

The NIPR Newsletter



North Island - Powell River



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Welcome to our quarterly newsletter

Hello fellow Greens! We've had a fairly busy summer – you'll find some of the details here. We're also looking forward, reviewing issues and making plans. In each issue we try to present thoughtful articles that help to define what it means to be Green. Check out "Inside This Issue". We hope you find our quarterly newsletter to be informative and interesting. Please feel free to engage with us through our website ([NIPR Greens](http://NIPR.Greens)) or via email (northislandgreens@gmail.com).

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, Kwakwilt, and Gwa'sala'Nakwaxda'xw Namgis.

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

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Canada Day Fun

We were proud to be part of the **Canada Day** celebrations this year in Powell River at Willingdon Beach and in downtown Campbell River at Shoppers Row. It was fun to see everyone going past with flags and painted faces and big smiles.

In Powell River our volunteers introduced our candidate Jessica Wegg to potential voters young and old (left). In Campbell River we enticed quite a few folks of all ages to “go green today” and put a green handprint on our mural. This was a repeat of last year’s mural when we were responsible for the recycling at the Firemens’ annual Pancake Breakfast.



Mark de Bruijn made a sturdy wooden frame to put our community murals on and we now have 3 murals painted that can be used at different events as backdrops or banners around the electoral district.

Campbell River Salmonfest

On August 10, the mural concept was to bring salmon back to the event dominated by Logger Sports and Highland Games by painting salmon swimming up the Campbell River. Young Claire took great care to paint a realistic riverbed and contributed 3 colorful salmon. She proved to be a patient instructor for our young artists who stopped by to contribute their salmon.

At both events NIPR volunteers were busy either helping with the mural projects or talking with people about our Green values and policies and listening to their concerns. **Thank you to everyone who responded to the call to help out and be present in the community.**

Canada Day Volunteers: Ricky Larson, Linda Wrightson, Kathy Slater, Linda Ash, Don Goodeve, Annie Smith, Mark de Bruijn, Jessica Wegg, Larry McCumsey, Sheryl McCumsey, Susan Short and Steve Short

Salmonfest Volunteers: Kenny Enns, Judy Hoepfner, Linda Wrightson, Jen Bowlby, Michael Mascall and Melanie, Carol McCuaig, Mark de Bruijn, Jay van Oostdam, Annie Smith, Jessica, Jon, and Claire Wegg.



Elizabeth May visits North Island

Not since Joe Clark's visit in 1979 has the leader of a national party visited the North Island. Elizabeth May broke the drought! What a whirlwind! In less than 48 hours Elizabeth and Jessica Wegg, North Island Powell River candidate, travelled to three different communities on two ferries and met many residents. The welcome was warm, and the conversations were important.



First on the itinerary was a short ferry ride to Sointula on Malcolm Island and Coho Joe's Cafe, the social hub of the island. Elizabeth and Jessica met with residents, sharing coffee, breakfast and



enlightening conversations about the issues that matter most to this small and close-knit community. Many Sointula folk are

descended from the Finnish settlers of 1901, who were in search of utopia. I believe the current settlers will say they have found it!

That evening another event included a meet and greet with residents of Port McNeill at the Gatehouse Theatre. Rainbow Eyes, Deputy Leader of the Green Party of Canada, welcomed us eloquently to her territory, followed by Mayor James Furney's kind introductions.

Musical duo Josie and Larry from Alert Bay performed throughout the evening and were accompanied by Elizabeth's husband John Kidder, on guitar. Larry's brother Steve is John's oldest friend from school days, and it was pure coincidence that they met again at this event. The duo turned into a quartet, and their great music inspired enthusiastic singing from the audience.



Elizabeth and Jessica met with Jackie Hildering, aka The Marine Detective and cofounder of Marine Education and Research Society based in Port McNeill. MERS is dedicated to promoting conservation and understanding of marine ecosystems through scientific research, environmental education, and marine wildlife response.

Tuesday, clear and sunny, began with another short ferry ride, this time to Alert Bay on Cormorant Island. Elizabeth, Jessica and their team had the pleasure of meeting with the Namgis Band Council and elected Chief Victor Isaac. The

discussion centered around the huge numbers of returning salmon after salmon farms were removed from their territory. Further discussions included health care, housing and the importance of First Nations' self-determination.

A tour of U'mista Cultural Centre was followed by lunch and a viewing of the latest carving by elders, of a totem pole, to be erected in a later ceremony on the grounds of the local Big House.



With the day and their Alert Bay visit drawing to a close, Elizabeth, Jessica, et al met local residents and Green Party supporters at the Council Hall for refreshments and some lively informative discussions.

Elizabeth and Jessica were grateful to the people of the North Island for their generosity and hospitality. The consensus is that the trip was a resounding success, and that with the NDP incumbent bowing out of the next electoral race, the Greens have a distinct opportunity to move the needle in the direction of clear change.

Elizabeth May and Jessica Wegg with Nic Dedeluk, Alert Bay resident and BC Green Party candidate for North Island

Reconciliation vs Resurgence

(An Op Ed submission from NIPR board member Annie Smith)

In 2015 I participated in a 7-week odyssey: a journey by train across Canada from Vancouver to Halifax, reversing the wave of European colonization that flooded Turtle Island from 1492 to the Post WW2 era. This journey, called ***Train of Thought***, was shared by upwards of 70 community-engaged Indigenous and settler artists. (See my blog posts at <https://wordpress.com/posts/anismith2015.wordpress.com>).

As we travelled across the country, we were hosted by over 25 communities where Indigenous and settler artists came together to celebrate, make art, share stories, and learn from each other. While we were on this journey, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission culminated in Ottawa.

What I learned as I travelled across the country is that Indigenous people had varied and sometimes opposing responses to the TRC. Every First Nation is unique in its history, culture, traditions, language, and experience, while sharing the unwelcome impacts of the European colonization they have been forced to and continue to endure. In the East and center of Turtle Island the treaties (and continued illegal appropriation of land and waterways) are generations old; these are treaties Canada is required to fulfill by international law. In BC, the majority of First Nations live on territories they have not ceded to our colonial government and thus Indigenous people and settlers live in a kind of limbo. Across Turtle Island there is a disjuncture between the traditional hereditary systems of governance and the Band Councils recognized by and dependent upon the Department of Indian Affairs.

There are many experiences that have educated me with regard to the history and present reality of Indigenous peoples on Turtle Island: Indigenous teachers I had as a young person, Human Services training I received through the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council, directing and touring with an Indigenous theatre company throughout BC, visiting many Indigenous communities, studying Indigenous writers and theorists, striving to be a respectful ally and sometimes accomplice.

In the mid 1980's I witnessed the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu speak about the TRC experience in South Africa. There, the white, colonial oppressors were called to account and testified to the people they had oppressed, acknowledging their crimes. In Canada, the white, colonial oppressors were not required to testify to their crimes; Indigenous people testified to the harrowing abuse they received in Residential Schools. Canada's TRC evaded the 'whole truth' and thus made reconciliation an incomplete process.

Nevertheless, much good has come from this imperfect process and will continue to come as Canadians choose to decolonize themselves. But let us not forget that the Government agenda continues to be one of assimilation. And let us not forget that Indigenous peoples have been dispossessed of lands, cultures, languages, health, and livelihoods. Reconciliation includes restoration. What does that look like in real terms? Many Indigenous leaders, activists, artists, and educators, are talking about resurgence. How does resurgence influence reconciliation? How do we, as Greens, recognize and build relationship with Indigenous people?

Annie Smith is of probable Germanic origin and a first generation Canadian adopted into a thoroughly European family with histories of displacement.

When “Closed Containment” Isn’t

A guest article by Neil Frazer, PhD

A June 19 News Release from Fisheries and Oceans states in part: "The Government of Canada will ban open net-pen salmon aquaculture in British Columbia coastal waters by June 30, 2029" and "Minister Leboutillier also announced her intention to issue nine-year licences to successful closed-containment production applicants."

If history is any guide, the Minister should expect many nine-year applications from companies proposing to use systems like that of the Norwegian company Akvafuture. According to its web site, Akvafuture's apparatus for growing out farmed salmon consists of a net inside an impermeable bag supported by a concrete float collar. Oxygenated water is pumped from a depth of 20 metres where salmon lice are less numerous. Dead salmon, known as morts, are presumably removed from the bottom of the net in the usual ways. Discharge water is filtered to remove feces and uneaten feed, and the resulting sludge is dried on site for use as fertilizer. Mussels and kelp are grown nearby to take advantage of the nutrients left in the discharged water. What could go wrong?

In the near term Akvafuture's system will reduce the costs of treating for sea lice, but it is unlikely to work for long. Salmon farmers and salmon lice (*Leptoeophtheirus salmonis*) have been in an evolutionary race ever since salmon farming began, and so far the lice have won every round. The lice have survived diflubenzuron, deltamethrin, emamectin benzoate, hydrogen peroxide and all the other chemicals the farmers have thrown at them, chemicals which, by the way, are toxic to prawns, shrimp and other marine creatures near the bottom of the food chain on which wild fish and marine mammals depend. The lice have also defeated cleaner wrasse, as well as thermal shock and power washing which are painful to the salmon, and there are indications they are developing resistance to freshwater, which will enable them to invade freshwater salmon nurseries. It is a safe bet that within a few generations, salmon lice will have evolved to position their infective stages at the depth of Akvafuture's intake pipes. Those intake pipes, by the way, are not especially deep. In Norway, the company Salmonevolution takes its intake water from a depth of 95 meters.

More important for wild salmon, will Akvafuture's output filters catch and kill sea lice nauplii (the first free-living stage of the lice)? That is unlikely. The nauplii are so tiny they are difficult to pick out from the rest of the plankton with a microscope, and the cost of filtering out even the largest plankton would be prohibitive. Still, anything that reduces the sea lice production rate of a farm has some benefit for wild salmon.

The more troubling question is whether Akvafuture's system will reduce farm production of salmon pathogens such as *Tenacibaculum maritimum*, the bacterium that causes mouthrot and death of chinook salmon, or viruses such as Piscine orthoreovirus, which causes heart and skeletal muscle disease in Atlantic salmon, and causes the red blood cells of chinook salmon to rupture, resulting in jaundice and death. Or the salmon leukemia virus which, based on the research of DFO's Kristi Miller-Saunders, has killed millions of Fraser River sockeye. (DFO won't let Kristi say that, but that is what her peer-reviewed science suggests.) Bacteria and viruses are so tiny that only complete sterilization of output water could eliminate them. Thus, even the Akvafuture system is a "pathogen culture facility" for wild fish as one Norwegian scientist put it. It is very far from "closed containment" in any sense of that phrase relevant to wild salmon.

Engraved above the entrance to the Roman forum, where most business was conducted, were the words "Caveat Emptor" (buyer beware). In the present situation, the salmon farming industry is the seller, Pacific Canada is the buyer, and DFO, with its mandate to promote salmon aquaculture, is a federal agency desperate to distract us from its past mistakes and untruths. What could go wrong?

When colonists arrived two centuries ago the First Nations of the BC coast had a very effective salmon aquaculture system. A good name for it might have been "take care of the rivers." Eventually, I am sure, we will return to that system. In the meantime, a non-scientist who wants to know more about salmon farming would do well to read three books: "The New Fish" by Norwegian journalists Simen Saetre and Kjetil Østli, "Salmon Wars" by U.S. journalists Douglas Frantz and Catherine Collins, and "Not on My Watch" by BC's Alexandra Morton. They all took the trouble to get the science right, and Morton has made important contributions to the science.

Neil Frazer is Professor of Earth Sciences Emeritus at the University of Hawaii of Mānoa, Honolulu, Hawaii. His peer-reviewed scientific publications are listed at the Earth Sciences Department website, and can also be found using Google Scholar. He was born in Comox.

Upcoming Events

Watch this space in future newsletters – we are planning an event you will NOT want to miss! We are going to show North Island Powell River that the Greens possess both class and substance. How do we do that you say? We hold a classy get together featuring an international award-winning environmental activist. What more can we say? Oh, yes, April 3rd, Campbell River. Keep in touch for more details.



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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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