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Watershed *Sentinel*

**Report
from Cancun**
Environmental News from BC and the World



January - February 2011
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Jason
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EDITORIAL

Each Day

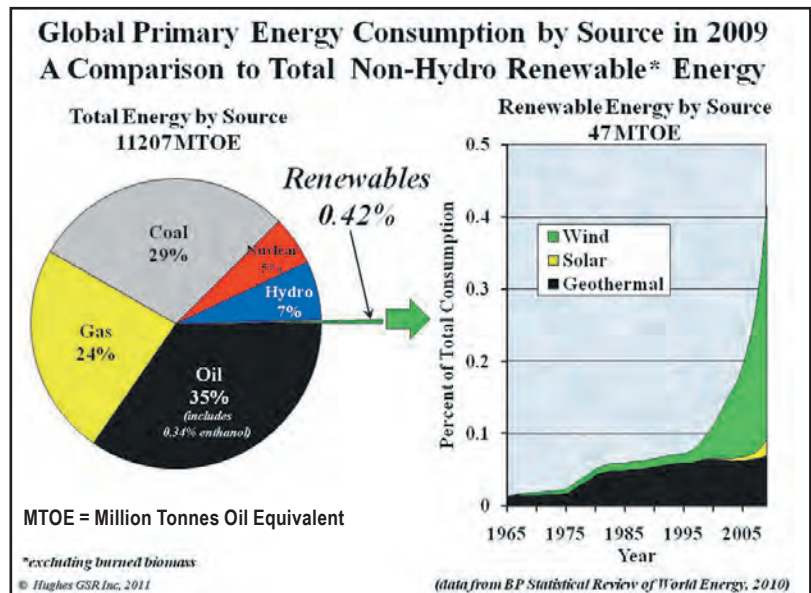
Each day we are born again to start our life anew
 What we do today is what matters most.

—Buddha

And so with each decade. This coming year, as we put the run on the buccaners in suits who are pillaging this beautiful province, we need to keep our eyes on the horizon. The Latin American countries, after hundreds of years of colonization, are pursuing their own destinies. The European and Asian corporations are hungry for more of this continent's resources. The cosmologists and physicists, perhaps taking note of the beliefs of most of the world's population, are no longer sure that time is a straight line, or even that it exists. The poor in our country are a stain on our moral fabric that we may never wash out. And all over the world people are eyeing the ecological catastrophes they live in, and coming to conclusions, quietly or not, depending on the situation.

There's a lot of factors at play, and a lot to think about. We present the chart below by geologist David Hughes, as one of the meditations for the new decade.

Delores Broten, Comox BC, January 2011



At the 'Shed

Speaking of Time: We still have a limited number of the 2011 Wildlife Calendars available with a year's subscription to the *Watershed Sentinel*, all announced with a card, for \$30. Order online or phone 250-339-6117.

We Don't Say Thanks Enough – so here's a big thank you to Bob Turner, our man with a van in the lower mainland, who helps us deliver the bundles for free pick up, libraries, or special events.

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Around The World

Compiled by Delores Broten

Arctic Agreement

On September 15, 2010, the foreign ministers of Norway and Russia signed a treaty on maritime delimitation and cooperation in the Barents Sea and the Arctic Ocean. The *2010 Agreement*, which will take effect when approved by the Norwegian Storting (parliament) and the Russian Duma (assembly), defines a single maritime boundary that divides the continental shelves and exclusive economic zones in the Barents Sea and the Arctic Ocean; obliges the two countries to continue their cooperation in the sphere of fisheries; and contains provisions on the coordinated exploitation of transboundary hydrocarbon resources.

—*Insight, American Society of International Law, November 10, 2010*

Leaving Coal in the Hole

For two years in a row, no new coal-fired power plants have been started in the United States, although half of American electricity currently comes from coal. Plans to build 38 new plants have been put on hold, and 48 old ones will be retired. The slump is in part due to the boom in shale gas, low natural gas prices, and legal actions filed by environmental groups.

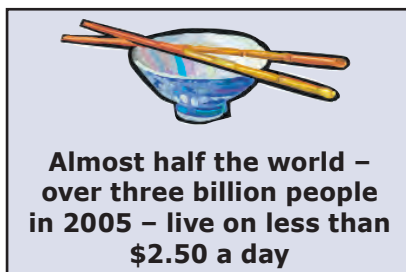
Kevin Parker of the Deutsche Bank was quoted in the *Washington Post* as saying: “Coal is a dead man walkin’. Banks won’t finance them. Insurance companies won’t insure them. The EPA is coming after them...And the economics to make it clean don’t work.”

—*Washington Post, January 2, 2011*

Population

Some time in the year 2011, the earth’s human population is expected to reach seven billion. By 2045, global population is projected to reach nine billion. Almost half the world – over three billion people in 2005 – live on less than \$2.50 a day. At least 80% of humanity lives on less than \$10 a day.

—*National Geographic, January 2011; <http://www.globalissues.org/article/26/poverty-facts-and-stats#srcl>*



Indian Farm Failure

At least 200,000 farmers have committed suicide, often by drinking pesticide, in rural India in the last decade. Rural poverty has been aggravated by the removal of farm subsidies, the failure and expensive pesticide requirements of Monsanto’s Bt cotton crops, all topped by an abnormal ten-year-long drought. A single crop failure can mean the loss of the land and/or starvation for many of India’s 600 million poor. The farmers then migrate to the cities looking for work and leaving no one to grow food, in an inherently unstable situation. The World Food Programme says that 20 million more people joined India’s hungry in the past decade, and half of Indian children are underweight.

—*London Independent, January 2, 2011*

Russia-China Oil Pipeline

The first phase of an oil pipeline linking eastern Siberia and northeastern China has begun operating. The \$16 billion pipeline was financed by Chinese loans. Russia is the world’s largest producer of oil but until now it has been exported to Europe.

—*BBC, January 1, 2011*

Genetic Damage in Iraq

A study examining the causes of a dramatic spike in birth defects in the Iraqi city of Falluja has concluded that genetic damage could have been caused by US weaponry. The research confirms earlier estimates of a rise in cancers and chronic neural-tube, cardiac, and skeletal defects in newborns. Malformations are close to 11 times higher than normal rates, and rose to unprecedented levels in the first half of this year. The findings will be published in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. An earlier study found a 15% drop in births of boys since the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

—*The Guardian, December 31, 2010*

Public Water for Sale

The Council of Canadians is warning that Canada’s public water systems are under threat from a broad free trade agreement being negotiated by Canada and the European Union (EU). A new report says that public water in Canada will be lost unless the provinces and territories take immediate steps to remove water from the scope of the proposed Canada-EU *Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement* referred to as CETA.

—*Council of Canadians, December 16, 2010*

From Our Readers

Online Ease

I just renewed my subscription online. It was my first visit to your website and I must congratulate you on how easy it is to use!

Vivian Chenard, Salt Spring Island, BC

Carbon Tax Could Be Positive

I was reading your report on the Centre for Policy Alternatives criticism of the BC Liberal Party-introduced Carbon Tax. The CCPA criticism focused on an aspect of the Carbon Tax that is not entirely revenue neutral and your report seems to follow this analysis uncritically. Neither notices that a carbon tax is the one tax citizens can avoid by simply joining the effort to stop global warming. Every time I ride my bike to town I pay no carbon tax. When I drive the van, it costs me dearly. I am learning that it pays in many ways to do my part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

I'm in no way a Liberal Party supporter. I am actively working on the campaign to recall our Comox Valley Liberal lackey. However, I feel very strongly that we owe a livable – even healthy – environment to our children. If we can't do that, what kind of people do we turn out to be? I don't want to pay more taxes than it takes to have an economy that provides for the education of our children, medical care, ecologically sound transportation, a vital park system, and the other essentials of a decent and healthy society. But I don't share the Tea Party attitude that it is better to abandon our children, to turn with indifference to the sick or disadvantaged, to see a wealthy few take all the benefits of society while the rest of society suffers.

Clearly, it will cost something to deal with climate change and, yes, the carbon tax is an inadequate and somewhat unevenly applied beginning. However, the thought that bothers me about the CCPA and WS criticism of the BC Carbon Tax is, if we whine and complain and point out small inconsistencies and generally join with the Tea Party types in criticizing this small beginning to dealing with greenhouse gas emissions, where will the political will come from to go the next step and actually take

ERRATA

Re "Keepers of the Water," November-December: The Chief pictured on page 24 is Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Grand Chief David Harper, Keepers V Host Grand Chief. On the same page, the quote is English Lake First Nation, but the correct title is English River Dene Nation.

With thanks to Kevin Carlson.

The Watershed Sentinel welcomes letters but reserves the right to edit for brevity, clarity, legality, and taste.

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significant steps to deal with this most significant issue of our times?

Yes, it could be more equitable, but if we as a society are to get on with the real business of ensuring a future for our children, we have to work with those we disagree with on other issues and we have to temper our criticisms of small beginnings with acknowledgement that it is important to get started. I certainly agree that a carbon tax needs to be more effective and equitable, but we will not get to first base if we don't swing at a favourable pitch.

I think the CCPA is hinting that a carbon tax could and should be an instrument of positive social change, but I would like to see that stated. A carbon tax could serve to both save our environment and create a more equitable economy. If the carbon tax were much higher and coupled to a very significant carbon-saving rebate (fixed and available to all regardless of income – I think the Joe Clark Progressive Conservatives were talking about a \$1,500 per person energy rebate) those who take the bus, ride bikes, car pool, turn down the thermostat, vacation close to home, kayak...would have an income supplement that would be proportional to the effort they make to save the Earth's climate. A good idea, I think, but it has to start somewhere and it will only come about by building social capital (social goodwill) for even improvable beginnings.

Norm Reynolds, Courtenay BC

Learning from History

The September-October 2010 issue of the *Watershed Sentinel* may be the best in the last few years – even without the glossy cover.

High finance individuals, groups, many governments appear to be slow about learning from the different kind of problems, disasters, catastrophes, wars, our ancestors experienced throughout history. This is another reason why we need to think and act according to the First Nations in your article, "One Big Deal," on page five.

Please keep up the good work with the same motivation you started 20 years ago.

Vilmos Udvarhelyi, Montreal QC

One Stop Shop or Fire Sale?



“This new structure will streamline government processes for critical natural resource industries to ensure we can better attract global investment...”
 —Gordon Campbell, News Release, October 25, 2010

by Delores Broten

The BC civil service remains in major chaos, issuing flow chart after flow chart, as it tries to figure out the structural changes imposed by the new Ministry of Natural Resources Operations (MNRO). The new super ministry was a surprise creation of lame-duck premier Gordon Campbell and some senior bureaucrats, announced in October with no public consultation.

MNRO will be responsible for all crown land permitting and authorizations. It will also look after stewardship, including fish, wildlife and habitat protection.

The changes are intended to streamline land and water use applications for industry. They also separate policy from licensing and permitting.

The new Ministry of Forests, Mines and Lands is responsible for the remnants of land use planning. The diminished Ministry of Environment was left with parks, pollution prevention, water and air quality, climate change, monitoring, environmental assessment, and conservation and resource management enforcement.

The former compliance and enforcement officers from the Ministry of Forests will be combined with MoE's Conservation Officer Service

to focus on enforcement. Compliance with the numerous codes of practise, which have replaced former permits and regulations, is not mentioned.

The renowned 83-year-old Forest Research Branch is disbanded, just when forest research is most needed due to climate change and the impact of pests and diseases.

As the industry has declined, the government has steadily reduced funding and staff for the Ministry of Forests. Forest management is now firmly in the control of industry through the results-based system. In BC, each government forester is responsible for approximately 20,000 hectares, whereas in the US, each public land forester is responsible for 2,700 hectares.

Longtime forest activist Jim Cooperman thinks the situation in BC has been so dismal that the restructuring could not make it any worse and there may even be some advantages.

In the southern interior, one former Ministry of Environment section head, who is now based with the new ministry, is pleased that his team has grown with the addition of staff from the Ministry of Forests and explained that with these experts now working together, controversial devel-

opments like the one proposed near the Adams River would never be approved.

However, the BC NDP is calling for the changes to be reversed, saying that even forest industry insiders are perturbed and that the economic recovery is threatened by the chaos that has ensued. The BC Green Party, calling for suspension of the move, says the changes are likely illegal since they amend existing Acts by executive order instead of through the legislature.

Veteran environmentalist Vicky Husband, citing the opinion of many former bureaucrats, says the changes are a disaster that must be put on hold, at the very least until there is some public consultation. The only reason given for the restructuring, says Husband, is to “shovel the permits out the door,” facilitating resource extraction. “Meanwhile,” says Husband, citing shale gas extraction in northeastern BC which requires no water licenses for its activities, “there are no eyes and ears on the ground. The ground that is a public trust.”



With special thanks to Jim Cooperman and Vicky Husband

Why Bolivia Stood Alone in Opposing the Cancun Climate Agreement

“We were accused of being obstructionist, obstinate and unrealistic. But we feel an enormous obligation to set aside diplomacy and tell the truth.”



by Pablo Salon

Diplomacy is traditionally a game of alliance and compromise. Yet, in the early hours of Saturday, 11 December, Bolivia found itself alone against the world, the only nation to oppose the outcome of the United Nations climate change summit in Cancun. We were accused of being obstructionist, obstinate and unrealistic. Yet, in truth we did not feel alone, nor are we offended by the attacks. Instead, we feel an enormous obligation to set aside diplomacy and tell the truth.

The “Cancun Accord” was presented late Friday afternoon, and we were given two hours to read it. Despite pressure to sign something – anything – immediately, Bolivia requested further deliberations. This text, we said, would be a sad conclusion to the negotiations. After we were denied any opportunity to discuss the text, despite a lack of consensus, the president banged her gavel to approve the document.

Many commentators have called the Cancun Accord a “step in the right direction.” We disagree; it is a giant step backward. The text replaces binding mechanisms for reducing greenhouse gas emissions with voluntary pledges that are wholly insufficient. These pledges contradict the stated goal of capping the rise in temperature at 2°C, instead guiding us to 4°C or more. The text is full of loopholes for polluters, opportunities for expanding carbon markets and similar mechanisms – like the forestry scheme REDD – that reduce the obligation of developed countries to act.

Bolivia may have been the only country to speak out against these failures, but several negotiators told us privately that they support us. Anyone who has seen the science on climate change knows that the Cancun agreement was irresponsible.

In addition to having science on our side, another reason we did not feel alone in opposing an unbalanced text at Cancun is that we received thousands of messages of support from the women, men, and young people of the

social movements that have stood by us and have helped inform our position. It is out of respect for them, and humanity as a whole, that we feel a deep responsibility not to sign off on any paper that threatens millions of lives.

Some claim the best thing is to be realistic and recognize that, at the very least, the agreement saved the UN process from collapse.

Unfortunately, a convenient realism has become all that powerful na-

From Copenhagen To Cancun A Pathway of Errors Discredits the UN

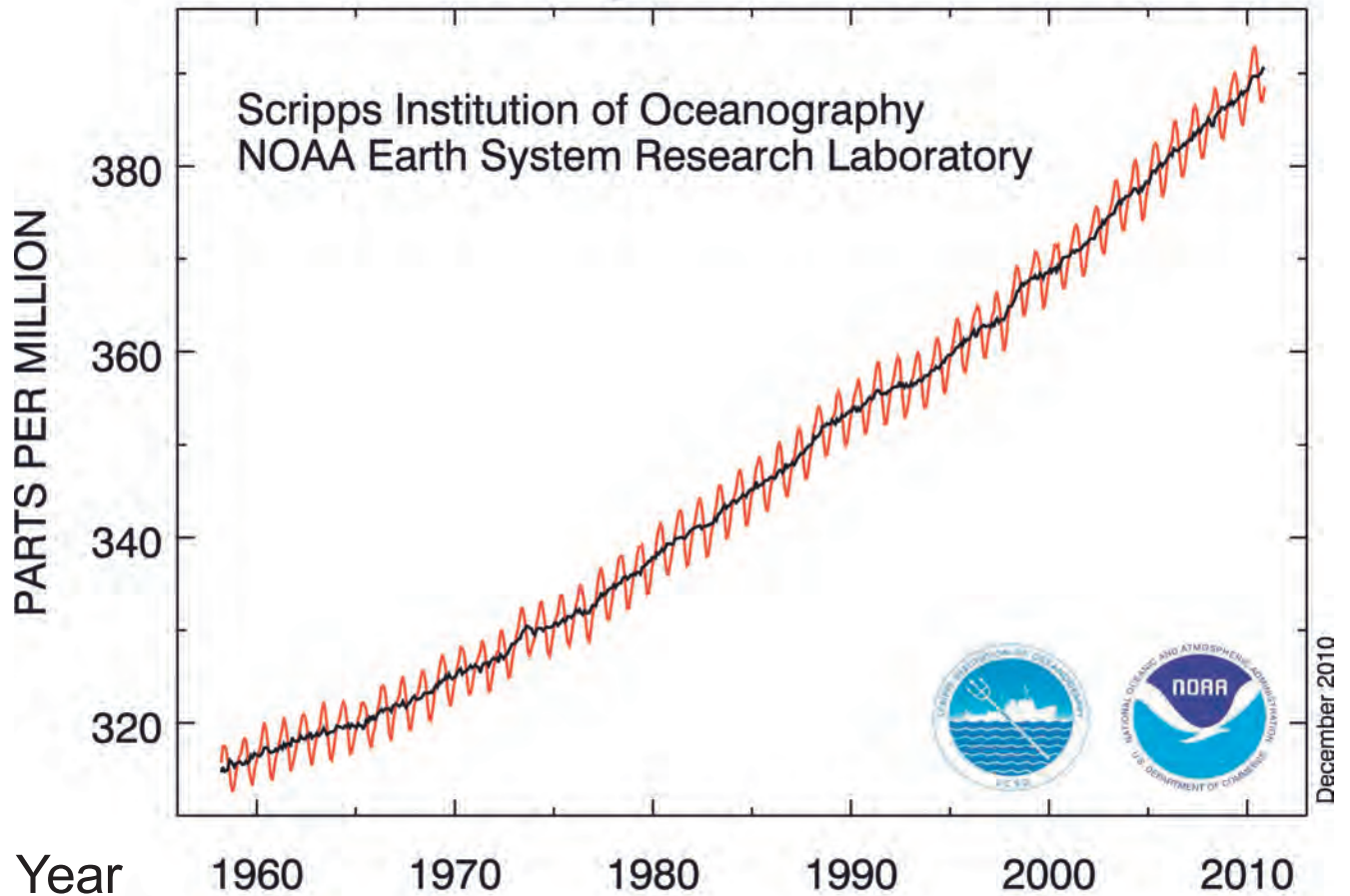
Watershed Sentinel journalist, Joan Russow attended the United Nations climate change conferences in Copenhagen and Cancun. Her full report can be found on our website www.watershedsentinel.ca

In Cancun, Dr. Molino opened the conference and made a statement that undoubtedly was intended to give credibility to the Copenhagen Accord; he stated that 100 state leaders had agreed that the temperature should not rise above two degrees. Either he was not at Copenhagen or he did not pay attention to the pleas of the 140 developing states. The majority of the developing states were calling for the rise in temperature to remain below 1.5 degrees, and some states were demanding that the temperature should NOT rise above one degree.

As Dr Molina left the plenary, I called out to him from behind the Press barricade and, when he came over, I pointed out that he had made an error when he stated that 100 states had supported the threshold of two degrees. I then indicated that most scientists now agree that the temperature should not rise above one degree, and asked him if he should not be asking for what science demands. He responded, “The US would never agree to anything less than two degrees.”

I told Dr Pershing, the head of the US delegation about my conversation with Dr. Molina. Pershing engaged in an ad hominem critique of Molina, and I said, “Science should never be compromised.” His handlers took him away.

Atmospheric CO₂ at Mauna Loa Observatory



tions are willing to offer, while they ignore scientists' exhortations to act radically now. The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has found that in order to have a 50% chance of keeping the rise in temperature below 1.5°C, emissions must peak by 2015. The attempt in Cancun to delay critical decisions until next year could have catastrophic consequences.

Bolivia is a small country. This means we are among the nations most vulnerable to climate change, but with the least responsibility for causing the problem. Studies indicate that our capital city of La Paz could become a desert within 30 years. What we do have is the privilege of being able to stand by our ideals, of not letting partisan agendas obscure our principal aim: defending life and Earth. We are not desperate for money. Last year, after we rejected the Copenhagen

accord, the US cut our climate funding. We are not beholden to the World Bank, as so many of us in the south once were. We can act freely and do what is right.

Bolivia may have acted unusually by upsetting the established way of dealing with things. But we face an unprecedented crisis, and false victories won't save the planet. False agreements will not guarantee a future for our children. We all must stand up and demand a climate agreement strong enough to match the crisis we confront.



Pablo Solon is the ambassador of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations.

As excerpted from *The Guardian*, December 21, 2010 at www.guardian.co.uk/

Cold Winters Driven by Global Warming

A study in the *Journal of Geophysical Research* has found that a strong high-pressure system over the Arctic Ocean brings cold polar air, swirling counter-clockwise into Europe, making for colder winters.

Over the last three decades, rising temperatures in the Arctic – increasing at two to three times the global average – have peeled back the floating ice cover by 20%. This has allowed more of the Sun's radiative force to be absorbed by dark-blue sea rather than bounced back into space by reflective ice and snow, accelerating the warming process.

Vladimir Petoukhov, lead author and a physicist at the Potsdam Institute, explains that recent severe winters do not conflict with the global warming picture, but supplement it.

—Agent France Presse, December 22, 2010

Jumping Off the Wireless Bandwagon

It's convenient, it's easy, it makes information and social contacts accessible, and the products are fun, but is Health Canada really protecting us from microwave radiation? As the technology spreads and grows, are we really built for a microwave life at such extreme levels? Who's calling the shots?

by Joyce Nelson

During three days of hearings on health impacts of Wi-Fi and wireless technologies, which wrapped up on Oct. 28th, 2010, Canada's Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health heard from some of the top international experts in the field, many of whom roundly criticized Health Canada's protection of Canadians from the dangers of non-ionizing microwave radiation.

Dr. Olle Johansson, testifying by teleconference from Sweden, said Canada's *Safety Code 6* is "completely out of date and obsolete" in terms of protecting people from "prolonged low-intensity exposures" to microwave radiation from cell phones, cell towers and masts, and Wi-Fi. The safety level in Canada's *Safety Code 6* is some 6,000 times less stringent than the safety level advocated in the 2007 *BioInitiative Report*, which was released by the University of Albany and includes expert international research (such as that of Dr. Johansson) on electromagnetic radiation (EMR), electromagnetic fields (EMFs) and brain tumours, leukemia and other illnesses [see the Sept.-Oct. 2007 *Water-shed Sentinel*].

Dr. Martin Blank, Columbia University researcher in bioelectromagnetics, told the Committee, "The European Union voted to review their own [safety] standards on the basis of *The BioInitiative Report*."

But Brenda Peterson of Health Canada countered: "*The BioInitiative Report* was biased. We do not support the findings," she told the Parliamentary Committee. In spring 2010,

Children in schools with Wi-Fi are exposed to microwave radiation for "six hours a day, five days a week, for fourteen years," a form of "experiment without consent".

Health Canada issued this statement: "Health Canada has no scientific reason to consider the use of wireless communications devices, such as cell phones, BlackBerrys, wireless laptop computers and their supporting infrastructure, dangerous to the health of the Canadian public."

"I have heard over and over again that the levels of [EMR] exposure are

low," Dr. Johansson told the Committee. "In the room you're sitting in right now, just from the third generation [3G] mobile telephony...you are sitting in levels that are approximately one million billion times above natural background [radiation]. There you have your question mark: are we really built for a microwave life at such extreme levels?" 4G mobile telephony is set to be released in Canada within months.

"Microwave Life"

Perhaps the most moving testimony at the hearings came from Rodney Palmer, spokesman for the Simcoe Safe School Committee. In Ontario's Simcoe County, kids in at least 14 schools have become ill since the schools installed Wi-Fi, beginning in 2006. Palmer described their symptoms – speeding heart rate, fatigue, headaches – and said that two kids have "had cardiac arrests" and are on heart medication. "Now every school in Simcoe County has its own defibrillator, as though teenage heart attacks are normal."

The co-editor of *The BioInitiative Report* recently told *Harper's Magazine* (May 2010), "If EMFs function both as a carcinogen and a neurotoxin, then it's not just brain tumours and brain cancers" that could result, "it's also testicular cancer, breast cancer, leukemia, lymphoma, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and a range of cognitive and behavioural problems."

The UK's Dr. Andrew Goldsworthy told the Parliamentary Committee that microwave radiation disrupts bird migration and "probably causes colony collapse disorder in bees." Recent research from Europe has shown that bees exposed to EMR from cellular towers made 21% less honeycomb and more than one-third, taken a half-mile from the hive, couldn't navigate back home.

The electromagnetic spectrum is actually a part of the Commons – as much a public resource as the air, water, and public forests. While our governments have been privatizing the spectrum by auctioning off chunks of it to the wireless industries, it remains our resource and should be under the public's control. Now, there is a growing public movement worldwide to have a say in the use of that spectrum and the EMR pollution that is resulting in "the microwave life".

Taking Wi-Fi Out of Schools

As a first step, many parents across Canada are questioning the need for Wi-Fi in schools, when the same Internet capabilities are available through hard-wired modem or fibre optics. As Rodney Palmer told the Parliamentary Committee, children in schools with Wi-Fi are exposed to microwave radiation for "six hours a day, five days a week, for fourteen years," a form of "experiment without consent".

Continued on Page 10 ➔



The Interphone Study

Those who used a cell phone one-half hour per day over a ten-year period were 40% more likely to develop glioma

After ten years of research (1995-2005), the World Health Organization's cancer-research agency, the International Agency for Research into Cancer (IARC), finally released, in May 2010, the world's biggest study so far into possible links between mobile phone use and cancer – dubbed the Interphone study. IARC has offered no explanation for the years-long delay in releasing the study, which had 21 scientists from 13 participating countries including Canada (but not the US, which neglected to participate). The study, partially funded by industry (which had no role in its design), was published on May 18 in the *International Journal of Epidemiology*.

The study had key design flaws. Its 5,100 case-control studies included only adults aged 30-59; it omitted corporate users – the group who used mobile phones the most in the mid-1990s; and its definition of average cell phone use was 2 to 2.5 hours per month. (Today's average is 6.7 hours per month in Canada, and 14 hours per month in the US.) The Interphone study defined "heavy use" of a cell phone as one-half hour per day, or 15 hours per month.

Nonetheless, even with these limitations, the Interphone study found that those who used a cell phone one-half hour per day over a ten-year period were 40% more likely to develop glioma (the usually rare and fatal brain cancer that killed Ted Kennedy) than those who had not used cell phones. The researchers also investigated the incidence of meningioma, a slow-growing and often benign brain tumour. Heavy users had a 15% elevated risk of contracting it, compared to non-users. Studies on acoustic neurinoma and salivary gland tumours are to be released later.

Dr. Devra Davis, author of the new book *Disconnect*, told the *Globe and Mail* (Sept. 24, 2010), "For such a risk to show up in cell phone users within 10 years given what we know about brain tumours, which is that they can have a latency of 40 years, is deeply, deeply disturbing."

—J.N.

⇐ *Wi-Fi continued*

The excellent website of EMR Health Alliance of BC (www.emrabc.ca) has posted a letter that Kristin Cassie, Principal of Roots and Wings Montessori Place in Surrey BC, wrote to the Parliamentary Committee. In it, Cassie explained why she “removed all wireless technology from our school and banned the use of cell phones within our building,” adding that it was “not a major change” to hard-wire all computers. “We have advanced technology without any of the dangers of wireless radiowaves.”

In autumn 2010, a public elementary school in Meaford, Ontario became the first public school in Canada to shut down wireless internet. Parents at Lucerne School in New Denver, BC, have also chosen to keep hardwired computer systems, rather than join the Wi-Fi bandwagon. The New Denver Parent Children’s Association has issued a statement saying, “We encourage other parents to look into the increasingly evident side effects of wireless routers and [wireless] computers, particularly to children whose bodies and brains are still developing.”

School District 61 in Victoria, BC has voted to form a committee to investigate the potential health threats posed by Wi-Fi and to report to the Board by spring 2011.

Lakehead University in Peterborough, Ont. has banned Wi-Fi on its campus and uses fibre optic cable for Internet access.

Canadian schools take health issues seriously, having taken steps for asbestos removal and making schools smoke-free and nut-free. Trent University professor Dr. Magda Havas, an environmental biologist and expert in microwave radiation issues, argues that schools should also be “radiation-free” because “as many as 260,000 students (5%) across Canada may be adversely affected by this radiation – without even knowing it” (at least

at first). Short term effects of EMR pollution include headaches, fatigue, dizziness, insomnia, irritability, depression, and suppressed immune function.

The European Difference

In an article for *GQ Gentlemen’s Quarterly* (Feb. 2010), Christopher Ketcham writes, “The concern about Wi-Fi is being taken seriously in Europe. In April 2008, the national

New research has revealed that the use of cell phones within a metal enclosure (car, train, subway, streetcar, bus) increases radiation exponentially, not only because of metal’s properties, but because the phone sporadically powers-up in a moving vehicle to reach each new transmitter en route.

library of France, citing possible ‘genotoxic effects,’ announced it would shut down its Wi-Fi system, and the staff of the storied Library of Sainte-Genevieve in Paris followed up with a petition demanding the disconnection of Wi-Fi antennas and their replacement by wired connections. Several European governments are already moving to prohibit Wi-Fi in government buildings and on campuses, and the Austrian Medical Association is lobbying for a ban of all Wi-Fi systems in schools, citing the danger to children’s thinner skulls and developing nervous systems.” The Austrian city of Salzburg removed Wi-Fi from its schools in 2007.

Ketcham reports that in Spain, Ireland and Israel, sabotage and attacks on cell phone transmission towers have become “a regular occurrence.”

In June 2009, the Parliament of

Liechtenstein ordered cell phone companies to limit EMR power density levels to those recommended by the *BioInitiative Report*. According to the Victoria-based Citizens Against Un-Safe Emissions website (www.causem.ca), when the cell phone companies threatened to leave the country, “Parliament countered by saying that if they did, the government would take over their operations and lease them to complying companies.”

In a recent paper entitled “A Tale of Two Countries,” Dr. Magda Havas notes that Switzerland is now providing free fibre optic connections to schools through the Swiss government’s telecommunication provider, Swisscom. The Swiss guidelines for microwave radiation exposure to the public are 100 times more stringent than Canada’s. China’s are thousands of times more stringent.

GQ’s Christopher Ketcham memorably states: “The only honest way to think of our cell phones is that they are tiny, low-power microwave ovens, without walls, that we hold against the sides of our heads.” More than 22 million Canadians have cell phones, in what is now a \$17 billion industry in Canada.

Warnings for children

According to Dr. Havas’ research, health officials in various countries have issued warnings for children to limit their use of cell phones: United Kingdom (2000), Germany (2007), France (2008), Russia (2008), India (2008), Toronto Public Health (2008), Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (2008), Belgium (2008), Israel (2008), Japan (2008), Finland (2008), South Korea (2009), and the US Federal Communication Commission (2009).

Following the release of the Interphone Study (see page 9), the European Union is funding a new study to investigate the risk of brain tumours

among children and teens using cell phones.

New research has revealed that the use of cell phones within a metal enclosure (car, train, subway, street-car, bus) increases radiation exponentially, not only because of metal's properties, but because the phone sporadically powers-up in a moving vehicle to reach each new transmitter en route.

Disconnect

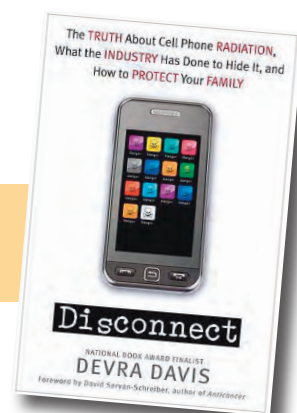
On Nov. 22, a packed hall at the University of Toronto heard Dr. Havas and Dr. Devra Davis address wireless issues. Canada's guidelines on microwave radiation "are among the worst in the world," Havas told the crowd, and she predicted that by 2017, some "50 percent" of the population of Canada will have developed electrical sensitivity, "which is escalating."

Dr. Devra Davis is the author of the newly released book *Disconnect: The Truth About Cell Phone Radiation, What the Industry Has Done To Hide It, and How To Protect Your Family* (Dutton, 2010). Davis reminded the audience that "We are up against a multi-billion-dollar industry," which has "fostered confusion" about the issues. "Science is used as a form of public-relations," she said,

It's not the power that's the issue, it's the pulsed signal

resulting in "doubt creation." Her book explores a number of instances in which important microwave/health research has been stopped, distorted, or suppressed. She includes chilling scientific reports about EMR causing broken strands of DNA and breaching of the blood-brain barrier, which would allow the body's stored toxins to enter the brain. "It's not the power that's the issue, it's the pulsed signal," she said.

Davis informed the crowd that scientists in 1996, in coming up with ways to estimate exposures from cell phones, invented SAM, or "Standard Anthropomorphic Man" – weighing in at 200 pounds, standing 6 feet two inches tall, with an 11-pound head, and making only six-minute phone calls. SAM is the measure by which cell phone safety is still determined, said Davis. Meanwhile, "We are in the midst of an unprecedented biological experiment." Holding up her entwined fingers, Dr. Davis said, "Industry Canada, Health Canada, and [the wireless] industry are like this."



On Dec. 6, Vancouver's Wavefront technology hothouse – a joint venture by government and industry housed at UBC – received \$11.6 million in federal money from Industry Minister Tony Clement to make BC "the centre of excellence" for Canadian wireless research and development. The goal of the funding is to spawn 150 new wireless companies and "take wireless innovation and commercialization to the next level."



Joyce Nelson is a freelance writer/researcher and is the author of five books. Nelson wishes to acknowledge the research contribution made to this article by the EMR Health Alliance of BC website: www.emrabc.ca

Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health

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The Cost of Complexity

The Deepwater blowout stands as the latest symptom of industrial civilization's hubris.

by Rex Weyler

We're all in Deepwater now.

Corporations don't need regulation, because protecting the environment is in their interest. The free market will protect nature.

That theory disintegrated at 21:49, April 20, 2010, under a waxing quarter moon, on a dark spring night in the Gulf of Mexico.

We've witnessed the collapse of corporate credibility before – at Bhopal in 1984, at Chernobyl in 1986, at the Marcopper Copper Mine in the Philippines in 1996, in Seveso Italy, at Love Canal, and in Minamata Japan, as Chisso Corporation poisoned a fishing village with mercury for four murderous decades,

These disasters cannot be written off as human error. They are the natural consequence of our society's practice of treating nature as a free resource for profiteering. Global corporations have demonstrated no ability to regulate themselves. Morality is too expensive. It is cheaper to cut corners on a hundred oil wells and pay the fines on the one that blows out. It is cheaper to dump mercury, cyanide, or dioxins into rivers and bays, and wait to see if the poor inhabitants have the muscle to make the company pay. It's cheaper to obliterate nature, finance your own “citizen group” to sign off on your treachery, and pay squadrons of lawyers to avoid liability.

Human industry now sinks its claws into every corner of the Earth, exploiting the last pockets of resources. The juggernaut took the easy stuff first because it was cheap. Now we go higher into the mountains for lithium and copper, deeper into the forest for ancient trees, and deeper into the earth's crust for oil and gas. Damn the cost. Rich consumers will pay, and the pelicans have no lawyers.

The Deepwater blowout that now stacks up among the greatest ecological holocausts of all time was not just an accident. It stands as the latest symptom of industrial civilization's hubris.

Solutions aren't the answer

Any robust species will naturally expand, if it can, to occupy its habitat. However, in nature “success” has a cost. A flourishing species must find new energy and nutrient resources, and must negotiate with its environment to process its wastes. Ecologist and historian Kenneth Boulding called

this the “metabolic cost” of evolutionary success.

Likewise, as human societies dominated their habitats, they sought solutions to the problems of paying this metabolic cost. Societies often fail to see that those problems were the results of previous solutions. Irrigation allowed ancient city states to solve the problems of population growth and scarce rainfall, but extensive irrigation produced salty, depleted soils.

To win new lands for food production, empires abandoned their cities and moved to new watersheds. Eventually, they clashed with other migrating communities, so they designed weapons and built armies to “solve” conflict. The subsequent arms race created new problems. They solved this with bigger armies, but big armies need more food. New problem.

Innovative technologies helped solve these problems, but technologies, like armies, must be fed resources. Ships consumed forests. Machines demanded iron and oil. Computers require copper, plastic, silica, and lithium.

Where does it all stop?

Anthropologist Joseph Tainter studied societies to find out where the problem-solution-problem cycle stops. Most complex civilizations and empires simply collapsed under the weight of their metabolic costs. Their solutions became bigger problems until they consumed all available resources, depleted their habitat, and collapsed. Persia, Rome, Maya and Easter Island travelled this route to failure.

In *The Collapse of Complex Societies*, Tainter describes how civilizations trapped themselves in increasing complexity until they experienced diminishing returns on their solution investments. At that point, new complex solutions no longer paid for themselves. To feed the bigger army meant expanding the empire, but a bigger empire has more borders to defend and more over-taxed, irate citizens to pacify.

To finance the rising cost of growth, an empire must discover new energy subsidies. Ancient Rome increased its energy consumption by annexing distant forests, taxing landed peasants, and capturing slaves. However, the hunt for more energy costs energy. “Imperialism,” Boulding explained, “makes the empire poor.”

Finally, a growing civilization experiences negative returns on its investments. The modern disasters in Bhopal or the Gulf of Mexico provide examples of negative returns. As our industrial system seeks out more energy, we find

ourselves digging up the Canadian boreal forest, destroying wild watersheds, draining lakes, and boring deeper into the Earth's crust below the ocean.

We may notice that the greatest driver of environmental destruction is the growth process itself. Tainter points out that the only known examples of avoiding collapse – in both nature and in human history – involve simplifying, not growing. Eventually, we have to stop building false “solutions” that create new problems and negotiate a lasting peace with nature.

The high cost of high tech

We may believe that a new technology will solve the problems of growth, until we account for the full ecological cost of that new technology. To build hybrid cars and computers, we seek out copper, lithium, zinc, aluminium, and rare earth metals, displace communities, and push deeper into Earth's remaining wilderness.

Timothy Gutowski and colleagues calculated that as computer chips shrunk in size and grew in power, the material and energy intensity per unit mass increased a million-times. This is even before we factor in the cost of armies swarming over Afghanistan to secure the lithium for batteries.

We tend to think that since our computers require so little energy to operate, they are “efficient,” but we're measuring the wrong thing. We need to measure the “embodied” energy and material required to mine and ship resources and to build telecom infrastructure, server networks, software, research labs, and office towers. According to the International Energy Association report, “Gadgets and gigawatts,” electricity consumption for computers, cell phones, iPhones, and other devices will triple by 2030, and this does not include the bulldozers digging up resources.

Remember when people claimed computers were going to save paper? This never happened. In 1950, at the dawn of the computer age, humanity used about 50 million tons of paper each year. We now use 250 million tons, five times the paper. Growth swamps efficiency. Computers stimulated growth and created more uses for packaging and paper. Meanwhile, during that period, the Earth lost over 600 million hectares of forest.

In “The Monster Footprint of Digital Technology,” Kris De Decker points out that utility stations operate at about 35 per cent efficiency, so the actual energy consumed is almost three-times the electricity consumed when a device is switched on. This is the metabolic cost of growth,

the rising cost of complexity, paid long before you boot your computer or recharge your iPhone.

Where does this energy come from? It comes from damming rivers, lopping off mountain tops for coal, and boring wells deep into the Earth's crust below the ocean.

In Deepwater now

Like our ancestors, modern human enterprise took the low-hanging fruit and harvested the cheapest oil first. In the oil heyday, 50 years ago, oil flowed from shallow wells with 99 per cent net energy efficiency.

Today, we dig into oil sands, destroy the vast boreal forest, melt bitumen in giant furnaces, fill lakes with black sludge, kill migrating waterbirds, displace caribou and human communities, trigger lung disease, mix bitumen with condensate refined thousands of kilometres away, ship the goop through long pipelines, endanger our coasts with oil tankers, and heat the planet like a flambé to deliver crude oil at 50 per cent net energy efficiency.

More costs, less benefit, represents the “declining return” on our investments. Eventually those returns turn negative. In the Gulf of Mexico, British Petroleum lobbied politicians to cancel regulations, drilled a 6,000 metre well in 1,500 metres of water, and cut corners to save money.

At 21:49 on April 20, 2010, gas from an improperly sealed well reached the BP drilling rig, ignited, blew up the rig, killed 11 people, devastated the Gulf's coastal economy, and launched an ecological holocaust on the scale of Bhopal, Chernobyl, and Minimata. The blowout has killed thousands of seabirds, turtles, fish, and marine animals. Some 50,000 to 150,000 barrels of oil per day poured into the Gulf of Mexico. On top of this, BP added over 1-million gallons of toxic Corexit dispersant, banned in the UK, because it contains the neurotoxin 2-Butoxyethanol, arsenic, cadmium, cyanide, and mercury.

The Gulf of Mexico tragedy is not unique. It is only the latest symptom of a civilization out of control, stumbling blindly to pay the metabolic cost of reckless, unsustainable growth.



Originally published on “Deep Green,” Greenpeace International, <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/about/deep-green/>

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The only known examples of avoiding collapse – in both nature and in human history – involve simplifying

Sharing

A Path to the Future

If humanity is to survive the formidable challenges that define our generation - including climate change, diminishing fossil fuels and global conflict - it is necessary to forge new ethical understandings that embrace our collective values and global interdependence.

Excerpted with permission from Share the World's Resources

As the 21st Century unfolds, humanity is faced with a stark reality. Following the world stock market crash in 2008, people everywhere are questioning the unbridled greed, selfishness and competition that has driven the dominant economic model for decades. But the economic meltdown is just one of a long series of interrelated crises that have combined to leave billions of people in the Global South without access to the basic necessities of life.

As the devastating costs of climate change and financial turmoil continue to unfold, it is no longer possible to ignore the urgent need for transforming our social, political and economic structures along more just and sustainable lines. To meet the challenges that lie ahead, we need a new understanding of what it means for humanity to evolve and progress. Our economic systems are based on outdated assumptions about human nature, and must instead become rooted in universal values and ethics that reflect our highest ideals. Scientists now accept that human beings are naturally predisposed to cooperate and share – and these simple principles hold the key to transforming economic relationships between governments.

Nothing less than a program for survival is required, based on a clear understanding of the interdependence of all nations and the structural causes of poverty, inequality and climate change.

We urgently need to implement new strategies for managing and sustainably consuming the world's natural resources, and to ensure a more equitable distribution of essential goods and services. The task ahead is unprecedented and formidable, requiring a radical transformation of the global economy – but this is the only way to co-create a more peaceful and harmonious world without insecurity or deprivation.

Together, the ideas in this article provide a practical vision of a sustainable future world guided by the enduring principles of cooperation and sharing.



Crisis

We are facing an unparalleled series of crises. The old obsession with protecting national interests, the drive to maximize profits at all costs, and the materialistic pursuit of economic growth has failed to benefit the world's poor and led to catastrophic consequences for planet earth. The incidence of hunger is more widespread than ever before in human history, surpassing one billion people in 2009 despite the record harvests of food being reaped in recent years. At least 1.4 billion people live in extreme poverty, a number equivalent to more than four times the population of the United States. One out of every five people does not have access to clean drinking water. More than a billion people lack access to basic health care services, while over a billion people – the majority of them women – lack a basic education. Every week, more than 115,000 people move into a slum somewhere in Africa, Asia or Latin America. Every day, around 50,000 people die needlessly as a result of being denied the essentials of life. In response to these immense challenges, international aid has proven largely ineffective, inadequate, and incapable of enabling governments to secure the basic needs of all citizens.

When several trillion dollars was rapidly summoned to bail out failed banks in late 2008, it became impossible to understand why the governments of rich nations could not afford a fraction of this sum to 'bail out' the world's poor.

The enduring gap between rich and poor, both within and between countries, is a crisis that lies at the heart of our political and economic problems. For decades, 20 per cent of the world population have controlled 80 per cent of the economy and resources.

By 2008, more than half of the world's assets were owned by the rich-

est 2 per cent of adults, while the bottom half of the world adult population owned only 1 per cent of wealth. The vast discrepancies in living standards between the Global North and South, which provides no basis for a stable and secure future, can only be redressed through a more equitable distribution of resources at the international level. This will require more inclusive structures of global governance and a new economic framework that goes far beyond existing development efforts to reduce poverty, decrease poor country debt and provide overseas aid.

The enduring gap between rich and poor, both within and between countries, is a crisis that lies at the heart of our political and economic problems.

In both the richest and poorest nations, commercialization has infiltrated every aspect of life and compromised spiritual, ethical and moral values. We urgently need a new paradigm for human advancement, beginning with a fundamental reordering of world priorities: an immediate end to hunger, the securing of universal basic needs, and a rapid safeguarding of the environment and atmosphere. No longer can national self-interest, international competition and excessive commercialization form the foundation of our global economic framework.

A sustainable and peaceful future begins with a fairer sharing of the

world's resources, requiring a shift in power relations from North to South, and from financial and commercial interests to the world's majority population.

Unity

The multiple crises that confront the world are urging nations to acknowledge our global interdependence, and to accept that humankind is part of an extended family that shares the same basic needs and rights. This holistic understanding of our relationship to each other and the planet transcends nations and cultures, and builds on ethics and values common to faith groups around the world. It also reflects the strong sense of solidarity and internationalism which lies at the heart of the global justice movement.

The first true political expression of our global unity was embodied in the establishment of the United Nations. Since then, international laws have been devised to help govern relationships between nations and uphold human rights. Cross-border issues such as climate change, global poverty and conflict are uniting world public opinion and compelling governments to cooperate and plan for our collective future. The globalization of knowledge and cultures, and the ease with which we can communicate and travel around the world, has further served to unite diverse people in distant countries.

But the fact of our global unity is still not sufficiently expressed in our political and economic structures. The international community has yet to ensure that basic human needs, such as access to staple food, clean water and primary healthcare, are universally secured. This cannot be achieved until nations cooperate more effectively, share their natural and economic resources, and ensure

Continued on Page 16 ⇨

↔ *Sharing continued*

that global governance mechanisms reflect and directly support our common needs and rights.

A more inclusive international framework urgently needs to be established through the United Nations (UN) and its agencies. Although in need of being significantly strengthened and renewed, the UN is the only multilateral governmental agency with the necessary experience and resources to coordinate the process of restructuring the world economy. The *UN Charter* and *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* have been adopted by all member states and embody some of the highest ideals expressed by humanity. If the UN is rendered more democratic and entrusted with more authority, it would be in a position to foster the growing sense of community between nations and harmonize global economic relationships.

Being Human

Mainstream economists have assumed that human beings are inherently selfish, competitive, acquisitive and individualistic. Such notions about human nature are now firmly established as the principles upon which modern economies are built, and have been used to justify the proliferation of free markets as the best way to organize societies.

Particularly since the 1980s, these basic economic assumptions have increasingly dominated public policy and pushed aside ethical considerations in the pursuit of efficiency, short-term growth and profit maximization. But the ‘neoliberal’ ideology that institutionalized greed and self-interest was fundamentally discredited by the collapse of banks and a world stock market crash in 2008. As a consequence, the global financial crisis reinvigorated a long-standing debate about the importance of moral-

ity and ethics in relation to the market economy.

At the same time, recent experiments by evolutionary biologists and neuro-cognitive scientists have demonstrated that human beings are biologically predisposed to cooperate and share. Without this evolutionary advantage, we may not have survived as a species. Anthropological findings have long supported this view of human nature with case studies reveal-

Strengthening local economies also has the potential to significantly reduce poverty in the developing world. For example, by encouraging the building of small rural and city farms, millions of people could benefit from sustainable local food production.

ing that sharing and gifting often formed the basis of economic life in traditional societies, leading individuals to prioritize their social relationships above all other concerns. As a whole, these findings challenge many of the core assumptions of classical economic theory – in particular the firmly held belief that people in any society will always act competitively to maximize their economic interests.

The time is now ripe to overhaul our outdated assumptions about hu-

man nature, to reconnect our public life with fundamental values, and to rethink the role of markets in achieving the common good.

As a starting point, integrating the principle of sharing into our economic system would have far-reaching implications for how we distribute and consume the planet’s wealth and resources. If humanity is to survive the formidable challenges that define our generation – including climate change, diminishing fossil fuels and global conflict – it is necessary to forge new ethical understandings that embrace our collective values and global interdependence. Most of all, it is time to build a more sustainable, cooperative and equitable international economy – one that reflects and supports what it really means to be human.

Going Local

For countless generations, economic activities and social relationships within small towns and communities have been closely interrelated. These traditional ways of living and working enabled members of a community to participate in local economic activity and share its benefits more equitably.

Strengthening local economies also has the potential to significantly reduce poverty in the developing world. For example, by encouraging the building of small rural and city farms, millions of people could benefit from sustainable local food production. An increased focus on domestic markets would also boost opportunities for stable employment in local industries. International aid could assist in this process by empowering people to re-establish local economies that supply many goods and services to the community. In this way, development efforts can directly

Continued on Page 18 ↔



An increased focus on domestic markets would also boost opportunities for stable employment in local industries.



⇐ *Sharing continued*

focus on securing basic needs, rather than upholding the unequal power relationships that underlie a globalized system of finance and trade.

Information Sharing

More self-reliant local communities are a key part of the transition to a people-centred, environmentally sustainable way of life. But the revival of local economies must be part of a wider transformation of the global economy – a process that should also be guided by the principles of cooperation and sharing.

It is clear that united action on an unprecedented scale is the only option left to humanity. A crucial first step is for governments to redistribute the resources needed to immediately eradicate hunger and extreme poverty. This fundamental reordering of global priorities should form the first part of a more comprehensive program of economic reform that can provide universal access to essential goods and services, and end conflict over the world’s natural resources.

Global Reform

Without fundamental reform of the institutions, structures and practices that determine global economic activity, it is impossible to create a fair and sustainable world. An emergency program of redistribution must be followed by measures that reduce dependency on international assistance and enable countries to become largely self-sufficient in securing their basic needs.

Economic sharing can be directly applied to how we manage the world’s natural resources. Water, seeds, oil,

gas, forests, minerals and even the atmosphere are all forms of ‘global commons’ that can be shared more equitably and sustainably. One option is to ensure that such resources are recognized as a shared commons and protected through a ‘trust’ or similar international mechanism.

If such an agreement is negotiated between nations or through a global body (such as the United Nations), a shared resource could be managed in the interests of all citizens, protected from exploitation by the private sector, and managed in an environmentally sustainable manner that preserves it for future generations.

At the national level, legal and structural reforms could ensure that land is made available for small-scale agriculture and public housing programs.

The Movement

As world leaders seek to resurrect the old economic order, millions of people are calling for a better world that ensures all people live in dignity, with the basics guaranteed. Social movements in every country are campaigning for justice and a more humane form of development – one that protects the vulnerable, sustains the environment and promotes peaceful international relations.

This growing, diverse movement identifies its interests with global society as a whole and not just the citizens of any one nation. Through utilizing the communications revolution and adopting collective forms of spontaneous action across national borders, it is considered by many to be the new superpower in world affairs. The movement is still in its infancy and disparate, and its voice remains uncoordinated. But when fused and directed, world public opinion has the potential to influence government decisions through its demands for fundamental, far-reaching change.

The principle of sharing is a basic human value that policymakers can instinctively grasp and advocate for. Not only can it be adopted by civil society to hold political leaders to account, but it also provides a moral compass for governments that can help inform their position on a range of issues and guide the process of economic reform.

Humanity has reached an impasse.

A new blueprint for a fair and sustainable world is urgently needed. Nation states must move beyond the old pursuits of self interest and competition, and embrace an alternative approach to managing the world’s resources based upon the principles of sharing and cooperation. At this critical juncture in human history, only a united global public can pressure governments to reorder their distorted priorities, cooperate more effectively, and share the resources of the world more equitably.

A crucial first step is for governments to implement an international program of emergency assistance to eliminate hunger and unnecessary deprivation, followed by a longer-term transformation of the global economy in order to secure an adequate standard of living for all within ecological limits.



To read the entire booklet and other resources, see Share the World’s Resources, www.stwr.org

Share The World’s Resources is an advocacy organization with consultative status at the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

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When Is Enough?

Madawaska: The River and Forests of my Childhood

by Don Malcolm

To many people on planet Earth, it must be apparent that we are hell-bent on using up or consuming everything that supports our accidental life and well-being on this insentient ball of accumulated happenstance that we call Mother Earth.

Looking back over my three-quarters of a century, I have witnessed some dramatic changes in life-styles, in my own person, and in humanity at large.

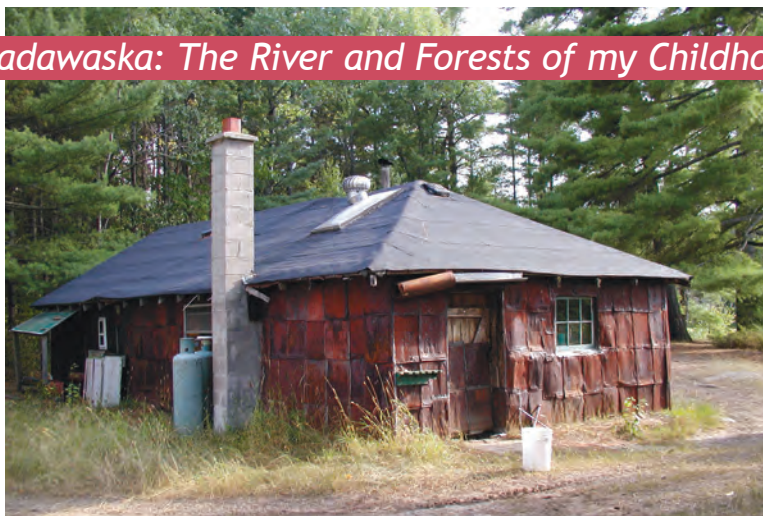
Each time I return to the sod of my birthplace, in the Madawaska River Valley of Ontario, I am reminded of the great stands of spruce, pine, cedar, poplar, maple, oak, ash, beech, and other hardwoods, that covered the hills and valleys of that river system, and I remember again the evening-time tales of the colourful loggers who returned each winter to cut down the trees, followed closely by the proud competitive teamsters with their prime horses, to skid the logs to the river's edge. Do I remember tales of evening boxing matches?

And in that recollection, I turn again to the often-told tales of the spring-time river drives when the softwood logs were floated down the river to Ottawa and Quebec.

River drives presented hard and dangerous work. Often, logs got stuck on rocks in the river, resulting in logs piling up and creating a log-jam. Men went out in rowboats with pike-poles and peaveys to poke and pry the logs loose and send them on their way down the river. Young men, some still in their teens, eager to prove their worth, lost their lives in the tumbling rush when the jam broke, and young boys waited patiently for their turn in future river-drives.

The stories and songs of that time have left a chronicle of the glory and heartbreak. We all knew the songs.

In the monetary measurement, we thought there were many things we wanted, but looking back, it is easy to see that we had enough. Women in our community made home-made clothing from cast-offs from towns and villages outside of our area. We harvested wild strawberries, blueber-



ries and raspberries and preserved them for winter. Home-baked bread was a luxury we now seem to have lost. In a large wooden box with a hinged lid, behind our house in winter, we stored venison, pork, and sometimes trout, when the ice was safe enough to allow fishing through a hole in the ice. From the

many streams in what we considered our home turf, trout were quite plentiful.

Electricity had not yet reached our community. Wood-fired stoves cooked our food and warmed our houses. Coal-oil lamps lit our homes. Radio was just beginning to quicken our imagination. World War II was threatening.

In summertime, after the hay was cut and in the loft above the stables, we hitched the horses to the wagon, loaded up with enough food to feed the family, and hay for the horses, and began our annual trek to the Snake Rapids on the Madawaska River, where we would stay for a week or more enjoying the magic of the river. We slept out-

side until wolves howling far away in the upland on the north side of the river frightened us into the old cabin that had stood there for many years. In the daytime, we fished the river for bass and pike, and bathed in the shallows, watched closely by our parents.

Logging has changed considerably in the Madawaska Valley. No longer do men pull back and forth in unison on a two-man cross-cut saw to fall trees and cut them into desired log lengths. Modern light-weight chain-saws, operated by one man, can fall a tree in a very few minutes. Powerful skidders haul the felled trees to landings, where they are cut to the desired length, hoisted onto double-length trailers, and trucked to sawmills where they are sawn into lumber, and trucked to seaports to be sold away to countries whose forests have long since been depleted. Little regard is paid to a re-growth period to allow our own forests to recover.

But it seems that much of humanity has very little interest in any recovery or concern for future generations.

In the monetary measurement, we thought there were many things we wanted, but looking back it is easy to see that we had enough.



Celebrating Athlii Gwaii

*A Personal Account
of a Seminal Moment
in British Columbia*

by Eduardo Sousa



Photos by Eduardo Sousa/Greenpeace

In November 2010, I had the good fortune and privilege to be on Haida Gwaii to celebrate with the Haida and non-Haida alike a seminal moment in the history of those beautiful islands, their people, and indeed British Columbia. The celebrations marked how, twenty-five years ago, Haida elders and youth stood together at Athlii Gwaii (Lyell Island in South Moresby) to say, No! – there will be no more logging of our land beyond this point.

First Nations blockades arguably began in the 1970s as a means to protest and raise awareness of their inalienable rights and title over their unceded traditional territories. At the 1984 Ahousaht and Tla-o-qui-aht blockades at Meares Island in Clayoquot Sound, and the 1985 Haida blockade at Athlii Gwaii, such protests over industrial logging began to increase in scope and scale, and take on international significance. Indeed, each succeeding blockade drew a line in the sand that inspired others to do likewise to assert rights and title to their lands.

For the Haida, the issues at stake were not just environmental, but went to the core of what it meant to be a people who have inhabited the same lands over millennia. This was about regaining control over managing the bounty of land and sea, of beginning a process to re-establish a functioning, sustainable local economy that was originally shattered through a century of colonial control.

As a result of the stands taken, first at Meares and then Athlii Gwaii, momentum built over the following decade, leading to the huge-scale anti-logging campaigns of the 1990s. For Greenpeace, in addition to the important social justice dimensions of the blockade at Athlii Gwaii, we are grateful to the Haida because that line in the sand led not only to our involvement in Clayoquot Sound and the Great Bear Rainforest, but also inspired the development of our international forests campaign work.

And so I went to Skidegate to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Athlii Gwaii, to not only say haaw'a to the Haida on behalf of my organization, but also to honour what they did on a personal level.

Gwaii Haanas

It seemed highly significant to me that the celebrations would begin on Friday November 12th at the Haida Heritage Centre at Kaay Llnagaay, near Skidegate. The Centre shares facilities with the offices of the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, which was born out of the protests at Athlii Gwaii. The park is based on a co-management model, where both Haida and non-Haida are equally responsible for its governance and management. As well as stories told about Athlii Gwaii, the creation of the Heritage Centre and Gwaii Haanas, there was a photographic installation profiling elders and youth – some of whom are today’s leaders in the community. Also featured that evening was the newest chapter in the story of Gwaii Haanas – the recent creation of a marine conservation area around the entire park reserve, essentially tying together land and sea, providing protection, as they noted, from “mountain top to sea floor.”

Dancing, Drums, Masks, Speeches, Food

The core of the actual celebrations took place at the community centre in Skidegate all day Saturday November 13th. Though the whole thing was to kick off at 1 p.m., by 10:30 a.m. there was already a large number of young people and elders waiting to get in, in anticipation of the day’s events – the dancing, the drums, the masks, the speeches, and the food. Being new to the community, I felt somewhat out of place at first, but that soon changed as I was warmly welcomed into the hall and ended up helping pour refreshments, and later ladled seafood chowder out of huge soup pots.

By the time the festivities began with the singing of the Haida anthem, there must have been at least 1000 people in the community hall. Interestingly, only very recently has that song become the Haida anthem, for it was originally called the “Coming into the House Paddle Song,” which became known as the “Lyell Island [Athlii Gwaii] Song” in honour of the blockade that people were here to celebrate. It was with great joy that people across generations came to remember that important moment in time, to honour and say haaw’a to all those who put themselves on the line, as well as to all those who supported the cause of Haida rights and title over their traditional territory.

As much as I would love to recount all the extraordinary speeches made by all the speakers – the memories, the homages, the stories – I can only give a few accounts here that, hopefully, convey the meaning of Athlii Gwaii and of the day itself.

To begin with, in a creative and original recounting of what happened at Athlii Gwaii, a group of youth stepped

out on the celebration floor, representing in dress and signs, all the various parts of the conflict – the Haida on the front lines, the loggers, the RCMP, and others.

After the young people’s historical re-actment in song and dance, former President of the Council of the Haida Nation, Miles Richardson, spoke, continuing the importance of creating a historical context for this special gathering. He noted that there was already a twelve-year history of land use negotiations between the Haida and the federal government prior to 1985, which had gone nowhere. With the threat of industrial logging on the few remaining intact areas, the Haida drew the line at Athlii Gwaii. The conflict brought together the two Haida villages of Skidegate and Masset in a commitment to protect the land and surrounding waters. But Richardson also made the point that, as much as he loves “celebrating the past, what turns [me] on is the future.” This was a sentiment shared by most of the speakers – that the meaning of Athlii Gwaii lay not in the past – though it was important to honour that and the sacrifice of many – but in marking out the future for the Haida in terms of governance and control over their resources.

The fight the Haida and all non-Haida alike have now, is no longer just for their island home but for the future of the planet.

Diane Brown gave a moving, personal account of life on the line during the blockade – from agonizingly watching elders being arrested and taken to jail in Queen Charlotte Village by helicopter, to her own arrest as one of the 72 arrestees, and subsequent conviction.

The impact of Athlii Gwaii on her life was clear in her voice. She also noted it took many people beyond the 72 arrestees “who pulled it off.”

Indeed, there were many, many people from away who supported what the Haida were doing, and all that support also contributed to the meaning and success of Athlii Gwaii. What happened at Athlii Gwaii “gave hope to all of [us] and to the rest of the world...that human beings can take care of a small piece of the earth for the children.”

One speech that stood out for me was that given by Chief Allan Wilson. Twenty-five years ago, Chief Wilson was one of the arresting RCMP officers at the blockades and had the “heart-wrenching” task of arresting elders, including his aunt. He noted that though it wasn’t far to walk, arresting and walking his aunt off the site, “was the longest walk in my life; my legs felt 300-400 pounds.” Though he was doing his job, he believed deep inside in what his fellow Haida were doing. Also deeply moving was the forgiveness of the elders he arrested, that they understood, and were “proud of [him] doing [his] job.” This story really moved me, not only by the tenderness with which it was told by a former police officer, but also because of my own experi-

Continued on Page 22 ⇨

↳ Athlii Gwaii continued

ence as a political activist for many years. Having faced the heavy-handedness of police at protests, Chief Wilson's story illustrated for me that, behind the sunglasses, shields, and batons are human beings with their own feelings, some likely with mixed feelings, over what they have been tasked to do.

I was rather stunned and pleased to hear a senior Parks Canada official acknowledge that what Haida youth and elders did twenty five years ago was important, sending a powerful message that the land and sea are connected, that the people who have been living on the land for millennia have to be listened to in terms of how to steward the land and water. A BC ministry official also spoke about the impact Athlii Gwaii had on provincial negotiations and policies towards aboriginal reconciliation. The co-management model that emerged out of the creation of Gwaii Haanas and the lessons learned provided momentum behind the province's creation of conservancies, protected areas, ecosystem-based management, and First Nations-owned and operated forest tenures. Another legacy, as noted by the Chair of Gwaii Trust, Peter Lantin, was the creation of Gwaii Trust Society with \$38 million to fund environmentally sustainable social-economic development projects.

Although I have been writing here about the words and the stories, there were many dances and songs as part of the celebration. The beautiful masks and costumes worn spoke to the power and beauty of a culture long-rooted in the land and water. Young and old danced, both professionally and as part of communal-community dances. Dancers came from Massett and Skidegate, and also from Prince Rupert and Vancouver. The deep beating of the drums kept us all deeply connected to the moment.

A Legacy of Working Together

Towards the end of a terrific day of stories, songs, dances, and feasting, the current President of the Council of the Haida Nation, Guujaaw, said that what was imperative at Athlii Gwaii and its legacy was the working together of both Haida and non-Haida. Land and culture are intrinsically linked, their protection was and is the imperative, and everything just follows from that. The fight continues, though, for rights and title with an impending Supreme Court decision. He called for continued vigilance with the new ecological threat of proposed oil tanker traffic going through Haida waters – tankers chomping at the bit to pick up Tar Sands oil by way of the proposed Enbridge pipeline to Kitimat. Guujaaw, in noting the success of Athlii Gwaii, pointed to the strength of the Haida as deriving from their ancestors – that their power continues through the present and into the future. In the end, he exhorted ever so eloquently that the fight the Haida and all non-Haida alike have now is no longer just for their island home but for the future of the planet.

The evening's cultural activities wound up with powerful dances recounting Haida past history. Thus we had the story-dance of Icewoman, who led the Haida to Puget Sound when the last ice age arrived. The masks for these dances were created by renowned carvers Reg Davidson, Guujaaw, and Jim Hart. They were literally larger than life with a power exuding from them that gave me the sense of the power of the trees from which they emerged into life as masks through their carvers.

The evening wrapped up with the naming of every person, all 72, who stood on the line and was arrested. A number of those honoured have now moved on, but those still alive were in the community hall and so walked onto the main floor to receive their gift – an honorary blanket with the crest of the Haida nation. After a communal dance that bound them together, much as their desire to save the trees and their land did those 25 years ago, those who were named were joined by the rest of us in a special song. Like the way the day began, a song, this special song composed by well-known Haida artist Robert Davidson for all clans, brought the nine hours of feasting and celebrating to a formal close.

As a Personal Post-script:

I mentioned there was also a personal reason for coming to this event. Over the course of most of my life living in southern Ontario, I have been an activist for both social and environmental justice issues, whether standing in Toronto in solidarity with the Mohawk people during their standoff at Oka, or being a friend of Lubicon Cree when they were fighting for their land rights, or undertaking solidarity actions in the 1990s around Clayoquot Sound, or advocating for a free Tibet. I have worked for both environmental and social justice organizations for a number of years. I don't see a distinction between environmental and social justice issues.

So with this backdrop for context, I was deeply honoured and grateful for the opportunity to go to Haida Gwaii and say thanks, not just on behalf of my organization, but also in a very personal way to all those who sacrificed of themselves to defend their land. At Athlii Gwaii in 1985, people didn't know if they would be arrested, and if they were arrested, for how long and what kind of treatment they would receive in jail. The fact that people stood on the line regardless of what lay ahead of them was deeply moving and inspiring to me. I could only hope to have the same courage and conviction in my elder years when I reach them, should I be called to defend the land and water and in respect of the ancestors who have gone before.

I say again, Haaw'a.



Eduardo Sousa is a Senior Forest Campaigner with Greenpeace. He can be reached at esousa@greenpeace.org

61 First Nations Say No to Pipeline Ban Enbridge from Fraser Watershed

In December 2010, 61 Indigenous Nations in BC came together in a historic alliance to protect the Fraser River watershed and to declare their opposition to the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline.

Signed in Williams Lake in late November, and published in a full page ad in the *Globe and Mail* on December 2, the “Save the Fraser Gathering of Nations” declaration is based on Indigenous law and authority, and it states: “We will not allow the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines, or similar Tar Sands projects, to cross our lands, territories and watersheds, or the ocean migration routes of Fraser River salmon.”

The declaration is the second major First Nations declaration banning tar sands pipelines from BC this year, after a March declaration from the Coastal First Nations and the Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council. In October, the First Nations Summit Chiefs’ Council passed a resolution stating that the federal government must not proceed any further with its review of the Enbridge Pipelines project and associated oil supertankers. The nations see the federal process as a violation of their laws and rights under international law, including the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

Chief Larry Nooski of Nadleh Whut’en First Nation, part of the Yinka Dene Alliance opposed to the Enbridge project, stated, “Our laws do not permit crude oil pipelines into our territories. This project isn’t going anywhere.”



“This project isn’t going anywhere.”

Nations along the Fraser watershed say critical salmon runs would be threatened by a proposed 700,000 barrels per day of crude oil and toxic hydrocarbons crossing the top of the Fraser watershed. The pipeline would cut through unceded lands and rivers and place communities, fish, and wildlife at risk from oil spills.

The Yinka Dene Alliance subsequently rejected an offer of an equity stake in the pipeline, and instead served a legal Declaration on Enbridge’s headquarters in Calgary, stating that the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines are not allowed through their territories, according to ancestral laws.

Because the Declaration has First Nations legal status, it was delivered

by a process server directly to Enbridge’s CEO Pat Daniel and Enbridge’s board of directors.

“Enbridge talks about having the so-called ‘support of First Nations,’ but I don’t know of a single First Nation that supports them,” said Chief Jackie Thomas of Saik’uz First Nation. “In the last month, the number of First Nations publicly opposed to this pipeline has tripled. The money they are offering can be put to better use by restoring the land they have already harmed in Alberta, Michigan, and elsewhere.”

Chief Art Adolph of Xaxli’p, a community of the St’át’imc Nation whose territories cover the middle and southern parts of the Fraser watershed, added: “Enbridge has pointed to 30 ‘protocol agreements’ signed with Indigenous Nations and claims support for their pipelines. In fact, Enbridge’s public documents show that these agreements do not indicate support but simply ‘establish the ground rules and points of contact for discussion on all aspects of the Northern Gateway project that might affect or involve First Nations and Métis communities.’”

There is no First Nation that has publicly supported this project.

—Nadleh Whut’en, Saik’uz and Xaxli’p-St’at’imc First Nations, December 2 and 16, 2010, First Nations Summit, October 1, 2010



A copy of the declaration is available at www.savethefraser.ca



Northern Gateway Pipeline Oil Bullet to California

"... The Kitimat solution appears to us to be the best, to provide access for VL tankers, not only for Asia generally, but the whole Pacific Rim. That could include California." —Enbridge CEO Patrick Daniel

by Arthur Caldicott

Enbridge has been promoting its Northern Gateway Pipeline project (NGP) since 2002. Designed to move tar sands bitumen to the west coast, the company has never been clear about where the oil will go after that. Apart from glib assurances that it won't wash up on BC's coast, that is. Originally, the company said "California and the Far East." Today, it's "new export markets" and less certainty about California.

NGP is a pair of pipelines between Bruderheim Alberta and Kitimat BC. The larger one is designed to transport 525,000 barrels (bbl) per day (bpd) of diluted bitumen to Kitimat, and the other would move imported condensate to Alberta – where it is used to thin the bitumen so it can flow in a pipeline.

Enbridge is certain about two things, however: opening Asia to oil exports from Canada will benefit all Canadian oil producers – the "Asian bump" – and California is a new market for Canadian oil, which could be fully supplied by the NGP.

The Asian Bump

Right now, there's only one customer for Canada's oil and gas – the United States. When producers sit down with buyers to haggle over price, it's a short conversation. The buyer says, "Take it or leave it."

Tar sands producers would like to change this conversation. The NGP, with its Asian access, would achieve that. According to Enbridge, this "Asian bump" could be worth \$2.39 billion in additional revenues to all of Canada's oil producers in the first year of operation, and \$4.47 billion in the tenth year.

Whether they plan to ship on the NGP or not, all tar sands producers stand to benefit.

Where Will It Go?

In terms of oil and gas, California is not connected to the rest of the continental United States, not unlike Alaska or Hawaii. There are no major interstate pipelines going in any direction. The state has its own refining capacity – nearly 2000 bpd, about the same as all of Canada – much of it able to handle heavy tar sands crude.

Forty per cent of the oil refined in California is produced there, another 15% comes from Alaska, and 45% is imported from foreign nations. Supply is changing, with in-state production in gradual decline, and Alaskan supply dropping rapidly. The growing shortfall is filled with foreign imports.

Yet Canada supplies very little oil to California, because there is no way to get it there. No pipeline. No practical marine option.

Kinder Morgan (KM) already owns a pipeline to the Pacific. Its Trans Mountain system terminates in Burnaby at KM's Westridge Terminal. These are assets retained by KM after it acquired BC-based Terasen in 2005. Recent expansion of the pipeline (TMX Phase 1) has resulted in increasing shipments from Westridge – a record 65 tankers in 2009, 90% of which are destined for California and now contributing up to 5% of the state's supply.

TMX Phase 2, a 100,000 bpd expansion, is where the KM option may run aground.

First, large tankers provide huge economies of scale. NGP will use Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs) with a capacity of up to 3 million bbl, but the Port of Vancouver & Westridge can only handle Aframax tankers with one-quarter the capacity.

Second, if TMX-2 were to go ahead, it would add 50 or more tanker visits per year to the port, or 100 transits. Port restrictions limit tanker movement to daylight-only and slack tide, effectively jamming an increasing number of vessels into very small windows during which they can manoeuvre – and increasing the risk of an accident.

Third, the social licence to use Vancouver as an oil port is already tenuous. Ramped up with TMX-2, the public opposition will only intensify.

The Pipeline Option to California

California is a promising market for Alberta’s oil, yet a direct pipeline (a “bullet”) to California has not joined the many other pipelines proposed from Alberta to the US Midwest and the Gulf of Mexico (see “Fill Er Up!,” *Watershed Sentinel*, Sept-Oct 2006). Cost is a factor: building a 2,500 km pipeline to California, crossing the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevadas, is a lot more costly and environmentally challenging than building a pipeline across the flat land in the middle of the continent. The environmental impacts, actual and potential, would be similar to those of NGP. And the social licence would be even more difficult to obtain than with NGP, if that’s possible, if only because the population density along the route is so much greater than along the route to Kitimat.

Tankers are cheaper to operate than pipelines. The average toll to Kitimat on the 1170 km NGP is estimated at \$3.21 per barrel. Tankering the barrel another 2130 km from Kitimat to San Francisco will cost \$1.37. The total distance is 3300 km and the total toll would be \$4.58/bbl. Compare this to the toll on a 2500 km bullet pipeline from Alberta to San Francisco – which might be \$6.85/bbl using the NGP estimated toll. In terms of cost, NGP is the effective bullet to California for tar sands oil. Even more striking – Alberta to Shanghai is cheaper at \$6.31/bbl than Alberta to California by pipeline.

Double Hulls, Doublespeak,

Enbridge claims that the tankers it charters will be “operated as models of world-class safety standards.” It’s deceptive language – because the tankers themselves will not be world-class. That standard belongs to the Alaska-class tankers that operate between ports in Alaska, Washington, and California, and which are built with redundant propulsion and control systems. Enbridge is proposing only to use tankers with double hulls – the minimum requirement in North America.

The much safer Alaska-class vessels do not sail inside the Tanker Exclusion Zone (TEZ), which only applies to tankers sailing to and from Alaska and which keeps them at least 124 km west of Haida Gwaii. With the support of the federal and provincial govern-

ments, Enbridge would use tankers built to a distinctly inferior standard, sailing to and from Kitimat and effectively flouting the purpose of the TEZ

In the absence of a legislated ban on tankers in these coastal waters, there is no regulatory impediment to the Enbridge proposal. On December 14, 2010, Liberal MP Joyce Murray introduced a private members bill in Parliament seeking to pass just such a ban.

California’s Low Carbon Fuel Standard

If NGP is built – far from a sure thing given the near unanimity of opposition to it by First Nations along the route, and by the very real and potentially catastrophic ecological risks – one thing still stands between California’s refineries and Alberta’s tar sands: the state’s Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS). The state’s *Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32)* and the LCFS, passed in 2009, require that fuels sold in California achieve a 10% reduction in carbon intensity by 2020.

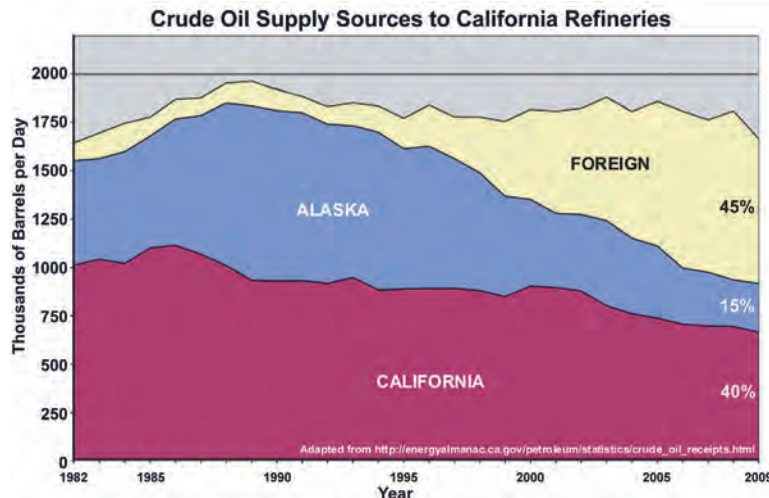
Tar sands oil flies off the intensity scale in the wrong direction, and California’s refineries and other lobby groups are working to undermine the progressive legislation. Most recently, they funded Proposition 23, which would have suspended AB 32. Prop 23 was rejected by 62% of California’s voters.

This battle is not isolated to California. Oil from the tar sands is getting bad press right across the US, thanks to major media initiatives by environmental groups, and the unavoidable ugly facts of its production. The Albertan and Canadian governments and the tar sands producers have joined the US refining lobby in pitching for the tar sands.

Northern Gateway: Cheaper At Any Price

Powerful political, corporate, and economic forces are joined in supporting the construction of the Northern Gateway Project. Only two forces have significant legal opportunity to stop or impede the project, or undermine its economics: First Nations along the pipeline and tanker routes, and California’s climate change legislation. A legislated tanker ban in Canada would put an end to the project.

◆
Arthur Caldicott writes frequently for the Watershed Sentinel on energy matters.





First Hand

A Report from The Cove

The process in which they are driven into the cove, slaughtered, dragged to the gutting barge while drowning in their own blood, gutted, and butchered, is completed with callous efficiency.

by Tarah Millen, *Cove Guardian*

The town of Taiji, Japan is responsible for the slaughter and trade of over 2,000 dolphins each year. A jewel along the South East coastline of Japan, Taiji could transform into a beautiful oasis were it not for the horrors that occur there. Taiji is home to 26 men who are known to some as molesters, men who act with force, harming the beautiful creatures of our oceans. Each year from September through March, the cries of pain and desperation from thousands of dolphins ring out in the quiet town. The slaughter of dolphins in Japan is no less than a tragedy, a dark spot upon the country's reputation.

Migrating through the waters surrounding the coastal nation, dolphins are forcefully driven with "banger boats" from their home in the open ocean to a natural formation, a cove, where they will spend the last moments of their lives. It is here in this cove that dolphins are chosen for the slave trade in aquariums or slaughtered for their meat. The process in which they are driven into the cove, slaughtered, dragged to the gutting barge; while drowning in their own blood, gutted, and butchered is completed with callous efficiency.

The death of dolphins in Taiji passes by 7 months out of every year largely unbeknownst to the Japanese public. When interviewed by the creators of the Oscar Winning documentary, *The Cove*, Japanese citizens were, not only unaware of the slaughter, but shocked by such a concept. The citizens of Japan do not support the dolphin hunt, yet it continues due to the profits generated from the live dolphin trade. In a contract between a Turkish aquarium and Taiji officials, 10 dolphins sold for a price of \$280,000 US. A young female dolphin that has been trained can fetch up to \$300,000 US when purchased by dolphinariums.

The "cultural" label placed on this practice is merely a convenient cover, hiding the fact that the slaughter did not occur before aquariums existed. Indeed, the slaughter and capture of dolphins in Japan did not occur before 1970. Before this time, the hunting of dolphins was only done on occasion, when convenience allowed.

The live trade of dolphins in Taiji is directly linked to the dolphin slaughter. The driving force behind the dolphin hunt is the profit to be made from young females. Following the driving of dolphins into the Cove area, trainers come from the "Dolphin Base" in Taiji to select young females, similar to "Flipper." The selection process can take up to four hours depending on the number of appropriate dolphins. It can be quite a cruel process, and while in Taiji we witnessed the drowning of two young dolphins as the trainers were forcing them to become submissive for training. We also caught footage of the trainers forcefully hitting and shoving dolphins. Without profit generated from the live trade, these fishermen would not continue to slaughter dolphins for their meat.

I spent three weeks in Taiji, this past November. My partner and I traveled there to act as Cove Guardians, a campaign run by the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. Sea Shepherd was founded by Paul Watson in 1978 soon after his departure from Greenpeace. It is a radical environmental organization dedicated to saving our oceans and the life found within them. Many Sea Shepherd campaigns require direct action intervention against illegal activity such as shark finning and the slaughter of whales in the Southern Ocean Sanctuary. The Cove Guardian campaign could not include direct action intervention due to Japa-



Dolphins are forcefully driven with “banger boats” from their home in the open ocean to a cove where they will spend the last moments of their lives.



nese law stating that any individual directly intervening with business interests will be charged with “obstruction of business” resulting in two to three years in a Japanese prison. The purpose of the Cove Guardian campaign was to stand guard, document, film and raise awareness of the slaughter of dolphins to Japanese citizens and the world.

The time that I spent in Japan as a Cove Guardian was emotionally and physically exhausting, albeit very rewarding. Each day began with rising between 3 and 5 a.m. for travel to the Cove area in Taiji. Our group would gather at the hotel and spread out among the various vantage points near and around the cove. Each day differed depending on whether the hunter boats were out in search of dolphins. The day often ended with filming the horrors of capture, slaughter, bloodied dolphins, gutting (sometimes done while the dolphins were still alive), transfer and butchering. Although it was a very frustrating time, I left Taiji knowing that each and every presence in the small town made a larger impact than we can fathom. Detailed accounts of my days in Taiji can be found at www.coveguardian.blogspot.com.

In this day and age our oceans are dying. Dolphins are but one species that represent the plight of our oceans. Human exploitation is largely evident for those willing to take a closer look. We are destroying the world’s largest ecosystem, depleting the ocean at a faster rate than it can replenish. As humans we harbour intelligence and capacity for choice. For mere entertainment we sentence creatures who may just surpass our level of intelligence, to a life without joy. They experience a lifetime enclosed in a concrete tank forever disconnected from their natural habitat and family in the ocean. Their acoustic abilities crippled, they are forced to perform tricks for passers-by. We must learn to appreciate the beauty of our oceans and strive to save them.

Although the situation may seem unredeemable, there are many actions that Canadian citizens can take to help end this tragedy. The simple act of phoning, e-mailing, faxing, and writing letters to your local Japanese Embassy or Consulate creates a major impact for dolphins in Taiji. Change must come from the inside. The law allowing ex-

ploitation of cetaceans in Japan can only be altered by the Japanese Government. Donations are also imperative. By supporting Sea Shepherd in their direct action initiatives, you are ensuring that a Sea Shepherd representative can stay on the ground in Taiji to monitor the situation. Other simple acts to help save the dolphins in Japan include viewing “The Cove” and sharing it with friends and family to raise awareness. You may also support others’ initiatives to become Cove Guardians, or become one yourself. Please visit www.seashepherd.org for more information.

You can visit my youtube channel to watch the last video log that I created in Taiji, Japan. I will be returning next year, and every year that follows, until we see an end to the slaughter of dolphins in Japan.

There will be a screening of *The Cove* movie in Nanaimo on January 17th, 2011 at Vancouver Island University, Building 356, Room 109. The doors open at 6:30 and the movie will be shown at 7pm. Tickets are available in Nanaimo at Boston Pizza, Tourism Nanaimo, and the Thirsty Camel. For those living outside of the city you can e-mail the organizers through thecoveguardians@gmail.com



Tarah Millen is an animal rights & environmental activist living on Vancouver Island. Her interests include travel, nature, raw foods, and ocean activism.

See also www.coveguardian.blogspot.com

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Have You Heard

Compiled by Delores Broten & Susan MacVittie

Killer Whale Legal Win

Conservation groups, represented by Ecojustice, have won a landmark decision in the Federal Court, which ruled that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has failed to adequately protect critical habitat of BC's resident killer whales. The court has confirmed that the government must legally protect all aspects of critical habitat.

"The abundance of salmon, chemical pollution and physical and acoustic disturbance have all been identified as key threats to the critical habitat of resident killer whales," said Misty MacDuffee of Raincoast Conservation. "The court has confirmed that DFO is legally required to protect these features. BC's killer whales need the government to ensure they have salmon to eat, clean water to live in, and protection from noise pollution and physical disturbance."

—Ecojustice, December 7, 2010

NS Drilling Moratorium Extended

In November, Energy Minister Bill Estabrooks introduced legislation to ban exploration indefinitely in Georges Bank off the coast of Nova Scotia, saying the risks of drilling in the sensitive fishing grounds outweigh the potential benefits. The moratorium extends to commercial seismic testing in the area, but does not preclude "pure testing," such as geological studies. While the moratorium is indefinite, it can be lifted by a majority vote in the legislature.

—Metro News, November 4, 2010

"BC's killer whales need the government to ensure they have salmon, clean water, and protection from noise pollution"

Genetically Engineered Salmon in PEI

Environment Canada refuses to confirm or deny if the department has started a secret 120-day risk assessment to approve genetically engineered (GE) salmon egg production on Prince Edward Island. Sixty fisheries and oceans conservation, environmental and social justice groups object to the raising of GE fish and fish eggs. US company AquaBounty wants to produce all its GE salmon eggs on PEI, ship the eggs to Panama for grow out and processing, for sale in the US food market.

—Canadian Biotechnology Action Network, December 6, 2010

UNESCO Biosphere

Southern Vancouver Island residents, led by the Environmental Law Centre, Dogwood Initiative and Sea-to-Sea Greenbelt Society, have launched a campaign to add Greater Victoria to the UNESCO biosphere reserve list. UNESCO biosphere reserves aim to balance sustainable industry and development with environmental responsibility. No regulatory powers go along with a designation, but the international recognition is usually a powerful tool in encouraging sustainability and protecting indigenous cultures.

Victoria is special because it has a thriving city centre, surrounded by protected areas, dense rainforests and West Coast beaches. There are 17 reserves in Canada.

—Victoria Times Colonist, November 17, 2010

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Voices for Change



Interviews with Environmental Elders and Senior Leaders in British Columbia

by Maggie Paquet

The *Watershed Sentinel*, in partnership with the BC Environmental Network, has embarked on a New Horizons project called “Voices for Change.” The project highlights the valuable contributions to environmental education and/or activism by people in BC who are considered to be elders and “senior leaders.”

Our working definition of an elder includes: a member of a family or group who is respected, and who has influence and authority within the community; and my own notions of an elder: teacher; a person who has lived long enough on this good Earth to have garnered some wisdom and, in how they live their lives, shows us how we may live our own lives; a person who has accumulated knowledge and skills and wants to pass those along to successive generations; a person who inspires me.

We surveyed a large group and eventually selected 16 people from across the spectrum of environmental concerns – whether they are well-known or relatively unknown – who have had tremendous impact on the quality of environmental achievements in BC. This is a big movement and there are many people to choose from. It has not been easy to sort through the dozens of well-qualified candidates. We hope we’re presenting a good cross-section of elders to represent the issues and concerns of *Watershed Sentinel* readers.

Because stories are universal – crossing age, culture, and language barriers – they help people understand concepts, define our identity, connect us with each other, build and preserve community, and create emotional connections and shared purpose. I hope you are inspired by the stories of these elders (in alphabetical order): Ruby Dunstan, Rosemary Fox, Paul George, Guujaaw, Gordon Hartman, Vicky Husband, Margie Jamieson, Ed Mankelow, Wayne McCrory, Michael M’Gonigle, Alexandra Morton, May Murray, Calvin Sandborn, Olga Schwartzkopf, Katharine Steig, and Catherine Stewart.

This is the first of three articles in successive issues of the *Sentinel* to feature these British Columbians who have contributed so much to both the “environmental movement” and the wider public. I have interviewed 12 of the 16 selected elders. The remaining four will be interviewed early this year, subject to their availability.

This first article introduces some of the leaders through their responses to a few of the 13 questions asked (questions 1, 2, 7, and 9), which highlight their past and future concerns, along with lessons learned and advice for future generations.

The Interview Questions

1. What is/has been your major field(s) of interest/activity?
2. What was the primary impetus/reason that got you involved in environmental work? Why?
3. Did it ever have an impact on your family or other relationships? In what way? How did you deal with that?
4. What has kept you involved in the environmental movement? What keeps you going when things look bleak?
5. Do you work with an environmental organization? If so, why? If not, why not?
6. What do you think are possible traps to effective activism, or known failing strategies?
7. What changes do you foresee, if any, in the role of environmental organizations in the future?
8. What do you think is the most urgent/important environmental issue today? For BCers? For Canadians?
9. What lessons have you learned to share with the next generation? What advice would you give to the next generation of environmentalists? What advice would you give to all environmentalists?
10. If you could design a strategy to engage people to live in harmony with our planet, what would it look like?
11. What are you doing these days?
12. If you had the proverbial three wishes, what would they be?
13. Have I left out anything you’d like to mention?

What is/has been your major field(s) of interest/activity? What was the primary impetus/reason that got you involved in environmental work? Why? (Questions 1 & 2)

Of the 12 elders interviewed, just under half were motivated by changes in their neighbourhoods. The rest mentioned either regional concerns, such as the need for more parks and protected areas, destructive logging practices, and damming rivers; or global problems, such as loss of biodiversity, an unsustainable focus on “growth” for its own sake, over-consumption and over-population. Half expressed specific concern for old-growth forests; all said climate change is an over-riding concern. Other major concerns were about oceans, the need for better environmental laws, threats to health and drinking water through a variety of practices and pollution, loss of agricultural lands, depletion of fish (provincially and globally), and the lack of controls on pollution from mining and other industrial practices. The breadth of concerns is as diverse as the personalities and interests of the elders interviewed, and reflects the biological and social diversity of our province and the wider world.

In every case, some pivotal experience – either as a young person or in the early stages of a career – sparked the notion that, “I need to do something about this.” Each person interviewed had some kind of “Eureka! moment.” Many were inspired by childhood experiences, noticing early on that their world was undergoing changes that they felt were so destructive or “anti-life” that they knew they had to do something to stop it.

At least one elder was inspired by his teachers. Biologist Wayne McCrory was fortunate in having Bert Brink and Ian McTaggart-Cowan as professors at UBC back in the 1960s, before the word “environmentalist” existed. Wayne travelled through Latin America and the Galapagos Islands, where he saw how over-population, poverty, and the introduction of alien species destroyed ecosystems. And then he came home.

Another elder, Rosemary Fox, also had experience with effects on wildlife and ecosystems in other parts of the world – experience that she brought with her to BC. She was raised in the foothills of India’s Himalayas. Later, she learned that India’s tiger population was dangerously close to extinction due largely to over-hunting. She became concerned about the overhunting of caribou in the Spatsizi Plateau and embarked on a campaign that eventually resulted in a judicial review of BC’s Wildlife Branch and its relationship with the guide-outfitting industry.

Yet another elder was a teacher himself. Paul George, armed with a teaching certificate and degrees in zoology and sociology, took a group of students on a field trip to what was then called the Queen Charlotte Islands to study island evolution. “I was blown away by the beauty of the place, but also by the horrendous logging practices, especially on those steep slopes.”

As time went on, some expanded their focus into other issues or to geographically wider areas. Catherine Stewart had initially been a peace activist. Concerned about uranium mining, she “transitioned into concern about environmental threats, including fisheries, forests, aquaculture, and the ocean.”

Vicky Husband, who, as an artist born and raised on Vancouver Island and oriented “toward visuals,” started out concerned with major changes in West Coast landscapes due to extensive clearcut logging. When she saw how this was having an impact on all life, she “realized that protecting such areas as Long Beach, Meares Island, South Moresby/Gwaii Haanas, and the Khutzeymateen was the only option, and there was no time to lose.”



When I ended my travels through Latin America and went home to the Slokan Valley, I was devastated and depressed to find my beautiful home “Valley of the Valhallas” being assaulted by multi-nationals doing massive clearcut logging, which had replaced the small sawmills, lower impact logging, and horse-logging that had sustained the area previously.

—Wayne McCrory

Growing up on the Niagara Escarpment, my first interest was in agricultural and drinking water...We lived across from Love Canal, into which over 20,000 tonnes of toxins had been dumped, including dioxins. Chemical sensitivities and environmental illness were not then widely known about. I studied for a Science degree and wondered about the effects of pesticides on the central nervous system and possible connections to diseases such as Parkinson’s and ADHD. Later, I worked in a law firm. When the mass arrests happened in Clayoquot in 1993, my phone number was inked on every arrestee’s hand. Over 700 people phoned me at 5 a.m. to help get them out of jail.

—Olga Schwartzkopf

Continued on Page 32 ⇨

↔ *Voices continued*

Olga Schwartzkopf also “transitioned” from concerns about water to toxins and health, and the right to participate in civil disobedience.

A few actually narrowed their geographical field of interest. Michael M’Gonigle began his work on the international scale, being concerned with whaling and getting Greenpeace into the International Whaling Commission in 1977. Later, he focused on BC issues, such as the Stein Wilderness and aboriginal rights. A law and economics professor at UVic, today, he is involved in agricultural land development issues near his home in Central Saanich. “My basic trajectory has gone from dealing with symptoms to trying to understand systems and root/driving causes, like capitalism, the State. I’ve gone from the international to the provincial to the local.”

Others stayed focused primarily on the issue that inspired them in the first place. Many of these occurred right in their home neighbourhoods. For over 20 years, Katharine Steig’s name has been practically synonymous with Friends of Cypress Provincial Park. Fighting off the development of a ski hill on Cypress Park’s Hollyburn Mountain, the only easily accessible mountain on Vancouver’s North Shore, and plans for a 27-hole golf course on municipal land below the park’s boundary in West Van – both of which have significant old-growth stands – has been her life’s work. When asked why, she replied: “These were places that I loved, that practically defined the environment of West Vancouver. I perceived these as major threats to my neighbourhood.”

Many moved through a spectrum of issues, but all have stayed involved because they feel the issues still need them.

What changes do you foresee, if any, in the role of environmental organizations in the future? (Question 7)

There were two major comments made by everyone who was interviewed: The first is that ENGOs need to learn to work together better in order to be more accountable, more strategic, and more effective. Ed Mankelow commented that groups may disagree on some things, but not on the issue. The second was well-articulated by Catherine Stewart, who said ENGOs must find more and better ways to motivate and engage the public, to show them they have the power to change things and that they need to start using that power.

Elders also commented on how today’s communications technology is a boon to getting out the message. Rosemary Fox said that groups must continue to adapt to changes in this technology, not only for outward communications, but for messaging within groups.

I tend to agree with Rosemary’s comment about ad hoc groups springing up as needed. When BC Hydro and Calpine of California wanted to put a gas-fired electricity generating plant in Alberni, an ad hoc group calling itself the Citizens’ Stewardship Coalition sprang up. Later, in response to the loss of forest jobs and the huge volumes of logs being trucked out for export, many of the same people re-grouped, calling themselves the Save Our Valley Alliance (SOVA). These days, many of them are reincarnated into two groups, one protecting water resources in the Valley, and another that is fighting the prospect of Port Alberni becoming a coal port for the Raven Coal Mine, proposed to be developed just uphill from what is probably BC’s richest shellfish industry at Fanny Bay, south of Courtenay.



Don’t fall into the trap of believing your own press. It’s not about you, it’s about the issue. Be supportive of a diversity of thought and strategies. Don’t circle the wagons and shoot inward. Celebrate the small victories, any progress. Acknowledge it. Pat yourself and your colleagues on the back.

—Catherine Stewart



Maybe the major organizations won’t have such a large role in the future. For instance, people in the Bulkley Valley, where I live, band together to react to local, regional threats. We get organized in a kind of ad hoc way for a particular issue, then disband, then re-organize for the next issue. This approach is greatly facilitated by the instant electronic means of communication that’s now available, and I think it is likely to increase.

—Rosemary Fox

Calvin Sandborn is the Legal Director of UVic’s Environmental Law Clinic. From his perspective, another important – and positive – change is in the increased number of public interest lawyers. Not only do they work with groups and communities, including First Nations, to help them stand up to corporations and governments, they are helping to “move the law forward” in getting better environmental laws and increasing the sensitivity of the courts to environmental concerns.

Wayne McCrory believes that grassroots groups will continue to be the backbone of the movement, people working within communities, often partnering with “ordinary citizens” and First Nations. The notion of volunteers vs paid staff can be a touchy one, and will be discussed in detail in the next instalment of this series, but both Rosemary Fox and Katharine Steig would agree with Wayne that there is no denying the effectiveness of local volunteers.

Many environmentalists have their roots in social justice issues. In fact, Gordon Hartman quoted from Hardin’s essay, “The Tragedy of the Commons”: “Conservation is social justice between generations.”

What lessons have you learned to share with the next generation? What advice would you give to the next generation of environmentalists? What advice would you give to all environmentalists? (Question 9)

This question generated a variety of stern responses. Chief among them were exhortations for environmentalists to get their facts straight, if they want to have credibility in their communities. Similar comments included: Be credible. Don’t overstate. Learn about your issue. Lifelong learning – self-learning – are important; teach others to value these. Work with others who know about your issue. Do your homework. Stay on track.

Added to these were comments about behaviour: Learn public speaking and communications skills. Build a good relationship with the press. Stay positive. Be reasonable. Make people feel good. Put your hand out. Be patient. Stand up for what you believe in. Be passionate about your issue. Be tolerant of others in the movement; lack of tolerance only benefits our opponents. We’re all in this together. Hang in there. Never give up. Keep hounding them. Spread the word. Be persistent. Avoid being abrasive or aggressive. And another gave sage advice I’m sure many of us can identify with: Don’t sacrifice your health.

Wayne McCrory said that everybody has to be an environmentalist. “We all have to think carefully of how to reduce our carbon footprint. Be centred in the issues. Be ethical, collaborative. Think strategically. Be open to helping and mentoring.”

For Gordon Hartman, the big lesson is about overpopulation and the buy-in to the “growth ethic and the socio-political paradigm of which it is part. As for specific issues, I think the tar sands are the biggest sore in the Canadian conscience.”

Paul George’s advice is to “Keep it new. Be creative. When the barge *Nes-tucca* ran aground on the west coast and we went to help with the cleanup, we put tarballs into small bottles and sent them off to all the MPs so they could have their very own stinky globs of pollution.” He added that “we need to get kids out from behind their electronic gadgets and games and get them more involved.” This was echoed by most of the other elders.

Continued on Page 34 ➔



West Van makes good use of volunteer advisory groups and donates staff time to assist. They recognize the knowledge and continuity value of locals. But, particularly with the provincial government, there is this top-down mentality. They don’t seem to acknowledge the value of local grassroots commitment and expertise. They have difficulty working with volunteer community groups—who know their areas best—in a positive, respectful partnership. This seems especially true of BC Parks, which abandoned its volunteer program several years ago.

—Katharine Steig



Have fun. Dance. Play music. Share joy with others. Love one another. It’s in community that people break out of the epidemic of alienation that drives environmental destruction.

—Calvin Sandborn



Canada

This was developed with funding from the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Initiative.

[A] major spark occurred when I was fishing with my dad at Winter Harbour on the north end of Vancouver Island. Winter Harbour was the last whaling station in Canada. I saw a whaling boat come into the harbour towing a dozen whales, Fin and Sperm whales. I watched in horror and disgust as they were being flensed; the stench and noise were awful. I thought then and there that I had to do something about that.

—Michael M'Gonigle

I'd like to see a greater environment-social justice link; or at least to have these be more visibly linked, as they certainly are in "real life." Climate change scenarios give the potential to do this. We need to look at how people like Vandana Shiva and Arundhati Roy are linking social justice to environmental issues in India and abroad.

—Olga Schwartzkopf

Photos, clockwise from Upper Left: Ed Mankelov at Chase Woods, Paul George, Calvin Sandborn and Environmental Law Clinic students, Wayne McCrory, Gordon Hartman, Katherine Steig, Ed Mankelov, May Murray on left, with friend.

Author and editor Maggie Paquet was awarded the Martha Kostuch Lifetime Achievement Award from the Canadian Environmental Network (RCEN) in September 2010.



Can't Lose

"Ferry's full", we're told.
At loading time, we hold
our breath, inch forward
on hot asphalt.

Either way, if not...
with binos and a book, with a bottle of water and a pencil,
a happy few hours on the beach adjacent to the ferry terminal.
Something I've never seen or heard or thought before
could turn up.
Can't lose.
We inch forward.
Interpret the code; five fingers up: we're on!

So yes, we eat, gaze at scenery, talk a bit, eat some more, and browse the paper.
But back on the parking lot, the corner of my waiting eye had caught
a thought, "scaup!" But no, surely not here.

We arrive home earlier than expected. Everyone happy, unpack, relax.

Scaup?

—Hanna Main-van der Kamp©



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Wild Times

by Joe Foy

I love hiking the ridge line between wilderness valleys as the rain mists down. Looking at the little rivulets making their way to the rivers below reminds me that we all have tiny watershed moments in our lives that have the possibility of becoming mighty rivers one day.

Back in the early 1900s, Mr. and Mrs. Smith – their real names, believe it or not – lived in the young city of Vancouver. They had wanted to start a family, but for reasons unknown Mrs. Smith had not been able to give birth to a baby of their own.

Anne Smith was a mid-wife.

And so it came to be that in 1903 Anne learned that a young woman she was helping to give birth was unable to keep her baby girl. I often wonder what it was like in that watershed moment when the decision to adopt that baby was made.

Lucky for me, the Smith's did adopt the little girl, then went on to raise her and love her beyond words. Eventually she grew up, married and had kids of her own. That little adopted girl became my grandmother, my Nana, the watershed source of me and the wonderful family that surrounds me today.

British Columbia has watershed moments too.

Think of the things we are most proud of in BC, like our public health care system, our national and provincial parks, or our Agricultural Land Reserve – to name just a few. These treasures are enshrined in law



Will you engage in the political process?
Will you help choose the next leaders and their policies?
Will you fight to take the future back?

now, but there was a time when they weren't.

Starting in the 1940s, in small town Saskatchewan, future premier Tommy Douglas would take the stage time and time again to speak out and open the way for a Canadian health care system that would eventually become a right for us all, not just a privilege for the rich. In the early 1970s Richmond farmer Harold Steves' tireless work resulted in BC's groundbreaking farm land protection law. And, in the 1980s and '90s in BC's Fraser Canyon communities Chief Ruby Dunstan's passionate speeches helped win provincial park status for the Stein Valley.

But these leaders did not achieve all this on their own. They were buoyed up and propelled by a torrent of citizens, each of whom had made their

own watershed decision to engage in making change.

Right now with the exit of Premier Gordon Campbell and Official Opposition Leader Carole James, BC's political landscape is being remade before our eyes.

The most important watershed decision, these days, is not for our leaders to make. It's for you.

Will you engage in the political process? Will you help choose the next leaders and their policies?

Will you fight to take the future back?

The time is now for us to create those rivulets that will lead to a mighty, sustainable future BC where oil tankers are banned from our coast and dirty tar sands pipelines are not allowed; where laws ensure the preservation of our remaining old growth forests and our endangered species; and, where many more wilderness areas have the provincial park protection they deserve.

The time is now to demand a premier who doesn't squander tens of millions of our tax dollars on needless freeway expansion, while starving public transportation. We are starving for a provincial government that finally pushes Ottawa to wipe the stain of salmon farms from our seas and steps up conservation of wild salmon habitat.

The time is now for leaders in Victoria who will keep our hydro power production in public hands, and our wild rivers safe from being ruined by private power developers. And we



need elected representatives who enact laws that strengthen, not weaken protections for farmland.

And all that is just for starters.

This is BC's watershed moment.

What will you decide to do?



Joe Foy is Campaign Director for the Wilderness Committee, Canada's largest citizen-funded membership-based wilderness preservation organization.

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