



# Friends of Clayoquot Sound

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Fall 2011 • Winter 2012

## What's Up in this issue

**Mining boom  
sparks controversy**

**DFO's smoking gun?**

**Blowing BC's  
carbon bank**

**Flores Island  
flashpoint**

**New salmon farm  
proposed in  
Clayoquot**

**Imperial Metals  
feeling the heat?**

**Merv Wilkinson  
1913-2011**



Gisele Martin

## Cedar is the tree of life

Western red cedar is important to Nuu-chah-nulth culture because it is the tree of life for our people. From it we have gotten many, many things, from the cedar that makes our clothes, to the cedar that makes our houses, to the cedar that makes our canoes.

I became very startled about the fact that these cedar trees may one day disappear into the hands of the forest companies when I travelled to Japan. There I met a fellow from Papua New Guinea who spoke about the forests in his country. They were no longer able to make the large canoes which that culture used to make, where those men would line up in their canoes and row with their legs. That guy showed a photograph of this, and explained how they are no longer able to do this.

When I look at a forest cover map of Vancouver Island, I see that most of the old growth forest is gone. There are

very few communities anymore that have access to old growth forest.

I have traveled to canoe gatherings on the coast here. The last one that I went to was at Neah Bay, Washington. I remember carvers there talking about canoes, that they're not able to access any more old cedars from their own region, because the forest companies have come and taken them all.

Therefore my concern for this wood, the western red cedar, is real. A lot of people don't realize that logging is a real threat to our culture here.

Here in Clayoquot Sound we have the largest intact old growth forest left on Vancouver Island. I know there are a few other areas on the island that have access to ancient cedars, but not many. If the forest companies continue to cut, it will not be here any more.

Continued on page 7



Tolino Photography



Tofino Photography

## Mining boom sparks controversy

The current mining boom is sparking controversy across British Columbia.

On Vancouver Island, debate rages over mine proposals at Tofino and Fanny Bay. The plan to drain and kill Fish Lake in central BC triggered massive public resistance.

Most British Columbians would be shocked to discover just how weak our mine regulatory system has become. There is an urgent need to reform this environmental protection regime.

A recent Environmental Law Centre study found:

- The legal rules set out in Environmental Assessment certificates are often drafted by the mining company, can be vague and unenforceable, and are not monitored over the life of the mine.
- The number of government mine inspections in 2008 was only half the number of inspections carried out in 2001.
- The number of provincial staff dedicated to mine reclamation issues has dropped by over 50 per cent.
- Since 1998, Ministry of Environment (MOE) staff have been reduced by over 25 per cent.
- From 2006 until 2010, MOE took only six enforcement actions for coal and metal mine violations. Five of those penalties amounted to less than \$600 each.

- The chief inspector of mines failed to file the legally required annual reports on enforcement, etc. and cited lack of staff as a reason.

This ramshackle enforcement regime is not good enough for an industry that can create environmental and financial catastrophes.

Acid mine drainage can release toxins for centuries. Taxpayers paid \$69 million to clean up the Britannia Mine that killed Britannia Creek and affected millions of salmon in the Squamish Estuary. After the Mount Washington mine destroyed the Tso-lum River fishery, taxpayers paid \$6 million to restore the river.

It can get far worse—taxpayers paid \$436 million to clean up Yukon's Faro Mine, and \$399 million to clean up the Giant Mine in the Northwest Territories.

Yet the system to ensure that companies pay for their own mess is broken. In 2003, the auditor-general pointed out: "[Financial] security now being taken under the Mines Act is inadequate to remediate the known mine sites in B.C. where contamination exists."

Some action to address this problem has been taken, but not nearly enough. Government Public

Accounts for 2010 estimate that taxpayers could be liable for more than \$594 million to clean up contaminated mines and oil/gas and energy sites. Security rules must be revamped to ensure that companies—not taxpayers—clean up their own mess.

The law also needs to be changed to provide compensation for victims of mine pollution. Under the current system, if a mine pollutes and then goes broke, neighbours and others (shellfish growers, fishers, tourism operators, etc.), are likely out of luck—and out of pocket. The provincial and federal governments have both endorsed the "polluter pays" principle. Now they need to implement it.

A mining boom is now sweeping the province. But before any more mines are approved, there needs to be comprehensive law reform.

*Calvin Sandborn and Maya Stano*

Calvin Sandborn is legal director and Maya Stano a geological engineer and graduating law student at the University of Victoria Environmental Law Centre Clinic.

Excerpted from a longer article  
**"Mining companies must clean up their own mess"** in Vancouver Sun, July 7, 2011.



Whale Salmon by Leanne Hodges

## DFO's smoking gun?

Salmon Leukemia virus was discovered in the late 1980s and became widespread in chinook salmon farms beginning in 1992.

The Cohen Commission is a federal inquiry into the collapse in 2009 of the Fraser River sockeye salmon run, after 18 years of decline.

The pattern of the Fraser sockeye collapse is extremely informative. Only the runs that migrate northward along eastern Vancouver Island have been collapsing. The Harrison sockeye that leave the Fraser and appear to travel a southerly route through Juan de Fuca Strait have been increasing.

The decline began in 1992, when salmon farms were first placed on the Fraser sockeye migration route. One sockeye salmon generation after salmon farms were sited there, the Fraser sockeye began dying in the river just before spawning. So many sockeye were dying of this pre-spawn mortality that Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) had to predict the losses before they could open a fishery. In 2006, they tasked their scientist, Dr. Kristi Miller, to run genomic profiles. It was expected she would discover they were starving, but she found evidence of a potentially cancer-causing virus that could be Salmon Leukemia virus.

Salmon Leukemia virus was discovered in the late 1980s and became wide-

spread in chinook salmon farms on the Fraser sockeye migration route beginning in 1992. Evidence of this disease continues throughout the salmon farm disease records. The disease was named Plasmacytoid Leukemia by Dr. Michael Kent, an ex-director of DFO's Pacific Biological Station. While he found the disease could spread from farmed salmon to wild sockeye salmon, nothing was done to protect the sockeye. One of the effects of this disease is brain tumours which Miller found evidence of in the Fraser sockeye. This was bad for her career and DFO began shutting her down.

Miller is the only person who figured out what may be happening to the Fraser sockeye. No other theory fits the geography, timing and symptoms of the dying sockeye and yet DFO—who asked her to do this research in the first place—is attempting to hush this up. Without the Cohen Inquiry we would never have heard from her. I suspect DFO's mandate to promote salmon farms is the reason Miller's work is being suppressed.

Of special concern to Clayoquot Sound is Exhibit 1527 which describes an undiagnosed disease that has been killing farmed chinook in Creative Salmon's Tofino Inlet farms for 7 years. Symptoms

include jaundice on the bellies and around the eyes, pale gills and livers. None of the usual tests has provided a diagnosis.

The Cohen Inquiry is a flawed process. The Inquiry did give us a glimpse of the chaos within DFO and the suppression of the people in DFO who are trying to work for our fish. Wild salmon seem to be an inconvenience that gets in the way of many industries. I doubt Cohen will be able to sort this mess out and if he does, Prime Minister Stephen Harper will likely ignore him. If we want wild salmon it is up to us. The power of one is all we have, but we all have it. Write your MLAs and ask the province to stop leasing our seafloor to this industry wherever you want wild salmon.

*Alexandra Morton*

For more information check out:

[www.alexandramorton.typepad.com/](http://www.alexandramorton.typepad.com/)

## Monthly donor drive

This year we would like to add 100 new monthly donors to our support base. We are over halfway to our goal—please consider supporting our work. For as little as ten dollars a month you'll be supporting our grassroots campaigns. We'll make every dollar count, here where it matters, on the ground in Clayoquot Sound. Our gratitude to everyone who continues to support FOCS!

# Blowing BC's carbon bank

BC's coastal rainforests store massive amounts of carbon, making them a key asset in the fight against global warming.

In December 2011 the international community meets in Durban, South Africa for the United Nations climate change summit. With greenhouse gas emissions continuing to increase, there is little time left to reduce carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere before global warming produces catastrophic consequences. If global warming passes dangerous tipping points, forest ecosystems in different parts of the world will be at uncontrollable risk of die-off, fires, pests and other forms of breakdown with further release of carbon storage. Efforts to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from all sources require urgent action.

One of the few areas where progress appears possible in the short term are efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and destructive logging practices. Countries that harbour large forested areas must swiftly implement land use policies that maintain and increase carbon storage capacity and protect species habitat that is under increasing pressure due to climate change. British Columbia can and must be a leader in this undertaking.

Globally, deforestation contributes approximately 20 percent to greenhouse gas emissions. BC's temperate rainforests are among the ecosystems with the highest carbon storage per hectare on the planet and they continue to sequester carbon. Fires and pests, which can cause huge releases of carbon dioxide in other forest types, are rare in coastal forests. Clearcutting temperate old-growth rainforests causes massive loss of carbon storage and the ability to recover the carbon stores is limited for hundreds of years.

Yet despite massive and increasing emissions from BC's forests these are not counted as part of our official emissions and buried

as "memo items" in the provincial greenhouse gas emissions reports. Recent provincial data show that net emissions from forestlands were 63 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2009, more than double the 2008 net emissions. Counting these emissions would almost double the official provincial greenhouse gas emissions of 2009 (67 million tonnes).

Until a decade ago BC's forests were a carbon sink and sequestered approximately half of the official provincial emissions. With the outbreak of the Mountain Pine Beetle infestation our forest turned from sink to source. However, a closer look at provincial data shows how destructive logging practices contribute to huge carbon losses. The 2010 provincial report showed that net emissions from forestlands were mainly caused by logging (55 million tonnes, with only a small portion stored in wood products for a longer period of time).

The report also distinguished between emissions from the Pacific Maritime and other ecozones of BC. The data showed that approximately half of the emissions were released in the Pacific Maritime Ecozone, where emissions are mainly caused due to logging and not significantly influenced by the Mountain Pine Beetle outbreak or forest fires.

As the best carbon bank of the province and with only a small portion of temperate rainforests intact, protecting and restoring species habitat becomes increasingly urgent. Sierra Club BC analysis shows how logging of old-growth rainforest ecosystems has seriously compromised species habitat and carbon storage capacity. More than two million hectares of rainforest ecosystems on BC's coast, mostly on Vancouver Island and on the South Coast, have less than 30 per cent old growth





Toino Photography

remaining and are considered to be at high risk of species extinction. Vancouver Island alone has lost more than one million hectares of productive old growth rainforest, representing the loss of approximately 100 million tonnes of carbon storage.

Counting emissions is a logical first step to policy reform and action plans to reduce emissions while protecting species habitat at the same time. Through increased conservation and improved forest management, including selective logging, longer rotations, reduction of wood waste and elimination of slash burning, as well as measures to reduce the risks of fire and pests wherever possible, a coherent provincial forest global warming policy must ensure that provincial forestlands become a carbon sink again and no longer contribute to BC's overall emissions as a significant carbon source.

For rare coastal rainforest ecosystems, remaining old-growth forest must be protected from logging and older second growth stands set aside to restore species habitat and other ecological functions. Forest management in relatively intact areas, such as Clayoquot Sound and the Great Bear Rainforest, must follow the precautionary approach to avoid degradation of healthy ecosystems.

BC forestry in the era of global warming has much potential to provide jobs in a diverse low-carbon economy, provided that conservation is prioritized and management practices are improved through new regulations and incentives to reduce emissions and protect species habitat.

Government support for improved forest management practices—combined with promotion of value-added products and a phase out of raw log exports—can generate new jobs while reducing industrial development pressures.

It is time that we learn to value forests, our best ally in the fight against global warming.

*Jens Wieting*

Coastal Forest Campaigner,  
Sierra Club BC

**For more information on the state of BC's coastal temperate rainforest, species habitat and carbon storage, see Sierra Club BC's January 2011 report *Restoring the Balance for Climate and Species***

**[www.sierraclub.bc.ca/campaign-spotlights/restoring-the-balance](http://www.sierraclub.bc.ca/campaign-spotlights/restoring-the-balance)**

**For more information on improved forest management, reduction of wood waste and other recommendations, see the January 2010 report *Managing BC's Forests for a Cooler Planet: Carbon Storage, Sustainable Jobs and Conservation***

**[www.policyalternatives.ca/coolforests](http://www.policyalternatives.ca/coolforests)**



**Emissions from BC's deforestation are not counted as part of our official emissions and buried as "memo items" in the provincial greenhouse gas emissions reports.**



Sander Jain Photography

## Campaign updates

### Flores Island flashpoint

The fate of Flores Island's intact ancient forest continues to hang in the balance. Isaak Forest Resources has surveyed several logging sites and roads. One road permit is already approved. A FOCS Forest Watch field trip in July found that Isaak surveyors had been there days before. Yet Isaak indicated in late August there is "no activity or planned start date" for the road. However, we recently heard Isaak will apply for cut permits from the BC government to begin logging the pristine rainforests of Flores Island before the end of 2011.

In the face of continued uncertainty, Friends of Clayoquot are continuing to prepare for whatever is to come by offering Peaceful Direct Action trainings.

Meanwhile, one thing stalling Isaak's logging of Flores is the Smart-Wood audit of their Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. Because FSC is a label that tells the consumer a product comes from sustainably managed forests, your average person might assume this means it does not contain fibre from a globally rare and ecologically significant ancient forest like Clayoquot Sound.

Think again. FSC is already certifying products from Clayoquot's ancient forests. Worse yet, they are now considering putting their stamp of approval on logging the last intact rainforest valleys in Clayoquot, such

as those on Flores Island.

FOCS and allied environment groups are trying to ensure FSC makes a decision that doesn't leave their name meaning "Forests Straight from Clayoquot."

Dan Lewis

### New salmon farm proposed in Clayoquot

Mainstream Canada (a Norwegian-owned corporation) has applied for a new 55-hectare open net-cage salmon feedlot along the shore of Meares Island near Plover Point—only 7 kilometres from the site of the 1984 protest which resulted in the declaration of Meares Island as a Tribal Park.

The Plover Point area, rich with marine life, is frequented by sea lions, porpoises, sea birds, and orcas, with wild salmon spawning streams nearby.

A July 2011 internal memo to the Minister of Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) stated that decisions on new salmon farm applications will be postponed until they consider the recommendations of the Cohen Commission of Inquiry into the decline of Fraser River wild sockeye salmon. However, the memo goes on to make a specific recommendation to make an exception for the Plover Point application.

The memo states that a positive decision will only be given if Plover replaces an existing site, and that the environmental footprint of Plover must be less than the existing site.

So let's compare. The proposed

new tenure is more than twice the size of the tenure it is said to be replacing, and would nearly quadruple production along with four times more disease, fish sewage, antibiotics, and by-catch of wild fish.

At the very least, it would be premature to approve the Plover Point application before Justice Cohen's findings are released and incorporated into DFO's new fish farm guidelines in June 2012.

Bonny Glambeck

### Imperial Metals: feeling the heat?

Imperial Metals of Vancouver is currently exploring for two potential mines in Clayoquot Sound—the Catface Mountain open-pit copper mine in Ahousaht First Nations territory, and the Pandora gold mine in Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation territory.

Imperial had permits to drill on Catface this summer, but chose not to do any drilling.

Friends of Clayoquot paid a visit to Imperial's Pandora exploration site in June, along with the Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Park Guardians. We came upon an Imperial crew, who were informed by the Guardians in no uncertain terms that they are not welcome in Tla-o-qui-aht territory and that they are operating without Tla-o-qui-aht's permission.

It's hard to say exactly what Imperial Metals is up to in Clayoquot. Perhaps they are starting to realize that an open-pit copper mine in the heart of the UNESCO Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve is an idea that will meet fierce resistance from many quarters.

With BC Premier Christy Clark's recent announcement that she intends to see eight new mines open in BC by 2015, FOCS will continue to work to ensure that Clayoquot Sound remains mine-free.

Dan Lewis

*"These are the times to grow our souls. Each of us is called upon to embrace the conviction that despite the powers and principalities bent on commodifying all our human relationships, we have the power within us to create the world anew."*

Grace Lee Boggs

Cover story continued.

I hope that one day the leaders from both sides—from the forest companies and from our own Tribal Councils—will see this. It is a threat to our culture.

The forest companies want all the best places for red cedar. And of course those best places are the places where my ancestors would also get the wood for carving canoes.

Second growth may replace old growth if they don't cut it for a thousand years. It will not be ready for a thousand years. That's not in our lifetime. And in a thousand years this whole place could change—who knows what could happen? The future generations coming behind us—what are we leaving for them?

The way forward is to leave all the old growth alone. That's how I feel about it. Forest companies hands off. Manage the second growth. Just leave our old growth alone!

*Joe Martin*

Joe Martin is a member of Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation and a master carver, renowned (along with his brother Carl) for keeping the art of canoe carving alive on the west coast of Vancouver Island.



Tofino Photography

Seals hauled out near Plover Pt attract transient orcas.

# Stop Plover Point salmon farm

Please ask DFO Minister Ashfield to deny this tenure application (see article page 6), to place a permanent moratorium on expansion of open net-cage fish farms in BC, and to move existing farms to closed containment.

## Write to:

The Honourable Keith Ashfield  
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans  
Parliamentary Office  
House of Commons  
Room 107  
Confederation Building  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6  
Phone: (613) 992-1067  
Fax: (613) 996-9955  
Min@dfp-mpo.gc.ca

## Ultimate Ecoforester Merv Wilkinson 1913–2011

BC's environmental community is saddened by the death of our friend and mentor, Merv Wilkinson. For 60 years, beginning in 1938, Merv carefully cut single trees on his beloved Wildwood, south of Nanaimo, and demonstrated that logging does not have to destroy a forest. Foresters, journalists, environmentalists and students flocked to Wildwood to learn about sustainable ecoforestry from Merv, who shared his hands-on knowledge with enthusiasm and wit. He was also an outspoken critic of industrial forestry and an activist—he and his wife, Anne, were arrested during the 1993 Clayoquot protests. In 2009, he received the Order of BC and the Order of Canada for his work. We fondly remember Merv, bowed with age in his last years, but unbowed in spirit, passionately and lovingly living his principles.

*Maryjka Mychajlowycz*

## Thank you Maryjka!



Twenty years ago, Maryjka Mychajlowycz showed up in Tofino to volunteer her time and efforts to Friends of Clayoquot Sound. It has been in the capacity of director of Forest Watch monitoring that Maryjka has demonstrated the breadth of her capabilities and dedication to the FOCUS mandate. Maryjka loves the forest, loves each tree, and is a compassionate colleague of those who share her principles. People who have worked with her over the last 20 years say that Maryjka has saved more trees in Clayoquot Sound than anyone else, and at times, by knowing the rules, she saved some "stick by stick."

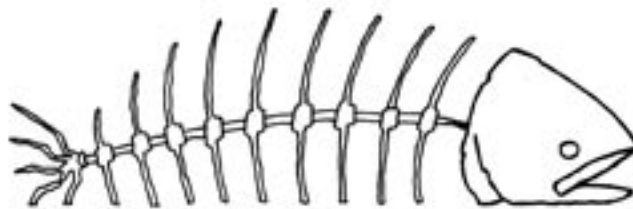
**Maryjka, we celebrate you!**

*Shirley Langer*

KEEP IT WILD! 7

DOOMED TO EXTINCTION, DUE TO BUREAUCRATIC INDIFFERENCE:

B.C. SALMON



B.C. SALMON  
REPORT



RAESIDE  
2010

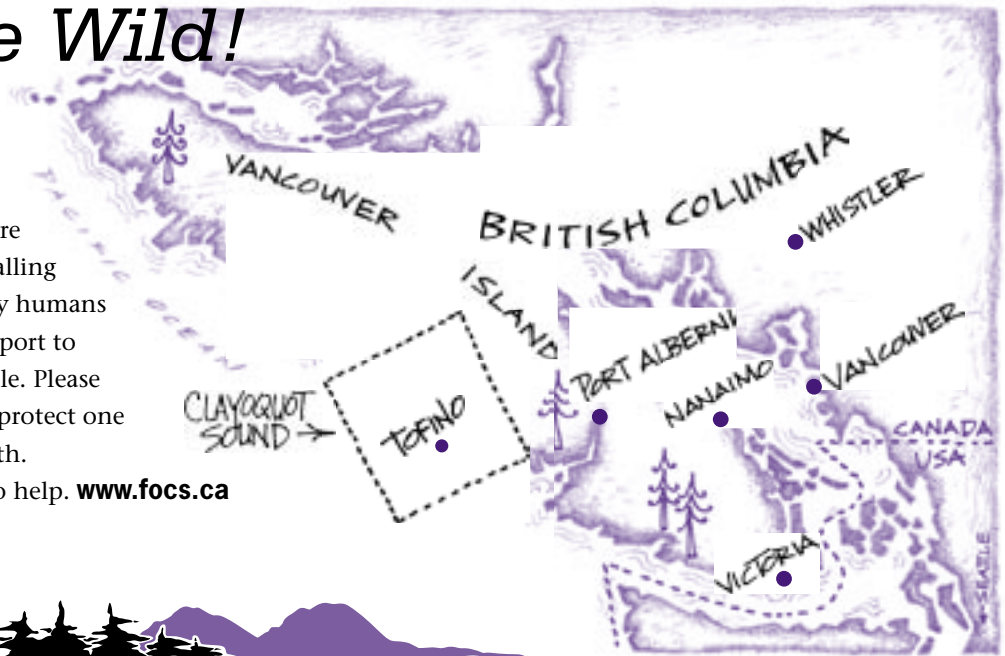
VESSA THER: COURTESY SUF-BC-NW-2010-03; THER: MARYJKA-MYCHAJLOWYCZ

# Support the Wild!

**Friends of Clayoquot Sound** is a grassroots organization advocating protection for the ancient temperate rainforests of Clayoquot Sound. We are part of an international movement calling for a shift of consciousness in the way humans relate to the Earth. We need your support to continue to educate and inspire people. Please send in your donation today to help protect one of the most spectacular places on Earth. Visit our website to find more ways to help. [www.focs.ca](http://www.focs.ca)

Send your donation to:

**Friends of Clayoquot Sound**  
Box 489, Tofino, BC, Canada V0R 2Z0  
Ph: 250-725-4218  
Office: 331 Neill St, Tofino  
info@focs.ca      www.focs.ca



Peter Schulze

*"A human being is a part of a whole, called by us 'Universe', a part limited in time and space. We now experience ourselves, our thoughts and feelings as something separated from the rest... a kind of optical delusion of our consciousness. This delusion is a prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of understanding and compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of Nature in her beauty."*

Albert Einstein

## Become a Friends of Clayoquot Sound member!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual membership:**  \$25  \$40  \$100  Other \_\_\_\_\_

All members receive the informative Friends of Clayoquot Sound newsletter hot off the press!

Check here if you prefer to receive the newsletter by email.

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