



The New NIPR Newsletter

Volume II | Issue 2 | September 2023 | North Island-Powell River Greens

Oh, Hey There!

Hi Friends! Whew – it’s been a while since our last issue. Apologies for that. A lot has happened since March, and we are looking forward to sharing the highlights with you here.

We hope that, in these pages, you find stories that challenge, motivate, and inspire. And we want you to know that we are here, we are working, and we are listening.

We acknowledge that we are based on stolen land on the traditional, ancestral territories of many different First Nations, including the We Wai Kai, Wei Wai Kum, Homalco, K’ómoks, Tla’amin, Kwakuitl, and Gwa’sala’Nakwaxda’xw Namgis.

~ Carol, Jay, Jessica, Larry, Linda, Mark, Sue, & Susan

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Our AGM was a great success!

For the first time in a few years, the annual general meeting for the North Island-Powell River Greens was held in person...with an extra twist: it was also offered simultaneously online via Zoom! This “hybrid” approach was a first for NIPR, and though not many joined us online, it was a success.

The meeting was held on May 6, 2023 in the beautiful Maritime Heritage Centre on the Campbell River waterfront with a total of 59 people in attendance. We were especially honoured by the presence of party leader, Elizabeth May and her husband John Kidder, by Hereditary Chief Gigame George Quocksister, Jr. of the Laichkwiltach Nation, and by Rainbow Eyes (Angela Davidson) of the Da'naxda'xw-Awaetlala First Nation near Knight Inlet.

Included in the business portion of the meeting was the adoption of the 2022 Financial Report, and approval of a proposal to simplify future AGMs through an amendment to our Constitution. (The amendment has been subsequently approved unanimously by the overall NIPR Green membership via an email ballot.) A new board of directors was elected, which saw all six of the old board re-elected plus two new members: Jessica Wegg from Comox and Sue Moen from Campbell River.

Following the business meeting, we were treated to a rousing presentation by Elizabeth May, who had travelled from Ottawa to join us. Elizabeth talked about the importance of the Green Party to Canada's democracy, and touched on a number of current issues facing the country. After a lively Q&A she conducted one of her famous “Dutch auctions” raising over \$10,000 in half an hour to help finance our efforts to get a NIPR Green MP into Ottawa when the next election is called.

Elizabeth was joined at the podium by NIPR's newly minted candidate Jessica Wegg, who spoke passionately about building relationships and finding ways to work together with people of all stripes to build a better democracy for Canada, and especially to take powerful steps to deal with the many crises emanating from the climate crisis threatening human civilization.

It was a delight to be able to meet fellow Greens again in person, sharing our common love for the principles of our party, and to sense the growing excitement about our party as it renews itself and prepares to offer Canadians a real and viable alternative to the politics of partisanship, division and inaction on the enormous challenges before us all.

(Submitted by Mark de Bruijn)



Elizabeth May and John Kidder in conversation with Hereditary Chief George Quocksister, Jr.

Canada Day in NIPR

After a two-year COVID break, North Island Greens from Campbell River, Comox, and Port McNeill again descended on the Campbell River Firemen's Annual Canada Day Pancake Breakfast to supervise their recycling centre.

With over 1000 Campbell Riverites partaking of sausages, pancakes and coffee, a tsunami of paper plates and cups, plastic cutlery, napkins, refundable bottles, food scraps, unused butter paddies and creamers had to be properly sorted and bagged. And that was the job for the small but mighty Green team who'd stepped forward and volunteered to do the job.

To give this year's recycling efforts an extra shot of Green fun, especially for the kids, Annie Smith, a new NIPR volunteer, and NIPR Membership Director, Carol McCuaig (previously Thatcher) came up with a really cool "I went Green today!" handprinting activity. Trays of green paint and a large stand covered with a white sheet were set up next to the recycling station. To commemorate their part in recycling, people enthusiastically dipped a hand into a tray of green tempera paint and left their print on the sheet, walking away wearing an "I went Green today!" button. By the end of the 2-hour breakfast we had collected hundreds of handprints and given out almost 200 buttons.

What a fun way to celebrate Canada's birthday, making a positive contribution and connecting with our community. See you next year, Canada!

(Submitted by Mark de Bruijn)



Awesome August Festivals

August was jam-packed with festivals in the North Island, and we did our best to represent the NIPR Greens whenever we could. This year, we had a tent at the Powell River Blackberry Festival on August 18th, and then we zoomed back up to the North Island for a tent at OrcaFest the next day. At these two events, we used a sticker board to find out what constituents are concerned about – [check out the results on the next page!](#) On August 26th, we marched with the BC Greens for Courtenay-Comox in the Pride Parade. The NIPR Greens love, support, stand with, and fully welcome all members of the LGBTQIA2S+ Community.

Port McNeill OrcaFest

Given recent Covid restrictions and the slow return to normalcy, the 2023 Port McNeill OrcaFest was a huge success. The town's positive energy was palpable. This year's theme was "Celebrating Community". The best small communities exude the feeling that everyone is your neighbour and friend, the understanding that community members will support each other during challenging times. Events like OrcaFest bring even the most distant neighbours together.

The North Island Powell River GPC's booth at this year's OrcaFest was hosted by Port McNeill resident Linda Ash, NIPR Electoral District Association Director and North Island Representative. Visiting from the Comox Valley were GPC NIPR candidate Jessica Wegg and CEO of the NIPR EDA Mark De Bruijn. From Powell River came NIPR EDA Financial Agent Susan Short and husband Steve Short.

The Green booth was easily one of the busiest at the festival, possibly because visitors to the booth were given the means to communicate the issues uppermost in their minds. Mark De Bruijn's interactive poster titled "Our Home, Our Community, Our Future" listed nineteen social, environmental and political issues, with the option to rank them from most important to least important.

The interactive poster was a remarkable success. It gave the local GPC Electoral District Association an understanding of voter's top concerns and it helped visitors to the booth overcome any shyness that they might have had about conversing with our candidate Jessica Wegg. Our booth also launched the new GPC men's and women's tee shirts designed and produced by Canadian company Kindred Coast. These new tees are made in Canada, of organic cotton and bamboo.

(Submitted by Linda Ash)



STICKER BOARD POSTER RESULTS

The first set of figures is the number of stickers/issue with values in formula
 The second set of figures is the overall ranking ie. Most important to less important

	POWELL R. BLACKBERRY FESTIVAL August 18, 2023					PORT MCNEILL ORCA FEST August 19, 2023				
	Green	Yellow	Blue	Red		Red	Green	Yellow	Blue	
ISSUES --choice preference	1	2	3	4	Total Points	1	2	3	4	Total Points
POINTS awarded for each choice	4	3	2	1		4	3	2	1	
Housing for all	15	6	5	5	93	12	6	6	9	87
Reconciliation with First Nations	5	5	7	6	55	5	5	6	6	53
Electoral Reform/Prop.Rep.	7	6	6	10	68	6	2	1	1	33
Climate Emergency Action	16	8	6	8	108	12	7	6	5	86
Equal health care for all	2	7	6	2	43	23	6	9	5	133
End poverty	4	4	3	4	38	2	9	6	4	51
Income security/G Liveable Inc.	4	4	5	2	40	1	8	9	7	53
Stop logging old growth, etc.	6	7	1	3	50	1	1	5	7	24
Salmon Farms out of the ocean	3	3	5	3	34	8	1	4	6	49
Fentanyl crisis plan/action	3	2	4	3	29	5	12	2	6	66
Nat.Pharm, mental health, add.	2	2	7	1	29	3	5	5	5	42
Free education	1	2	3	5	21	1	8	4	5	41
Clean energy/green jobs	2	4	6	4	36	1	4	4	3	27
Food security	2	6	0	5	31	3	7	6	7	52
End fossil fuel subsidies	1	4	6	2	30	0	0	4	2	10
No more pipelines	0	1	1	4	9	0	1	1	4	9
Stop fracking & LNG	1	2	1	4	16	0	1	1	1	6
OTHER - BC Ferries				1	1					
OTHER - Pursue nuclear energy										
	1				4					

Field Trip to the Broughton

One of the most fabulous regions of the North Island-Powell River electoral district is undoubtedly the Broughton Archipelago, a maze of 200+ islands located at the upper end of Johnston Strait off Telegraph Cove and Port McNeill. Wedged against the Coast Mountains, the inky-green rainforest slopes steeply to the living sea. A remote area with few human communities, it has a long and ancient 1st Nations history.

Recently, Linda, Carol and I (all board members for the NIPR EDA) had the enormous privilege and pleasure of a first-hand tour of parts of this amazing region. We'd been invited aboard the Auklet, a tough little custom-built boat owned and piloted by our friend and experienced mariner and scientist, Neil Frazer. Our main objective was to visit the iconic Orca Lab on Hanson Island, and the Salmon Coast Field Station near Echo Bay.

Orca Lab was founded in 1970 by Paul Spong and his wife, Helena Symonds. As a young zoology student at that time, I remember hearing of this remote and almost mystical outpost attempting to do some of the first research on wild orcas. Ever since, I've dreamed of visiting the place, a wish that was finally fulfilled.

The young volunteers and students who staff the lab come from all over the world, and we were introduced to France, Germany, the UK and Japan. Along with Paul and Helena they monitor the movements and behaviour of two main populations of orcas that frequent the area with a network of observation posts, hydrophones and underwater cameras. Their research has produced the world's largest and longest continuous data sets of whale songs, and helped to deepen our understanding and respect for these majestic creatures.

We were just sitting down with Paul, Helena and 3 of the volunteers for a scrumptious meal of Linda's lasagna when the remaining volunteer on observation duty shattered the evening air with the cry, "Orca!" Everyone scrambled to the deck and, grabbing a spotting scope or binoculars, we were treated for about 20 minutes to the beautiful spectacle of 6-8 orcas steaming up the channel before us. When they'd passed from sight we returned to our dinner, but 10 minutes later another "Orca!" splintered our ears. Again we rushed out, and this time a pod of about 20 Biggs orca (the mammal-eating subtype formerly known as transients) rolled through the channel in the opposite direction. And on their far side a large humpback lazily slid through the waters, nonplussed by the nearby orca. It was so far beyond our expectations we could hardly believe it had happened.

What an evening!

The next day we travelled to the famed Salmon Coast Field Station, the original home of its famous founder Alexandra Morton. Alex has been researching the destructive effects of salmon farms on wild salmon for decades, and is largely credited with doing the delicate research that eventually led to the recent removal of nearly all the farms in the Discovery Islands and the Broughton. As expected, there are clear signs that the wild fish numbers are rebounding, though it's still too early to conclude that farm removal is the only reason. We spent the better part of two delightful days hanging out with the three young researchers presently at the lab, sharing stories, learning about their important work, and reflecting on the possibilities of an enlightened politics.

Though whales and salmon were the reason we were there, for me the highlight of our time was meeting the young volunteers and researchers who live at these amazing stations. Their vibrancy, passion, intelligence, curiosity and optimism were so inspiring, as they dedicate their lives with open minds and warm, caring hearts to the future well-being of our planet.

We visitors all felt hugely uplifted and filled with gratitude for the privilege of meeting these incredible people, living in the wild majesty of these islands.

What a trip!

Thanks, Neil, for making it possible.

Mark de Bruijn

September 6, 2023



Neil, Carol,
Linda, &
Paul



Researchers
at work at
Orca Lab



Orca Lab,
Hanson
Island

News from the Campaign Trail

Hi everyone, Jessica here. I am so honoured to be representing NIPR for the Green Party of Canada whenever the next election rolls around. We had so many interesting and wonderful conversations with people from across our riding this summer, and we are eager to start canvassing and are looking forward to more such interactions.

I am very excited to let you know that I have teamed up with Don Goodeve for this next go-around. He is my new campaign manager, and I couldn't have found someone better. Don and I met during the previous election – he was very active with Extinction Rebellion, and we wound up at a lot of the same events. (He also let me use his house as a sign depot in Campbell River ☺)

Don helped organize the XR Funeral for the Future event in Victoria in November 2021, and he, Clara (my daughter, who happened to turn 5 that day), and I joined David Suzuki as pallbearers in that symbolic march through the capital. We share the same passion for addressing the climate emergency and for finding joy and hope in music.

Read more about Don at his website by clicking [HERE](#).

And please - JOIN OUR TEAM! We need as many volunteers as we can get. In short, WE NEED YOU!!!



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CALL TO ACTION: RALLY, MARCH, & SIGN WAVE FOR OLD GROWTH

Thursday, September 28

DEMAND ACTION FOR OLD GROWTH!

3 years ago, the NDP government promised to change BC forestry and prioritize ecosystem health over short-term gain. That promise has not been kept. BC'S OLD-GROWTH FORESTS ARE STILL BEING LOGGED!

Thursday, September 28 3-4:30 pm on the Courthouse Lawn in Courtenay

NEW GPC MERCH DROP!

Check out our snazzy new GPC t-shirts (organic cotton tees in unisex, women's, and women's bamboo tanks made on the Island by Kindred Coast) and contact Carol or Susan Short to purchase yours while they last!



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

General Inquiries or Comments and Newsletter Submissions: northislandgreens@gmail.com

Volunteer Opportunities and Volunteering: northislandgreens@greenparty.ca

Donation Questions: susaneshort20@gmail.com

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