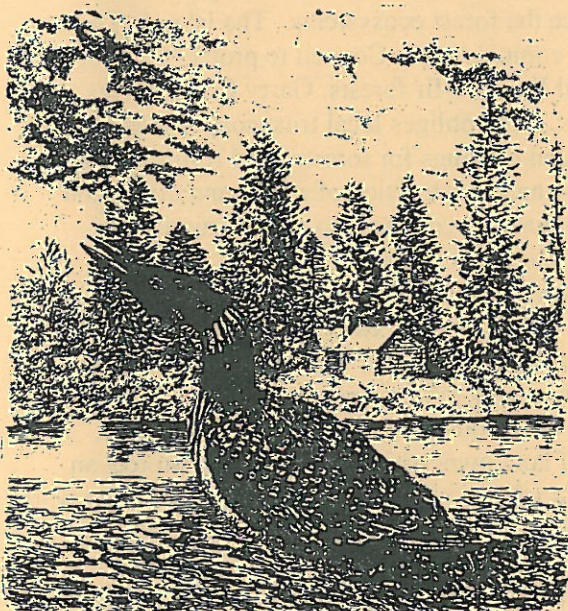
Blockading legal access to leverage private gain cannot last for long. Either the threat loses its clout, or due process sees that the public interest regains its supremacy.

An option for the Trustees is to ask as a condition of rezoning Forest land that road and beach access dedications be made for a permanent and legal public right of entry. Then full access for emergency vehicles and reasonable access to our island beaches can be planned with the help of the Transportation Advisory Committee and a public hearing, and not imposed at the whim of a Forest land owner who wishes to increase his density and pocketbook.

We hope to provide the leadership, the savvy and the good will to make Galiano Island a happier community, one that we can all be proud of. As we only go this way once, let us resolve to do our utmost to show charity to all.

Many familiar with Galiano's history celebrate the island's courageous leaders and the depth of their unflagging support when the community's well-being has seemed threatened or its future challenged. Now is no different from past times of crisis.

Our island population has never been more aware or more articulate. A wealth of skills and insights arises from our very diversity. Now let us resolve to get on with the hard work of responsible civic participation to honour those who dedicated themselves to protect and preserve what we enjoy today. ☞



R. Norden

GALIANO LAND USE BYLAW NEEDS UNBIASED REPORTING

The following is reprinted from the August 12, 1998, Gulf Islands Driftwood. Used by permission.

By Margaret Griffiths

Your Galiano correspondent, Alistair Ross, writes a column for your newspaper from his own particular perspective.

In his July 1 column he reported on a Galiano meeting which apparently focused on criticism of the local trustees, and the forthcoming land use bylaw draft. He reported the trustees did not attend.

If it is desirable to have members of a local Trust committee attend a meeting, it should also be desirable to ask the trustees what days they can attend and give suitable notice. In the case of the June 27 meeting I found an invitation to attend on my answering machine two days before the meeting. Months before, I had promised to be at a family gathering in Nanaimo for my grandson's graduation ceremony on that date. I sent regrets, which were reported to the meeting, but not by your scolding correspondent, who continues to scold in your July 29 issue. My colleague, Debbie Holmes, also found a message on her answering machine notifying her of the meeting two days before the date but it was only a notification, not an invitation to attend.

My colleague and I are regularly at the South Galiano Hall and the Activity Centre to listen to concerns, criticisms and more messages of support than your correspondent would have people believe. He has not attended the six mapping workshops we have held to date.

His statement that Galiano has seen no rezonings in four years is incorrect reporting. His concern regarding the "undeclared" official community plan (OCP) is unnecessary. It was adopted in September 1995.

My colleague and I were elected on the platform that we would translate the OCP into a land use bylaw draft for community review, a draft that would incorporate planning for the forest designated lands which form half the island.

This planning would not permit continuous strip development or sprawl. It would incorporate the limited residential use permitted in the OCP while complying with the OCP objective of preservation of the forest land base. Tensions exist on Galiano, as they do in many places in the world, between development and conservation. The Galiano Island Local Trust Committee believes that both low impact development and conservation are possible in

Galiano's forests with careful planning. We believe planning rather than sprawl will ease tension.

The land use bylaw draft should be before the public in early September. Meanwhile, people are being solicited to sign a petition which would have the effect of rejecting the draft land use bylaw no one has yet seen. Your correspondent says 500 people have signed the petition. The line-up at the ferry terminal is being canvassed. Canvassers are going door-to-door. Some people are phoning us in confusion, not knowing what they have signed. Your correspondent advertises in his column that a booth at the Lions Club Fiesta will take yet more signatures.

May I, in as short a space as possible, place this coming land use bylaw draft in perspective?

In 1987 the Assessment Act was amended. The old "taxation tree farms" became assessed as "managed forest", under a five-year management plan. At any time during the five years the land could be withdrawn from managed forest. It would then be assessed assuming "highest and best" use, dictated by the real estate market. (There was then, of course, no Forest Land Reserve).

In 1988 MacMillan Bloedel (taken over by Noranda Forest Inc.) turned first to some of its forest holdings on Salt Spring Island. A residential density demand was made to the local Trust committee of the time, a demand that could not be speedily met. The forest land was then placed on the open market and purchased by Salt Spring Lands.

Galiano looked to its forests. The Galiano Forest and Land Use Council was struck with representation drawn from industry (MacMillan Bloedel), government (including the local trustees) and members of the community. Forest practices were negotiated and development planning discussed.

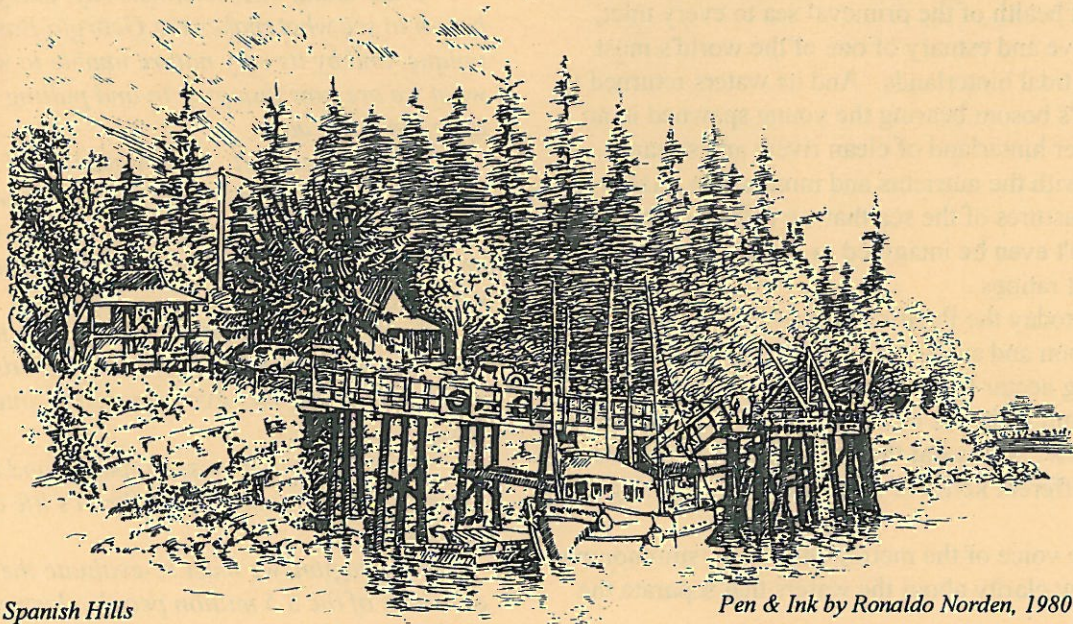
Intrawest Inc., developers of Blackcomb Mountain, formed a partnership with MacMillan Bloedel, and showed the community a development concept for most of Galiano's approximately 8,000 acres of forest. The community rejected the small lot strip development. As in the case of Salt Spring Island, MacMillan Bloedel placed the forest on the open market. Galiano's working forest was to be advertised as an "investment in paradise" for three months in B.C. and afterwards sold on the international market.

Meanwhile the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee constructed bylaws which would remove the residential use from the forest until rezoned for such use. The effect would be to give the local Trust committee time to plan for the total effect any development would have on the island, and also give the community a chance for input into such change through public hearings.

MacMillan Bloedel challenged the bylaws in the Supreme Court of B.C., and won the case. Galiano appealed. In the time the zoning bylaws were before the courts, MacMillan Bloedel sold the forest by district lots, and purchasers rushed to subdivide. Galiano won the appeal in a unanimous decision.

We are now planning for the island, as we promised, and endeavouring to deal fairly with the obvious intent of many new forest owners to create residential subdivisions in the forest. We must also preserve the forest land base in compliance with the OCP. We are listening to your correspondent, to the forest land owners, to all submissions and will continue to do so until the public hearing for the land use bylaw has been closed.

We will be glad to send you a copy of the land use bylaw draft when it is published, and the rationale that will accompany it. We ask that coverage of it in the Driftwood be unbiased reporting. ☞



Spanish Hills

Pen & Ink by Ronaldo Norden, 1980

REVIEW:

FATE OF THE STRAIT

Vancouver *Sun*, Special Section, June 5, 1998

Reviewed by Greg Foster

Pebble Beach. Low tide. Good old summertime. If there's a better place to sit and contemplate the Strait of Georgia, I haven't found it yet.

It is here, sitting on a driftwood log during a recent Conservancy picnic, that I first hear about the special edition of the Vancouver *Sun* devoted to the state of the Strait. The day is so clear you can look south right down through the San Juans and north to the Flat Tops and Texada Island. Metropolitan skyscrapers across on the mainland stand out distinctly, looming uncomfortably near.

But what the picnickers are looking at, dwarfed by, under the influence of, are not the boundaries but this vast undulating body of water first named by Spanish explorers after Our Lady of the Mariner's Prayer. El Gran Canal de Nuestra Senora del Rosario la Marinera.

Easily brought under its ancient spell, we see, hear, smell and feel in our bones the first faint intimations of the turning of the tide. And we know that with the tide is coming the usual picnic of celestial proportions.

The Strait of Georgia in our times has become the premier west coast shipping lane, with a volume of traffic rivalling the major eastern and European ports. Yet in a larger perspective, the true wealth flowing daily through this great ocean gateway is down to a mere trickle compared to its former glory.

For thousands of years this waterway brought the exuberant health of the primeval sea to every inlet, sound, cove and estuary of one of the world's most elaborate tidal hinterlands. And its waters returned to the ocean's bosom bearing the young spawned in an even vaster hinterland of clean rivers and streams . . . together with the nutrients and minerals so vital to the drifting pastures of the sea that we call plankton. Such riches can't even be imagined in these days of Dunn & Bradstreet ratings.

Still today the Pacific Ocean – in answer to the call of moon and sun – sends its soup kitchen of nourishing nectar flooding into billions of far-flung hungry clam beds and oyster bottoms. But the broth is thinner now. And what the Strait returns to the mother sea is a different kettle of fish, tainted with sewage and toxins.

If the voice of the metropolis is now summoning us to a new clarity about the waters that separate the

City from the Islands, I immediately wonder what's up. Who pushed the Vancouver *Sun's* button? Is the Greater Vancouver Regional District growing disenchanted with its Greater Strait of Georgia sewage lagoon? Are they beginning to encounter painful economic consequences from the death throes of this once pristine and nourishing inshore sea?

What's up, according to Editor-in-Chief John Cruickshank, is *The Fate of the Strait*.

We have less than a lifetime to save the Strait of Georgia, his bold headline declares. *That is the consensus of scientists who have examined the question. Some say the matter will be decided in the next 40 years. Some say a mere 10.*

None believes that maintaining our present direction is an option for so complex and vital an ecosystem. All agree that we must halt the degradation of the Strait and chart a new course to ecological, social and economic sustainability, or we will turn the Strait into a vast, sterile trough.

But its destruction is not inevitable. If we can summon the political will and imagination, we can preserve and enhance the global treasure in our backyard. But imagine what we will lose if we fail.

Between Vancouver Island and the mainland coast lies one of the richest, most beautiful stretches of water on the planet. Millions of years ago it was a great valley, until the earth's crust buckled and the ocean flooded in.

Our Strait is a pinched sea 222 kilometers long and nowhere more than 40 kilometers wide, a sea that, compared to the open ocean, is far slower to flush through the tidal flow that cleanses toxins and replenishes nutrients.

Understand this, scientists say, and you have begun to see what makes the Georgia Basin's ecology unique, and by its very nature unable to withstand what we are now dumping in and pulling out, day after day after day.

The time is short. The threat is real . . . If an essential human instinct – the ability to see and seize opportunity – has led to the spoiling of a once pristine environment, that same instinct can be the Strait's rescuing friend.

Each of us must form a new personal relationship with the Strait, coming to know the moods and vulnerabilities of this living presence, integral to our lives.

As a society, we must support – and heed – the work of scientists solving the Strait's life and death riddles.

As a region, we must re-evaluate the economic activities of the 5.5 million people clustered around

the Georgia Basin. That means properly mourning the passing of obsolete livelihoods, taking lessons from the memories of old timers and envisioning new ways of bountifully coexisting with a healthy Strait.

Finally, we must arrive very quickly at a political solution, a formal covenant laying out the path to a sustainable future ... Taken together, this initiative by the Sun is meant to be read as a project of hope, a measure of just how large our dreams can be for the region. The transition to a sustainable society in the Georgia Basin need not mean a diminished, less exciting way of life. If we dare to face the hard decision now, and meet the challenge with imagination, truly what we will have sustained is this: the specialness of our chosen home.

No place on earth, declares a researcher in one of today's stories, has a better shot at reconciling people and nature than the Pacific Northwest, the greenest corner of history's richest civilization.

Ours is the last generation given that opportunity. The Fate of the Strait is in our hands.

After that stirring introduction, writer Mark Hume and photographer Nick Didlick get down to business for 18 pages, examining the politics, history, fisheries, industrial activities, marine life, bird and plant life, and environmental programs which make up the incredible ecosystem – with all its threats and promise – that we call the Strait.

Clearly the biggest danger is posed by population growth and all the things growth brings with it.

As Neil Dawe of the Canadian Wildlife Service observes: *Until the scientists are willing to say the problem is growth, nothing we do (environmentally) will succeed. You can't have a growth rate of 5 percent a year in this area and save the Strait by setting aside some land.*

There has to be a limit to growth. I know nobody likes to talk about it, but that's the truth. Currently 3/4 the population of B.C. lives around the Strait, and the human population is growing more rapidly than in any

other region of North America.

For Galiano Islanders, one of the most fascinating – and troubling – stories in this special report is on Page 15, where the editors ask the question *WHAT'S LEFT?* It is the story of a remarkable project that set out in 1993 to identify, catalogue – and ultimately to commit to cartographic record – the last remaining untouched landscapes on the Gulf Islands and the western side of the Strait of Georgia.

In the beginning there were 3,000 aerial photographs and a general sense that many of the most valuable ecosystems in the Strait had already been lost to development. In the end there will be a series of maps ... that reveal the staggering impact of humans on the landscape.

We are looking at the remnants, says cartographer Peggy Ward of the Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory Project. In this entire study area less than 8 percent is still in an undisturbed state. It's been forested, logged, built on – there's not much left.

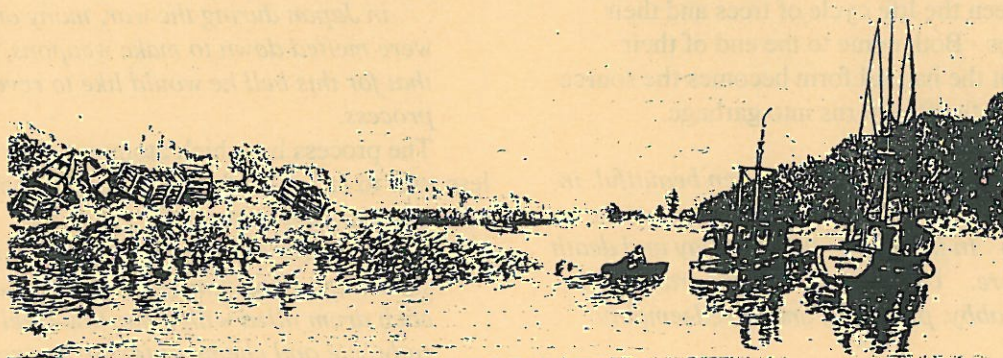
I expected there would be more left than this, says Ward. The sensitive ecosystems are being nuked at a great rate. A sensitive ecosystem is one which is fragile and/or rare.

Ward hopes the maps, which are being released to regional governments as they are completed, will help local authorities save some areas, and encourage developers to avoid conflicts.

* * * *

Back at Pebble Beach a month later. Yep, another picnic. Same log. I find myself musing about what could happen if there was an awakening around the Strait, starting in the throbbing metropolis, to turn back the tide of development, and to preserve and protect places like these oh so sensitive islands and their last marginal shorelines, where the life of the sea can still mingle with the life of the forest undisturbed.

If we can't stop the juggernaut of growth here, then where will we stop it? ☞



North End Seascape

Ronaldo Norden

REVIEW:

Orion: People & Nature

Reviewed by Jillian Ridington

Orion does not preach to the converted, reiterating truths already held dear. It grabs your mind and your senses, shakes them up, and forces you to touch and see afresh. It achieves this magic mainly through its excellence. *Orion* is the most beautiful magazine on environmental issues that I have come across. Its poetry is lyrical and insightful; its photography is lush; its writing is literate and thought provoking.

The aims of *Orion* include:

To characterize conceptually and practically our responsibilities to the earth and all forms of life, and to explore the ethic of humane stewardship.

To advance the notion that effective stewardship comes from feelings of respect and admiration for the earth; we will protect, foster, and nurture what we have come to revere.

Through its beauty and its literacy, *Orion* fulfills its aims remarkably well. It presents a view of the earth that engenders respect and admiration. Its Spring, 1998 issue (Volume 17, #2) takes as its theme, "Wonder and Other Survival Skills." Those words alone made me pause and think; I had never before considered wonder to be a survival tool. On reflection, I realized that, of course, it is one, and a very essential one at that. Without the awe that nature's beauty inspires, we might not realize the earth's interconnectedness, its fragility. Failure to recognize those things does indeed mean that our species, and our planet, will not survive.

Every article, poem and photograph in this issue of *Orion* inspires wonder, and challenges the reader to think. One example is David Ehrenfeld's article, *Death of a Palm*. In it, Ehrenfeld contemplates the difference between the life cycle of trees and their plastic surrogates. Both come to the end of their allotted time, but the natural form becomes the source of renewal, while the fake turns into garbage. Ehrenfeld concludes:

Decay and death are tolerable, even beautiful, in nature because they are food for regeneration and rebirth. In imitation nature, decay and death lead nowhere. Uncoupled from the grand cycle, they are shabby, pointless, and unredeemably grim.

David Lukas's essay on Packrats was even more illuminating. I didn't know (did you?) that packrat nests have been radiocarbon-dated back to 40,000 years before the present. That's as far back as radiocarbon dating can go. They could be even older.

When a packrat dies, another moves into its nest, and adds to it. That means that packrat nests are among the oldest habitations on earth. We can't know whether any particular nest has been continually occupied, but we do know that there have been a multitude of occupants of many of them.

Old nests can weigh tons. Packrat urine solidifies into a substance called *amberat*; everything that a packrat collects and adds to its den is eventually saturated and mummified in *amberat*. The resulting midden is telling researchers a great deal about gene pools and rates of DNA evolution in plants and animals. Among other discoveries, Lukas tells us that:

... scientists have noticed that stomata (breathing pores) on juniper leaves occurred in far denser numbers at the end of the last Ice Age, when carbon dioxide was less abundant. Herein lies a clue supporting the theory of global warming, one that suggests that levels of carbon dioxide are much higher today and result in a reduced need for stomata.

Lukas's words remind us that all actions, even the urination of a small mammal eons ago, can have long term meaning, and that all creatures can be the source of wondrous knowledge.

Another essay, *Maps*, by *Orion's* poetry and literary editor Emily Hiestand, tells of growing up in the post-war years, in the all-American atomic town of Oak Ridge, Tennessee — a town built in secrecy and haste. Her childish and innocent acceptance of the idea that wondrous benefits would accrue from the peaceful use of the atom's energy mirrored the world's beliefs at that time. Recently, Oak Ridge installed a temple bell cast for Atom City by Soutetsu Iwazawa, a master bellmaker of Kyoto. Hiestand tells us that Iwazawa made it because:

... in Japan during the war, many ancient bells were melted down to make weapons, and he said that for this bell he would like to reverse the process.

The process by which atomic energy was made is less easy to reverse, of course; Oak Ridge's environs now include the barrels:

acres of steel drums stacked several high, squatting on the flatland as far as the eye can see, each drum filled with some low-level stew of radwaste and chemical toxins, hot rags, wrenches, liquids.

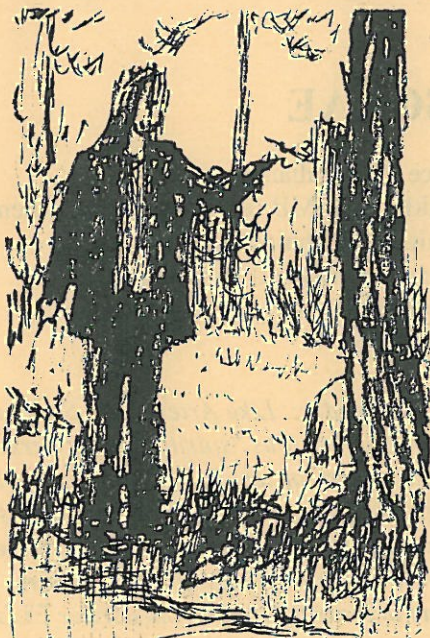
The costs of cleanup would be in the hundreds of billions, too much for government these days, though no expense was spared when three nuclear plants were built in the 1940s. Hiestand's essay gives us more food for thought about the long-term effects of actions, and of inactions.

In *Orion*, words and images complement each other. Of course, its photographers see beauty in nature, but some also seek to capture the essence of more mundane and urban things. Concrete pillars, a salt mountain, sacks of tapioca, feathery fans of water spraying at a purification plant, all have the power of monumental sculpture to Jan Staller. Staller writes,

Rather than directly address the pedagogical issues of nature laid to waste . . . my photographs attempt to imbue the site with an edge of mystery and foreboding.

Her photos make our mind's eye envision workaday objects with fresh seeing.

In some instances, as in David James Duncan's *Four Henry Stories*, images and text work together to tell a story that could not be as meaningful told in one medium alone. Russell Kaye's photographs of the world of Henry Bugbee are as powerful as are Duncan's words in helping us come to know the retired flyfisher/philosophy professor who has "no sense of proprietorship in the presence of true words." One triptych, of the same scene in different seasons, is evocative of the stages of life that Duncan is watching his friend pass through.



From the sketchbook of Keith Holmes

I've already said far too much about one issue of one journal, but I can't leave *Orion's* spring issue without mentioning Stephen Talbott's *Why is the Moon Getting Farther Away?*, which addresses the question, *How do we help the child find his own connection to the world?*

Talbott acknowledges that, *Something in our culture works powerfully against a sensitive, participative understanding of the world, often obliterating that understanding wherever it does arise*, then considers the alienation from the world that can be a by-product of technology.

As an antidote, Talbott and Lynne Jaeger Weinstein's wonderful accompanying photographs of children delighting in nature suggest:

A bird in the hand – and a pine cone, and a rock, and a crawdad, and a snowflake – are the counterbalances we need if our alienation from nature is not to become more than the world can bear. These bits of nature may not seem like much to us, but that is the problem. For the child they hold magic exactly the magic that, in a matured form, may be required to ground the adult in a twenty-first century of encompassing virtuality.

I wish that Talbott had given parents and grandparents more suggestions on how one weans a child away from video games and transformers, and directs his or her attention to those slower – yet in the long term much more fascinating – bits of nature. For if wonder is a survival tool, and our children lose it, what future is in store for our species?

This recent issue of *Orion* is not an anomaly; back issues match its excellence. I could write in as much detail about the Winter, 1998 issue. Its theme is *What is Native?* and its examination of that question is characteristically thought provoking and enlightening. The editors note that:

What it means to be native to a place is daily being defined and lived out. The number of local organizations devoted to local matters is growing exponentially. This is perhaps the greatest realization of the social-change movement: that the effort to effect positive change must include a powerful local component.

Any issue of *Orion* is a delight, as are all of the issues of its sister publication, *Orion Afield*, which I will review in the next issue of *Archipelego*. Issues of both publications are available at the Galiano Conservancy Association's library. ☺

HISTORY OF THE FORESTLANDS

(Fourth Installment)

PROLOGUE

The last episode in the ongoing saga of Galiano's forestlands (Spring '98 *Archipelago*) saw islanders responding to MacMillan Bloedel's late-80s logging blitz by

- 1) educating themselves in appropriate forestry practices, and
- 2) inviting the company to sit down with the community at the conference table.

The most significant success to come from this effort toward community-conscious forestry – unprecedented in British Columbia logging history – was the Forest and Land Use Council (FLUC).

Modeled on the recommendations from the Bruntland Commission and The National Task Force on Environment and Economy, FLUC became a highly strategic roundtable with representatives from community, industry and government. It was a strictly voluntary council, chaired by an independent expert, which sought consensus rather than binding arbitration.

FLUC was notable both for its successes and its failures. Never before had MB agreed to try experiments in selection logging as an alternative to clear-cutting. They tried it here, they were pleased with the results, and they proudly showed off their "demonstration forest" on Galiano (now eradicated by Fibermax). A good working relationship marked by mutual respect was established between company foresters and island representatives.

If MB's Woodlands Division had been left alone to help map out a new direction for forest practices in the Islands Trust area, Galiano probably would have become a world famous site for sustainable forestry. Unfortunately, the company's Real Estate Development Division had other ideas . . . ideas which sowed seeds of discord that continue to sprout to this day.

THE THE

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Dr. Andrew Thompson, chairman of the Forest and Land Use Council

Gary Moore, Galiano community representative

Ken Millard, Galiano community representative

Geoff Gaylor, Galiano community representative

Ralph Urban, MacMillan Bloedel representative

Bill Cafferata, MacMillan Bloedel representative

Bob Mason, from Intrawest Properties, MB's development partner

Margaret Griffiths, Islands Trust, government representative

Mel Couvelier, MLA for the Islands, government representative

Terry Huberts, MLA for the Islands, government representative

Audience, 350 Galiano residents

Jim Finkbeiner, MB real estate development "spirit"

Ray Smith, MB chairman "spirit"

Gary Kadatz, MB real estate "spirit"

Robyn Allan, VanCity economist "spirit"

Editorial "spirit"

Note to the Reader: Like Ariel in the Shakespeare production, the various "spirits" in this version of The Tempest are more or less "airy" but nonetheless real. Although they were not bodily present at this meeting, their comments are a matter of record and very pertinent to an understanding of the action. Their comments are mostly taken from earlier FLUC meetings.

The dialogue which follows is a verbatim record.

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

George Santayana, 1905

Led by Jim Finkbeiner, Vice President for Taxes, Property and Risk Management, part of the MB team on the Forest and Land Use Council derailed the forum in their attempt to use it as a rubber stamp for corporate development plans. Ironically, this different agenda proved to be an unworkable choice. Even MB chairman Ray Smith would admit some years later that "something went drastically amiss" on Galiano, and the newest CEO Tom Stephens has now severely pruned the company's portfolio by exiting entirely from the real estate development business and is directing this company away from clear-cut logging.

The lively sessions of the Forest and Land Use Council reached their climax on November 18, 1989, when the MB development team presented its concept for the island forestlands at the largest public meeting ever held on Galiano. In so doing, MB ignored the recommendations of the FLUC community representatives. Three hundred fifty people packed the Activity Centre to listen to the company vision and participate in the community's response.

Those who attended will never forget this meeting. It was possibly the biggest moment in island history, and clearly voiced the overwhelming community will to preserve the natural heritage which makes Galiano distinctive and to protect it from the insistent pressures of uncontrolled development.

As a service to latecomers who missed this epochal public forum (and a reminder to those who took part), *Archipelago* is presenting a minimally-edited transcript of the meeting beginning in this issue. With apologies to Will Shakespeare and compliments to the recent production by the Galiano Players, we are calling this episode in the forestlands saga.

IMPUEST

ACT ONE: *SETTING THE SCENE*

Dr. Thompson: This is a meeting of the Galiano Forest and Land Use Council. My name is Andy Thompson. I'm the chairman of the Council, and it's my job to chair this meeting this evening.

First I'd like to say a few things about the Council. It was established by the agreement of the community and of MacMillan Bloedel to deal with two types of issues. One concerned logging on the island, and one concerned possible development on the island. I think people here are well aware of the history of attempts to resolve various issues that relate to logging and that relate to development. Out of concerns and with a wish to attempt a process that would keep things on track, they agreed to form a Forest and Land Use Council.

This is entirely a voluntary type of organization in the sense that it exists only so long as the parties want it to exist. I have no authority of any kind from any source other than from the community and from MacMillan Bloedel. And this Council simply exists at the wishes of the parties.

The idea is that this Council can provide a forum in which there can be a full and proper exchange of information, ideas and solutions, and out of this the parties can make progress towards resolving these very important long term issues for the island.

We've had a number of meetings of the Council. Most of them have dealt with logging issues up to now. But it has been expected that MacMillan Bloedel would lay before the Council its proposals for

a land development concept. And that's the purpose of this meeting tonight.

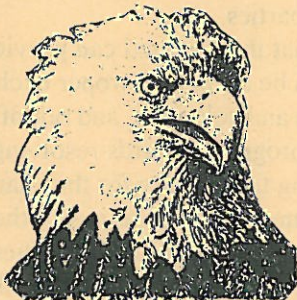
Editorial "spirit": What Dr. Thompson is keeping under his hat is the fact that MB had not had the courtesy to present this development proposal to the Council first, but insisted on a public presentation. And they will get a public reaction! FLUC community reps had not seen this proposal before tonight.

Dr. Thompson: I just want to conclude my opening remarks with a few personal types of comments. As I mentioned, this Council is a commitment by the community and MB to have a rational approach to dealing with these issues, and when you think about it what can each party gain from this process? On the part of the community tonight is the first opportunity to get an understanding of the kind of development plans that MB has in mind . . . a fuller understanding of the issues and also an opportunity to register the concerns they have about what they're being shown.

On the part of MacMillan Bloedel I think what they have to gain out of this is a better appreciation of whether or not their plans are going to be acceptable to the community. This is a fact-finding process at this time. There will be no decision-making coming out of this meeting this evening. This Council doesn't have any mandate for that purpose. The Islands Trust and the whole range of municipal legislation affecting the Islands Trust is where the decision-making will occur.

So with those personal observations about what we're here for and what we might expect out of this, I'd like to outline briefly the agenda for tonight. First of all, Margaret Griffiths has a statement to make. Then Ken Millard will have a brief opening statement. Then the floor will be turned over to MacMillan Bloedel to present their community concept. When they have made their presentation there will be an opportunity given to members of the Council to ask questions and to give their reactions. And following that the meeting will be open to the floor.

Any questions? Okay, Margaret?



R. Norden

Margaret Griffiths: Can you hear me? I just want to say Galiano is a beautiful place in the fall. It's a very special place to us and to many people in B.C. And it is by law *an Island In Trust* for the people, for the Province, and for future generations.

A year ago I said at the first Forest and Land Use Council meeting that I hoped that something fine would rise like a phoenix from the fires that burned the clear-cut forest land of Galiano. Now we have a chance, one that may never come again, for MacMillan Bloedel, the Trust, and the Community to ensure the best possible management and prudent planning of the special and vulnerable resources of this Gulf Island.

* * * *

*When thou cam'st first,
Thou strok'st me and made much of me ...
... then I lov'd thee
And show'd thee all the qualities o' the isle,
The fresh springs, brine pits, barren place and fertile.
Curs'd be I that did so!*

[I.ii.332ff]

* * * *

MacMillan Bloedel and their developers, Intrawest, have invited us today to look at a plan that is part of their vision for the future of Galiano. Subdivisions with smaller lots will be placed on the Trincomali coastline, and on the Strait side will be subdivisions into larger lots. All these will presumably come on the market at a growth rate dictated by market forces. This plan for subdivision is I understand contingent on the provincial government buying some sensitive areas or trading them for good land elsewhere in the province. One is apparently contingent on the other.

MacMillan Bloedel owns just over half of Galiano Island. Their land is all zoned Forest. They have been clear-cutting this holding for the past several years. They will be logging again this year. The land is taxed as Tree Farm, part of Tree Farm 19. To convert part of this licensed tree farm land to subdivisions would mean changes, amendments, to the Official Community Plan, and a series of amendments to the Zoning Bylaw. These amendments, these changes, would go to public hearing. The final decision would be the responsibility of the Islands Trust after the public has been heard and guided by its legitimate mandate.

We look forward now to hearing more of the plan, but I want to emphasize that this plan is just an

idea contingent on accommodations at a political level. No application has yet been made to the Islands Trust by MacMillan Bloedel on behalf of its developer for a change in land use. This meeting has nothing to do with due process under the Municipal Act.

However, Mr. Chairman, all of or part of this plan may later be submitted to due process under the Act and so it would be proper of me to ask to withdraw from this Council table and sit with my colleague.

Before I ask your permission, I would like to point out two areas the community needs to consider. First of all, it is usually found that subdivisions of some density require city-type services, such as piped water and sewer. Galiano has no surface lakes, only subsurface aquifers which are faults in the rock that collect rain water and distribute it for miles. These faults are mapped. They are all we have for residents, for campsites, for resorts, all we have in the way of water and we have thousands of visitors through the dry season.

We conserve our ground water. No developer tapping into one of these aquifers should regard it necessarily as a personal bonanza. If a sewer becomes necessary for smaller lots, if the regulating bodies permitted it, it would add to the stuff already being dumped off our shore. Without some reliable technological breakthrough it would seem that this rocky narrow island's population is limited by water availability and effluent disposal.

My second point is that a request for any kind of density trade is usually accompanied by very obvious benefits to the community. The community will be carefully assessing those benefits to be explained here tonight.

Finally, Intrawest is noted for its landscape development. But Galiano already has been landscaped by the Creator. It is this landscaping that the Trustees are committed and under oath to preserve. And this is the most important time in Galiano's history. I leave symbolically before my chair copies of the Official Community Plan, the Zoning Bylaw for Galiano, and the Islands Trust Act. All are laws of the land; laws can only be amended by laws.

Mr. Chairman, may I have your permission to withdraw? (Applause).

Dr. Thompson: Thank you, Margaret. The next speaker is Ken Millard, community representative.

Ken Millard: Thank you. I would like to begin by complimenting MacMillan Bloedel and our government representatives for their cooperation in entering into the Forest and Land Use Council

process. I would also like to credit MacMillan Bloedel for the movements they have made toward practising sustainable forestry on Galiano. Further, it is gratifying to know that there is now a process in place for continuing discussions.

The purpose of the following remarks is to present a context for the objectives of the Forest and Land Use Council and in particular the presentation this evening of MB's proposed development plans. The portion of the FLUC objectives dealing with the Community's concerns states:

to reach a resolution which meets the needs of the Community of Galiano for the maintenance and preservation, including appropriate forest management, of its forest environment while respecting island resources, economy, and rural community.

This objective reflects the goals and responsibilities of the Community for its environment.

There are perhaps few places in the world that have been questioned, surveyed or studied more than these Islands to determine their common or community goals and responsibilities. It gives us some confidence in the results that all such studies come to the same conclusion. Typical of these studies is one carried out in 1974 by the International Joint Commission. It dealt with the Gulf Islands – San Juan Islands region, and makes the observation:

The Board was also fully cognizant of the desire on the part of those living in the Gulf – San Juan Islands region to maintain the rural character of the area, to maintain high environmental standards, and to be involved in the process of making decisions which affect their lives.

The Islands Trust was created by the Province of BC with a mandate which only reinforces the Community's goals. This mandate is in fact built into the Objectives of the Forest and Land Use Council which states:

to reach a resolution which meets the spirit and intent of the Islands Trust mandate to preserve and protect, in cooperation with the municipalities and the governments of the Province, the Trust area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the Trust area and the Province generally.

The significance of this area is confirmed by the Nature Conservancy of Canada in a joint study with the Islands Trust in 1975. Their report recognized that the Strait of Georgia region is one of the most significant recreational and ecological areas in the world. Consequently the region deserves greater attention from all levels of government, particularly in terms of land

acquisition and dedication of areas as parks, recreational areas or reserves, as well as stricter regulation of resource exploitation and development.

* * * *

*The isle is full of noises,
Sounds and sweet airs, that give delight and hurt not.
Sometimes a thousand twangling instruments
Will hum about mine ears, and sometime voices
That, if I had wak'd after long sleep,
Will make me sleep again; and then I dreaming
The clouds methought would open and show riches
Ready to drop upon me, that, when I wak'd,
I cried to dream again.*

[III.ii.144ff]

* * * *

The Community best articulates its goals and accepts responsibility for stewardship of this Island in its Official Community Plan. The Plan's preamble begins with the statement:

The people of Galiano Island being mindful of the pressures from a growing West Coast population, and a demonstrated desire of many to find relief from urban congestion and associated tension through a rural atmosphere, and being aware of the physical limitations of Galiano Island to accept uncontrolled population increase without degradation of the rural way of life and damage to the ecological system, deem it desirable to create a Community Plan to deal with these issues.

and concludes with:

As the present generation inherited these islands in a relatively preserved state, so this plan attempts to perpetuate this state and preserve the unique environment for all future generations.

The heart of the matter this evening is the Forest Zone as delineated in the Community Plan. The Forest Area is defined in Section 7.2e as:

This area shall include all land under present Tree Farm Certificate and Licence and any land so designated in the future. All activities permitted under the licence shall continue.

Obviously, the principal use of the land is intended to be forestry. This definition also clearly indicates that the Forest Zone is not for residential use such as Village Residential or Rural Residential zones.

The issue we are discussing tonight can be stated simply: **Is it in the best interests of this**

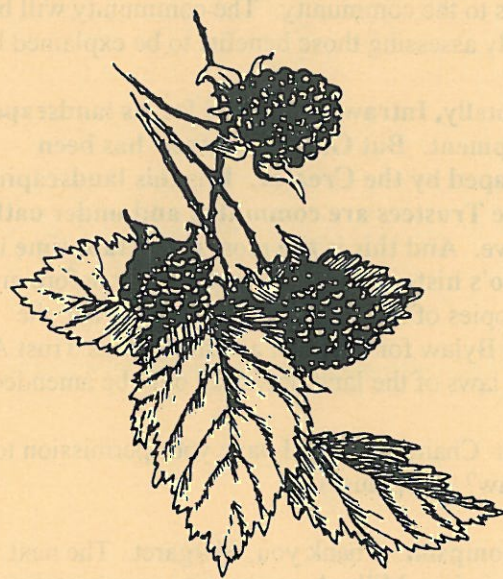
Community, or for that matter the Province, to change the land use on portions of MacMillan Bloedel's holdings from forest use to residential or commercial use?

This represents the context in which we should judge the MB development plan. We also need to consider the MacMillan Bloedel portion of the objectives of FLUC, which is:

to reach a resolution which meets the needs of MacMillan Bloedel as owner of the land to realize its highest and best use which can include a mix of uses such as appropriate forest harvesting, parkland dedication, development (for example tourism, recreation, residential) or Community purchase of the land.

We presume the implication of this evening's proposed development plans will be a formal application to the Islands Trust for amendments to the Galiano Official Community Plan. MB, as does any other property owner, has the right to request such a change. However, any request should be weighed very carefully to assure it is in keeping with the Islands Trust mandate and the goals set out in our Official Community Plan.

In the final analysis, it is the Community, and only the Community, through its Official Community Plan, that determines land use on this Island.
(Applause)



Trailing blackberry

ACT TWO – UNVEILING MB'S DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Dr. Thompson: I'm now asking Ralph Urban and the MacMillan Bloedel group to present their planning concept.

Ralph Urban: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Ladies and gentlemen, I appreciate the opportunity to be with you here tonight to discuss some of the aspects for land use MacMillan Bloedel and Intrawest are considering for our properties on Galiano Island.

First I'd like to thank you very much for coming out. Through all the meetings I have attended on Galiano, I have been singularly impressed with the community spirit shown. I think that's a very laudable aspect of the meetings we've attended.

Second, I'd like to apologize for the long delay in bringing out our development plan. As you know, this topic has been fairly controversial for some months now. Concerns have been expressed about us turning our property into a large resort with golf courses and marinas.

* * * *

*I find my zenith doth depend upon
A most auspicious star, whose influence
If now I court not but omit, my fortunes
Will ever after droop.*

[I.ii.181ff]

* * * *

Last July we opened the Community Relations office on the island to hear what you had to say about the future of the island and what you felt we should or should not be doing here. The results of those discussions form a large part of what we would like to talk to you about tonight.

I would first like to give you some background to how we came to this stage and then Bob Mason of Intrawest will discuss our considerations with you.

MacMillan Bloedel has been on the island since 1951 when we bought the properties of Canadian Collieries.

Editorial "spirit": As a matter of fact, it was the Powell River Company that purchased the Galiano lands from Canadian Collieries in 1951 (see *Archipelago*, Summer '97). MacMillan Bloedel acquired them in 1960 through a merger/takeover of Powell River, without spending a penny.

Ralph Urban: Today we own about 7,800 acres, or 31[00] hectares of land here, over fifty percent of the island. Our properties include such well known points as Coon Bay, Winstanley Point, Mount Galiano, Mount Sutil and Bodega Ridge. We have harvested about fifty percent of our property during that time through clear-cut and selection harvesting.

Forest management on Galiano is somewhat different from most other areas in which we work in that we own the land, rather than harvesting on Crown Land. However, the responsibilities for responsible forest management remain the same. Under the Tree Farm Certificate we are obligated to manage our land; we cannot let it sit idle.

We view Galiano Island as a special place. It is a beautiful island, and owning over half of it carries some very special considerations and obligations. We have tried to be responsible corporate citizens. We have taken into account the disruption that timber harvesting can bring to an area and to its neighbours.

* * * *

*... I must remove
Some thousands of these logs and pile them up,
Upon a sore injunction.*

[III.i.9ff]

* * * *

The creation of the Islands Trust in the 1970s brought new considerations for working with the Community of Galiano. In particular, we have been especially conscious of the lifestyle and needs of the people of Galiano about our harvesting plans. That was the main reason for our participation in the formation of the Forest and Land Use Council late last year. The people of this island had expressed concerns about our harvesting plans for our properties on the island.

We recognized that there were changing public demands on timber harvesting, not only here but all over the Province.

Ray Smith, MB chairman "spirit": *We take our marching orders from the public. MB and other companies in this industry can only operate with public consent. In the final analysis, the public will decide the future of the forest and of this industry, so we'd better get out there and find out what changes the majority of people want and expect.* (Oct. 24, 1990)

Robyn Allan, VanCity economist "spirit": *In a sense, the world is watching [Galiano]. It is commonly acknowledged that the Gulf Islands are among the most beautiful property in the world because of their natural state. It is also widely known – as an extensive article in the New Yorker magazine revealed last year – that BC's forest policy has a reputation of being among the worst in terms of its environmental and ecological soundness.* (Jan. 22, 1991)

Ralph Urban: People's values and expectations have changed and continue to change. This, in fact, is a very dynamic process; it comes with changing times. Environmental considerations have been growing at a phenomenal pace and with some justification. MB has been sensitive to these changing times.

Jim Finkbeiner, MB "spirit": *Right. We feel 26 million people [all of Canada] have a stake in the decision being made here. There is a tremendous demand for shelter. The preserve mentality is prevalent [on Galiano], but there are many others who would like to retire on the islands, or have businesses on these islands. We are accused of going for a windfall profit, but more fundamental is the issue of providing shelter and accommodation. There is more at stake than just Galiano.* (Feb. 4, 1989)

Ralph Urban: During the past few years we have reduced the scale of our harvesting here on Galiano Island [see logging graph on page 7]. We did this as a result of discussions with people such as yourselves. We reduced the size of our harvesting areas, we refrained from harvesting in the more viewable areas of the island. As a direct result of our discussions at the Forest and Land Use Council, we have embarked on an experiment in the economics and efficiencies of selection harvesting just this month.

We have met with many people to discuss our harvesting plans like those who represent your interests on FLUC: Ken Millard, Geoff Gaylor, and Gary Moore, and with the Island Trustees Margaret Griffiths and Diane Cragg. For the most part there was a spirit of discussion and cooperation that held up through most of our meetings.

Earlier this year we entered into a partnership with Intrawest to examine uses for our Galiano properties that were other than harvesting.

Jim Finkbeiner, MB "spirit": *Historically MB has been involved in logging only. However, there are increasing pressures and demands on MB lands close to large population centres. We are trying to be proactive.* (Feb. 4, 1989)

Ralph Urban: When we made the announcement in July there was a lot of speculation that we would develop a huge destination resort. We began to hear from people that they were concerned over massive influxes of visitors, or future developments that would disrupt the rural lifestyle of the island. Speculation about our considerations grew over the summer.

I can only tell you now what we said then: that we were merely looking at other economic uses for our properties that would be in keeping with the lifestyle of the island and that would have a positive impact on it.

* * * *

I think he will carry this island home in his pocket and give it to his son for an apple.

[II.i.90]

* * * *

Jim Finkbeiner, MB "spirit": *MB is committed to achieving the highest and best use for its land. Let's not forget that MB owns these lands in fee simple, and in the end will do what they see fit.* (July 18, 1989)

Ralph Urban: MB and Intrawest work closely together, keeping in mind the needs and desires of people like yourselves who live on the island. It was because of the public speculation about our land use examinations that we opened a Community Relations office on the island last August.

We wanted to hear what you had to say about MB's presence on the island. We wanted to ensure that we could answer your questions about the MB/Intrawest joint venture. We had people from both MB and Intrawest on the island on a regular basis to meet with people, to hear their suggestions, opinions and comments.

Throughout this consultation process we assured all concerned that we were committed to and legally obliged to observing the Official Community Plan of Galiano Island. We wanted to continue to be good neighbours that took into account not only our interest but those of the island residents as well. The open house we had today at the South End Community Hall and the one we will be having in Vancouver in a few days are aimed at continuing to discuss various aspects we are considering for other uses for our Galiano properties.

This is an informal process which we are using to test concepts with people like yourselves. We want to know what is acceptable to you. After the open house in Vancouver, we will give you a chance to digest

them and then have future open houses to get your input. When we have that, we will examine the options and then make a formal application to the Islands Trust [It was never made].

This means that you will still have ample opportunity to make your views known about what you would like to see happen with our properties on the island. It is not a closed process. **There is no hidden agenda as some people suggest. There is just no room for that, and that's not how MB or Intrawest do business.** [Ed. emphasis]

We realize that we have a critical obligation to keep you informed about what we are considering. And we'll continue to meet that obligation through hosting open houses and through maintaining our Community Relations office on Galiano.

* * * *

*For all the rest,
They'll take suggestion as a cat laps milk;
They'll tell the clock to any business that
We say befits the hour.*

[II.i.287ff]

* * * *

And now Bob Mason will describe our current considerations for the use of our islands [sic] on Galiano. Thank you very much.

Bob Mason: Can you hear me, does this mike pick me up? Can you see the plan behind me? I'm with Intrawest Properties. I'm sure ... Intrawest Properties is the joint venture partner with MacMillan Bloedel on the development of their lands on Galiano Island. I'm sure you all know who MB is. Many of you probably don't know who Intrawest is. We're a Vancouver-based real estate development company. We basically do everything in the real estate industry except build single family houses.

We're perhaps best known as the owner and developer of Blackcomb Mountain. And for those of you who don't ski, you may know Lonsdale Quay market in North Vancouver which is also one of our projects. I think we probably distinguish ourselves somewhat as being sensitive developers and I certainly appreciate the comment that Margaret Griffiths made about our projects being well landscaped.

I'd like to thank you all for coming here tonight. The future of these properties, the future of MacMillan Bloedel's properties, are important certainly to all of us. And over the past while, many of you have been sharing your visions as to what you'd like seen done

with these properties. And hopefully we've listened and hopefully we'll continue to listen and learn.

This is a process ... **the plan I am going to describe tonight is probably stage one of the vision we have developed to date.** [Ed. emphasis] And I think that if we can arrive at a sense that there's room for further dialogue, then this plan will evolve over time.

What I'd like to present to you this evening is perhaps more fundamental than a real estate plan. It's really just a real estate concept. Through the planning process it became evident that there were really two options available to this land from a development perspective. We could have big development with big infrastructure. Of course this undoubtedly wouldn't be politically feasible. It was not in keeping with the context of the Gulf Islands, nor would it be acceptable to the community.

The second option was to develop a use for the lands of a more modest scale requiring a more modest infrastructure. And that's where we've focused attention; we've tried to develop a plan that we did think would be in context of the Gulf Islands and acceptable to the community.

We generated a lot of plans and a lot of concepts; they went all the way from a resort development down to a series of single family lots. And what I'm going to present to you tonight is our first take at a plan ... at what we consider to be the best option available.

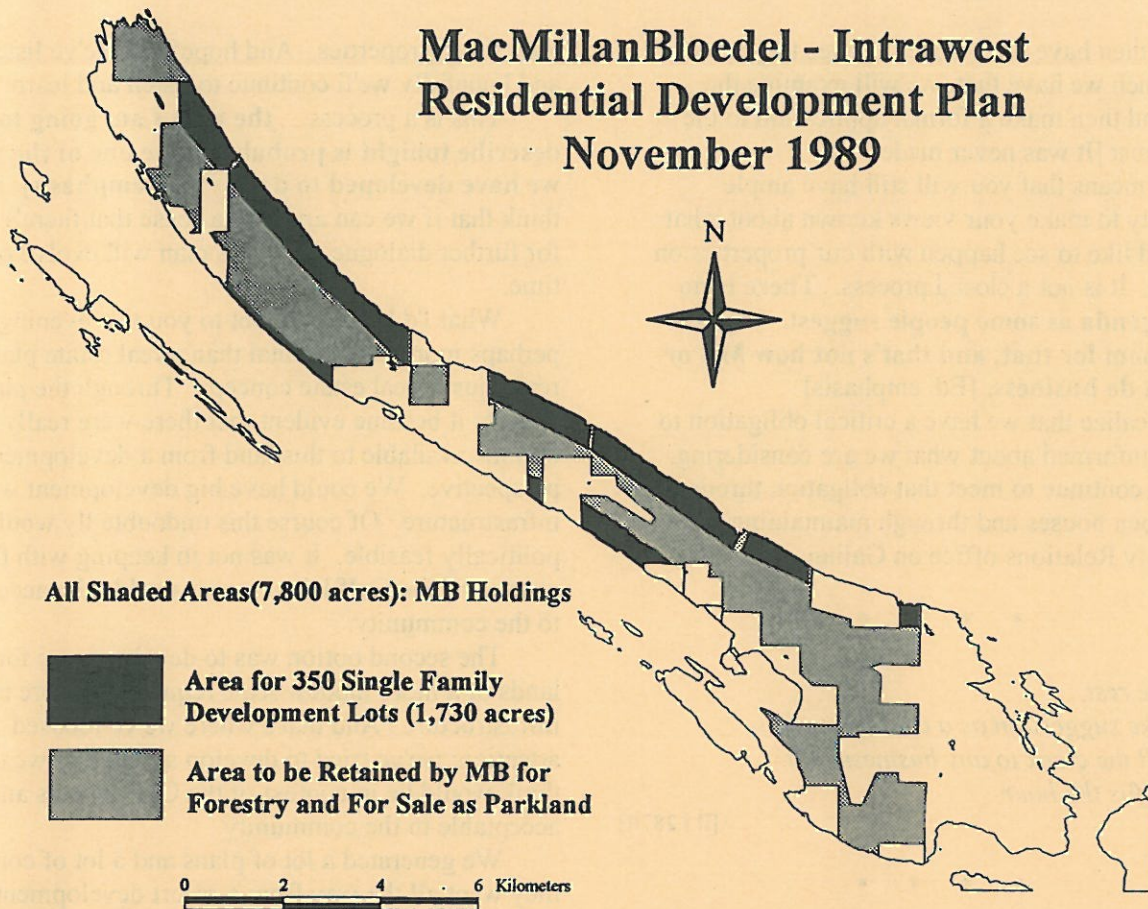
Conceptually the plan is fairly straightforward. If we look at the plan behind me, the area coloured in either green or yellow is land that belongs to MacMillan Bloedel. At this very early stage what we've done is we've coloured the plan into two different colours.

The yellow area [shown in black, page 22] is the area we would propose to develop into single family lots, a total of 350 single family lots using something like 1,730 acres of MB's total 7,800 acres. These lots would be developed over time. In terms of size, those lots [west side] would be smaller lots. I'm talking about lots potentially in the area of one acre to one and a half acres or two acres, depending on topographical considerations.

The balance of the lots [east side] would be much larger and would average overall something like five acres per lot but would probably range from something like, well, one or one and a half acres on the bottom to fifteen or twenty acres at the top depending on the topographical considerations.

The area outlined in green [shown as shaded, next page] is the balance of the real estate. And as you may note, it includes Coon Bay, Bodega Ridge, Winstanley Point, Mount Galiano, Mount Sutil, and all points in

MacMillanBloedel - Intrawest Residential Development Plan November 1989



All Shaded Areas(7,800 acres): MB Holdings

- Area for 350 Single Family Development Lots (1,730 acres)
- Area to be Retained by MB for Forestry and For Sale as Parkland

0 2 4 6 Kilometers

between. At this stage, we are not proposing what happens to that land. It's an issue which will fundamentally have to be resolved before we proceed with the development of the area identified in yellow.

But it's a complex area and there are complex needs.

Gary Kadatz, MB real estate "spirit": *What will inevitably happen as the years go by ... will be urbanization.* (April 22, 1991)

Bob Mason: We really have to come back to the community. And we have to talk about options for the use of those [green] lands. Certainly we're proposing at least the four options identified on the board:

1) The sale of land for parks. This program is predicated on us being able to sell a portion of the land for parks. We have an obligation under the Municipal Act when we do a subdivision to provide a certain amount of land for parks. What we would propose is that we would provide much more than that minimum level.

2) In addition, we would dedicate land for parks.

3) There would be land undoubtedly made available for community services, and by community services I'm talking about schools, active playgrounds,

areas that the community would determine it had a need for.

4) And, of course, there is ongoing forest management.

Jim Finkbeiner, MB "spirit": *The main value is in the land [not the trees]. People are buying to retire on the island. These are people with lots of money. They are banking for their future needs.* (April 22, 1991)

Bob Mason: The precise mix and the precise location of all these activities really has to be considered over time. It's something I'd like everyone to reflect on. And it will certainly be a topic of discussion.

There are a number of areas that are outstanding, that would require resolution before this plan could become a reality. From a technical perspective we'll have to determine that there's water available; we can't be taking someone else's water. And that we have not done as yet.

Similarly, we have to determine that there is sufficient capacity of the land to address the issue of sewer, be it by septic tank or be it by sewer system in certain instances; we really haven't got that far.

Similarly, we have to take this plan through the community process. It has to be adopted; we have to ... it will require an amendment to the Subdivision.

There are a number of issues which will have to be resolved before this plan can become a reality. But I think that it may serve, I hope that it does serve as a basis that we can go forward with. I think that fundamentally we can create out of this a plan that the people of Galiano are proud of, that the shareholders and employees of Intrawest are proud of, that the shareholders and employees of MacMillan Bloedel are proud of.

I think that it's a plan that we can develop into something which will secure the future of Galiano Island in perpetuity [Ed. emphasis] ...and I think that that as well is something that is very important. Thank you very much. [Applause]

* * * *

COMING NEXT ISSUE . . .

ACT THREE: *CROSS-EXAMINATION*

[Sample]:

Geoff Gaylor: Mr. Mason, are you aware of the petition that was addressed to this Council that was circulated on Galiano this last summer?

Bob Mason: Which petition is that? I mean, I'm certainly aware of one that was cir . . . could you read me the preface on that?

Geoff Gaylor: The preface is that "We the undersigned oppose any large scale development on Galiano Island which exceeds the limits set by the present Community Plan." You are aware of this?

Bob Mason: I am aware of that. Yes.

Geoff Gaylor: Are you aware that this petition was signed by over 1200 people?

& ACT FOUR: *VOICE OF THE ISLAND*

[Samples]:

Woody Coward: I was one of the co-authors of Bylaw 128 which is the Official Community Plan. . . The parts of the Plan that permit subdivision are later on and clearly prohibit, clearly prohibit (and the authors of the Plan intended this), prohibit any, any, repeat, any subdivision in that part of the Plan which is currently zoned Forest Reserve. [Applause]

* * * *

Enid Gaylor: One thing I'd like to ask, have you dropped the idea completely and forevermore of having a resort on Galiano? ... Now come on, no fluffing around, this time, the truth. Yes or no ... Because I've never heard so much bull in all my life. ☺

LEST WE FORGET

Dear Member, Prospective Member or Donor,

The time has come again to thank you for your past support and to ask for your continued financial support to further the aims of The Galiano Island Chamber of Commerce.

Recent controversies concerning tourism on Galiano have caused some friction in our community, and we wish to eliminate this friction while conforming with your wishes. There is no doubt in our minds that following the recent public meeting called by the Galiano Island Visitors Association (GIVA), that the local general public wishes Galiano to be promoted only in a very low key way and only as support for the already existing (or currently proposed) tourist facilities. There seems to be very little support for any mass advertising campaign to promote Galiano.

The purpose of the Chamber, according to our Charter, is "to promote and improve trade and commerce and the economic, civic and social welfare of Galiano Island." It is not just the promotion of business, and your present directors do not believe that Galiano's civic and social welfare will be improved by increased trade, especially tourism. This paradox explains why your Chamber is sometimes accused of "doing nothing". We believe that "doing nothing" quietly is sometimes a suitable course of action.

We do, and will continue, to attend to the ongoing civic problems such as roads, Hydro, ferries, parks, etc. But by and large we do not have major problems at this time in these areas; except of course for the MacMillan Bloedel issue, which we believe is better handled by the Clear Cut Alternatives group, which has been formed specifically for this purpose. We feel that the Ferry service is basically satisfactory and we have a representative on their transportation committee. (If you want any more service you will just get more tourists!)

We intend to hold a semi-formal fund raising dinner-dance in the near future and hope you will attend.

Yours truly,
P.D.(Jim) Scoones, President
Galiano Island Chamber of Commerce

Note: The above letter was sent February 16, 1989.

News from the Courts...

Another Victory for Conservation Zoning Builds on Galiano Appeal Court Decision

Following along the trail blazed by Galiano Trustees to defend conservation-minded zoning, the City of North Vancouver has won a sweeping decision for all municipalities in the province. The Supreme Court of British Columbia has reinforced the right to zone land with no residential use when the community believes that conservation uses are more important than more houses.

As on Galiano, the people of North Vancouver supported new bylaws to restrict residential use on undeveloped land that was valued more highly by the community for its non-residential uses. Also, just as on Galiano, the big landowner then sued the local government and lost.

Here on Galiano, it was Canada's largest private landowner (MacMillan Bloedel) that was itching to go to court. In North Vancouver, Canada's public landowner, through the federal Crown corporation Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), began the litigation.

Curiously enough, Peter Voith, the same lawyer who had acted for MacBlo, represented CMHC.

Ringling with phrases familiar from the assault on Galiano's bylaws, Mr. Voith charged that North Vancouver counsellors had enacted the bylaws with an ulterior motive, had acted in unseemly haste and had adopted the bylaws in bad faith. He argued that the bylaws were unlawful and discriminatory because they applied only to one large landowner. He alleged that the bylaws unfairly harmed the economic interests of his client because they devalued the land. And he accused the local community of just wanting a park without compensating the property owner.

In her judgment Madame Justice Mary Humphries dismissed all claims made by Mr. Voith. Again and again, she cited the decision of the BC Court of Appeal in MacMillan Bloedel vs. the Galiano Island Trust Committee (1995). She found that there is no doubt that the purpose of Council in enacting the bylaws was to restrict development in this area and prevent large scale development generally [concluding] "I am satisfied that the bylaws were passed for the purpose of regulating land use, and were thus in accord with the powers granted to the municipality under the Municipal Act."

Madam Justice Humphries drew clear direction from Galiano's Appeal Court victory: "Although the

powers given under the Islands Trust Act [to preserve and protect] were much different from those under the Municipal Act, I am concerned not with the specific powers but with the scope of review. The principles in that respect are the same." Now citizens in every municipality in British Columbia can look to local land use regulation to protect environmental values even if it means rezoning to eliminate residential use.

As for Mr. Voith and his client, CMHC is seeking an appeal, apparently not satisfied that justice has been done until every legal recourse has been exhausted. With taxpayers footing the bills for both CMHC and for the City of North Vancouver, we can only hope that this decision stands and that it sends a message far and wide to put an end to bully-boy litigation tactics.

Another Victory for the Freedom of Speech Halts Notorious SLAPP*

* Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation

In a landmark ruling, the Ontario Court has found that the Friends of the Lubicon consumer boycott against multinational Daishowa was legal. Winning this pivotal case empowers citizens with the right to speak out against environmental injustice free from harassment from wealthy corporations.

And please join us in extending a special toast to the Friends' champion in the courtroom, Sierra Legal Defence's star advocate Karen Wristen.

The Alberta government granted logging rights to industrial forestry giant Daishowa on traditional lands of the Lubicon Cree Nation which were still subject to treaty negotiation. Before long a few alarmed citizens organized the Friends of the Lubicon to begin a consumer boycott in Toronto, targeting the paper bags made by Daishowa.

Four years later when the campaign had gained a perceptible following, Daishowa filed suit against the Friends, claiming international interference with economic relations and that the protest should be restrained by the courts. Despite a long unpleasant ordeal, the Friends endured wearying litigation on behalf of all who might wish to express opinion in civic discourse or urge a new course of action free of corporate intimidation.

In his decision Justice James MacPherson noted that the protection of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms must be extended to protect political expression on issues of public importance. "The plight of the Lubicon is precisely the type of issue that should generate widespread public discussion," said MacPherson. As the *Globe and Mail* pointed out in an editorial, "That's what democracy is all about." ☺

TRUST COUNCIL OBSERVER

by Linda Millard

The unusual Islands Trust Act was unanimously enacted by the BC Legislature in 1974. It followed a 10 acre freeze on land in the Gulf Islands and the search for a mechanism to protect these special areas from the inappropriate development which was destroying their unique natural beauty and rural way of life.

The Islands Trust Act has since evolved to facilitate carrying out its “*preserve and protect*” mandate. Two Trustees are elected from each of the 13 major Trust Island groups. These 26 Trustees together form the Trust Council, which meets quarterly to formulate policy, debate and approve budgets, and generally direct the Trust. From among the 26 Trustees an executive, consisting of a chair and 3 vice-chairs, are elected to carry out the Trust Policies on a day to day basis. An executive member also acts as the chair and third member of each of the 13 Local Trust Committees, to represent the provincial interest.

The December Trust Council Meeting is held in Victoria but the other 3 meetings are rotated between the 13 main islands. Thus Trustees are given an opportunity to visit the other islands and see first hand some of their special places and their special problems.

Trust Council meetings include workshops such as the ones in June on Gabriola. The topics there were: (1) the **Forest Sector Profile** commissioned through funding from Forest Renewal BC; (2) discussions on crown land allocation to island groups for Woodlots, with Janna Kuni, Assistant Deputy Minister, BC Ministry of Forests; and (3) presentations by the Trust legal counsel, Don Lidstone, on various legal issues affecting Trustees such as Trespass, Liability, Intimidation and SLAPPs (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation). One day of each 2 1/2 day Trust Council Meeting is devoted to the official business meeting, during which public delegations are heard, motions made, discussed and approved or not.

One cannot help but be impressed with the dedication and concern most Trustees bring to their elected positions. This is shown during the many hours of discussion and debate. The present chair is pleased the binders of information for trustees are getting smaller, but the problems which the Islands face, and Trustees must grapple with, only increase in number and complexity.

Although the mandate of the Trust “*to preserve*

and protect” is frequently mentioned, other pressures seem to influence discussions more. These pressures include: (1) the constant pressure by developers on and off the Islands to profit from the relatively undeveloped state of the islands; (2) the press of population and tourism increase on limited and fragile resources of water, land and services; (3) the various demands of residents, often regarding problems or services not under the legal jurisdiction of the Trust; (4) threats of lawsuits when individuals or companies are unable to use their land for maximum personal profit, as they would like; and (5) the perceived unwillingness of taxpayers to pay for adequate planning support to meet these pressures. This perception is often the result of personal vociferous attacks against individual Trustees or the Trust in general. Such attacks usually focus on complaints of excessive taxes, or excessive regulation or demands for expensive votes, or other special services for small populations in remote locations.

Trustees are paid \$5,340 a year, plus expenses, for varying work loads. This low rate of pay for often long hours of work (essentially volunteer work) means that only people with modest needs and no dependents are able to take on this job. Generally it means that those who run for Trustee must either be devoted to the Trust mandate or feel they may be able to further their own business interests through influence on Trust Council and Local Trust Committee decisions. Fortunately, there usually are people on most Islands who cherish these special Islands we live on and want to support and implement the mandate of the Trust.

All these influences are reflected in Trust Council deliberations. The Islands Trust Act has provided these special Islands with a very direct democratic government for land use planning. Democracy, and especially such direct democracy, allows Galiano to have 2 representatives for less than 1,000 voters. This means that individuals may have a powerful effect on decisions made by their elected representatives, if they choose. This should be just what democracy is all about. But it also puts a responsibility on all citizens to use that power well. Trustees need to be supported in reaching decisions that are good for the community as a whole, including visitors and future generations. Thoughtful, informed advice reflecting long term community goals, not just personal financial desires, is needed. Also, not just those with problems or complaints but those with support, praise and constructive ideas need to express themselves. We are all so fortunate to be able to live here or visit this special and beautiful Island and unusual community under this unique form of government. Let's show we deserve this great privilege by doing our share. ☺

Breakfast on the 17th Fairway

Written and illustrated by Winifred Ann Bock
Used by permission

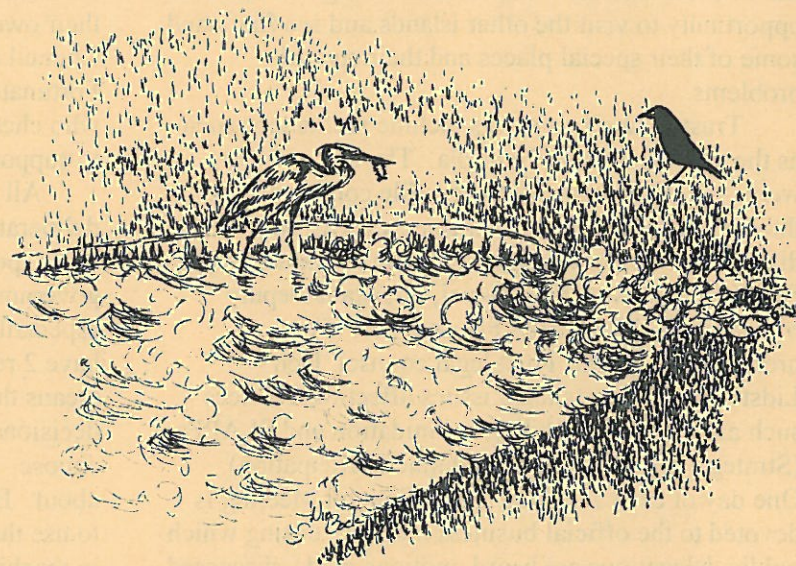
There are a couple of ways to do this. One would be to say this morning I saw a Great Blue Heron catch some fish and a large raven came along with other ideas. On the other hand, I could do it this way.

It was early. The sun was up but it had only just begun to hit the highest curves of fairway grass. The lake was choppy and foamy due to a wind that had been blowing all night and still blew. I thought the ducks and such were around the corner, finding shelter elsewhere, because none was in sight. And then I saw the movement that was that bird with everything long — long pencil-thin legs, long elegant white chest feathers accentuating a preposterously long neck, long sharp beak and the black feather pushing rakishly back off the top of his head. The sight of this bird makes your breath suck in. When you first see him you figure you've been transferred to another time in a far more delicate place. It's more than you expect, even for a wild thing called the Great Blue Heron.

There was nothing ethereal about this heron's mission this morning. It was strictly business and strictly stomach-related. The skinny, elbow-hinged, flat-footed legs made long pacing strides through the shallows and waves and then came to a slow motion halt. The neck disappeared. Down periscope. The shoulders became menacingly taut. The beak was so parallel to the streamline of the compact torso that it was lost to view. Just a large football shape on top of spindle-twig legs. And in a flash, faster than the blink of your eye, the neck had unfolded and there was a fish in that beak, and after a few swaggering neck turns, the fish was down the hatch. Whole. No chewing, no salt or pepper, no squeeze of lemon. Believe me. No dainty napkin applied to fastidious lips hiding the fact that something as wide as it was long went down that passage. Burp. How satisfying could it be, you wonder? In fact there seemed to be discomfort, or something like annoyance, as the meal not at all subtly headed for the equator along an incredibly narrow longitude. You wish he could take a drink. And then of course he did, and the long-paced striding recommenced. Another sip. The beak went down and then it tipped all the way back in one graceful movement, and the head gave a shiver. Whew. Glad that's over.

Overhead, an enormous and ravenous raven arrived. Rumor had already spread that they were biting at the lake on the 17th fairway. Not always known as a place fish hang out as it was for golfers to watch their balls sink into irretrievable mud, this morning there was trout on the breakfast menu. All fish are trout to me until someone says different. This may not have been trout; any knowledgeable fisherperson would probably recognize it. For certain our circling raven recognized fish for breakfast. He landed about 10 feet from the water's edge.

I'm just so curious to know what that old raven had to say to that old heron. Now I don't actually know if these guys were old or not. I just use old as a term of endearment and as a word of great respect. Moreover, that old heron was again standing awfully still. Right before our eyes and before our eyes could really focus, he speared another fish. Both "Nevermore" and I had to blink to be sure, and to be sure, there he was, ankle-deep in that water, holding second helpings right there in his beak and looking a little sheepish about it. I know what you're thinking, how can you tell when a heron looks, well, a little sheepish? You'll just have to trust me on this that this bird had bitten off more than he could chew, and/or swallow. An embarrassment of riches, as they say. And I also know he wished that old raven wasn't



flapping around just then. Because simultaneously it was apparent that while he wanted some more time to digest what had already transpired, he was not in a public-spirited mood. Old Nevermore wasn't as savvy as he could have been or he would have saved his breath.

But it's his breath I think I overheard. I really feel sure I heard him start in talking about the fine weather, about the beneficial trajectory of the sun just then (appealing to his sporting nature, you see, hoping

to promote the buddy-buddy idea), about the totally cool thermals over at the bluff this morning, and then, *how all the little ravens back at the nest sure were hungry*. Now he hadn't meant to say that. He really hadn't held up the pretense nearly as long as he had intended to. It all just came tumbling out, and it was because just as he began talking that old heron had stepped delicately up onto land and intentionally laid that still-flopping fish down on the fairway grass. It was enough to destroy the best intentions of the most adroit member of the diplomatic corps. And ordinarily this raven was the soul of diplomacy; you can tell because he started out talking about the weather first when you know he had something else in mind. But the sight of that shiny jewel of a meal wiggling within a few feet of his own wingtips, as it were, was disarming, was his undoing, I mean, he began to drool. Immediately realizing his error, he hopped back several hops, laughing nervously. "All a big joke don't you know, I'm not really even married. It's actually not my cup of tea so to speak, and who knows what to do with all those bones really anyway, and speaking of that, what would happen if one got stuck in one's throat and all?" He knew he had a valid point here, in light of the throat in question, and I believe it just

might have given that heron a moment's pause. But, you know, that's all it gave him, because just as Old Nevermore hopped forward again twice with a foxy gleam in his eye, that fish was gone, bye-bye, same struggle, same lack of fanfare, same long journey south, same trouble getting over the border into Mexico. I stood transfixed. I wanted, I felt I deserved a little more majesty, a bit less "so there", I think. So much for the nobility of the species. The heron did it out of spite. He didn't really want it, I know he didn't, not so soon, you know?

That's really all. That old heron lifted up on his toes and flew low right out over Nevermore's head after that. He didn't stop to have another drink, although I think he desperately may have wanted one, to help wash it all down as before. He left in what looked like a hurry and I suspect even forgot to pay the cashier. It was just the slightest bit clumsy. I bet getting all those leg joints and feather flaps organized is no easy task under the best of circumstances, and on *this morning's flight*, HeronAir carried some excess baggage. And then Old Nevermore took a last look around, gave a short hop and was away on a current of air of his own. I saw it, it happened just like that. ☺

INTERACTIVE

The Costa Geriatrica

Dear Archipelago,

I have been lucky enough to stay on your island for the last three weeks and I have been amazed at how a place of such natural beauty and tranquility can exist so close to a major city.

Conversations with residents and articles in local newspapers have made me all too aware of the fact that every square inch of the island has conflicting demands upon it; as elsewhere in BC the party is over and the notion of limitless land and resources is a thing of the past.

Back in England I have been involved with a community that saved the last mile of undeveloped coast in a 40 mile stretch. Elders in the community are bewildered at the despoliation of a once dramatic coastline in less than a lifetime.

Proximity to London, greed, and the idea the "just one more development" wouldn't hurt, have created a featureless sprawl. Many of these developments are unaffordable for the original occupants of the area who have been pushed out into housing estates and a mix of ages and cultures has been lost. It has earned the title "The Costa Geriatrica".

INTERACTIVE

I hope that Galiano doesn't give in to short term thinking and become an island suburb. Any development must be truly sustainable and indeed affordable if you want to remain a vibrant and viable community and one that doesn't trash its greatest assets of forest and marine environment. Tourism is the world's biggest industry now and if you want my tourist dollar you have to have a pretty good reason for me to choose this particular island.

What you have here is unique. Don't let it become just anywhere.

Yours sincerely,
Mark Mansbridge
Lewes, East Sussex, England

THANKS ARCHIPELAGO

Attn. Greg Foster

The Spring '98 edition is excellent. I hope you and your staff can keep it up. Please apply the enclosed to your efforts.

Best regards,
Harry & Elaine Lipetz

WHAT ARE WE COMING TO ?

Dear Editor,

This summer has seen some of the lowest blows in Galiano history. For the first time in our long residency on this once-quiet island, my husband and I are actually ashamed to be living here.

The first was signs by RAMCO: Residents Against Millard and the Conservancy. They were accompanied by FREE THE BEACHES FOR ALL painted slogans and destruction of private property around the entrance to Cable Bay/Pebble Beach. Before long additional signs appeared – RACMOB: Residents Against Conservancy Monopolizing Our Beaches. Their posting and associated vandalism has been a clandestine campaign, under investigation by Constable Paul West, I am happy to learn.

How fitting that at the same time this undercover attempt was being made to damage their reputation, the Millards were chosen by the *students* at Galiano School to receive the Environmental Award, "for their work and dedication to the Pebble Beach project". I believe the students' choice is wholeheartedly endorsed by the growing host of islanders who have been privileged to work with Ken and Linda in an atmosphere of encouragement, friendship and good will down through the years.

RACMOB

**RESIDENTS AGAINST
CONSERVANCY
MONOPOLIZING
OUR BEACHES!**

It doesn't take a great deal of intelligence to see that the sign campaign is a blatant attempt to discredit the Conservancy, an organization consistently with the largest membership on the island, and to cover up the fact that the only real beach closure on Galiano (Dionysio Point) is the work of Forest Zone owners who are holding the island hostage to their demands for a free hand in subdividing the former MB lands.

Thanks to the unflagging labours of the Millards and the Conservancy Association, the Pebble Beach area is one of the few beaches/coastal properties on Galiano that have indeed been freed from the clutches of uncompromising Forest Zone owners, to be preserved for the enjoyment of the entire community in perpetuity. Safeguarding the 10,000-year old native trail – and the privilege for all future generations to

RAMCO

RESIDENTS AGAINST MILLARD AND THE CONSERVANCY!

be able to walk it – should be a number one priority for all islanders truly interested in the preservation of Galiano heritage.

Thank you, Conservancy Association, for helping to keep the cars on our abundance of roads and off our threatened legacy of trails.

Name Withheld On Request

UNEXPURGATED VERSION OF A LETTER TO THE VANCOUVER SUN

Dear Sir:

Speaking of dogs . . . I was crouched on the ground in Montague Provincial Park on Galiano Island drawing a calypso orchid when a pair of walkers appeared, one of whose dogs jumped on me, my paper, and the plant. I asked the people please to restrain their dog, especially for the benefit of the rare orchid.

I was given no apology but was berated, in a strong English accent, for being one of those unwelcome environmentalists who come to the island to prevent taxpayers from enjoying "their" island. As a botanical artist, I am often on my knees with painting gear beside me, and am used to having water, paints, and paper upset by rambunctious and unleashed dogs, but I resent destruction of native flora, reserved for all the people of B.C., by an unrestrained and far too numerous dog population.

I was informed that these plants were not rare because they were "everywhere" in the park. I have never seen more than a dozen and Montague Park is one of the few places in B.C. where one can still find them, so the opinions of the ignorant carry little weight.

The vitriolic attack to which I was subjected leads me to believe that Galiano has not escaped the land wars occasioned in the province by the over-cutting of its heritage of natural forest cover. And, the attitude of some of the inhabitants tarnishes the idea of the laid back, west coast paradise – at least for "environmentalists".

Lesley R. Bohm (Mrs.)