

Friends of Clayoquot Sound

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Winter 2013 - 2014

Fandora gold mine exploration looms

What's Up in this issue

Fandora gold mine
exploration looms

Dispatches from
Clayoquot

Rainbow Warrior visits
Clayoquot Sound

Clayoquot Wild
Weekend

Legacy of Clayoquot
1993: Taking stock

"Life of Meares"
hoodies & t-shirts

Easter Festivals:
1984 and 2014

Salmon spawning
grounds

Clayoquot Sound
endangered species:
the Golden Goose?



Marion Syme

FOCS expedition to old Fandora gold mine, seen here overlooking mouth of Tranquil Creek.

Clayoquot Sound holds biological wealth beyond that of virtually any other region on Vancouver Island. Unfortunately, it also holds mineral wealth, with numerous mineral claims staked. Two mineral properties, both belonging to Imperial Metals, are currently at the exploratory stage.

In 2009 Imperial Metals bought Selkirk Metals and in the deal obtained two properties in Clayoquot: Catface Mountain copper and Fandora/Tranquil gold. In 2010 Imperial conducted test drilling on Catface Mountain, exploring the viability of an open-pit copper mine. Fortunately, there has been no drilling on the property since then. This past July, however, Imperial Metals was issued an expanded exploration permit for drilling 20 test holes in Tranquil Valley, near the old Fandora gold mine that was abandoned in the 1960s.

In mid-August, the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations, whose traditional territory covers the southern third of Clayoquot Sound, including Tranquil, received notice from the BC government that drilling had been approved. The Tla-o-qui-aht have declared their territories to be tribal parks and their land use vision excludes mining. Since Imperial Metals purchased Fandora, the Tla-o-qui-aht have been patiently engaging with government to try and forestall mining on their land.

Approval of mineral exploration shows blatant disregard for the desires of the Tla-o-qui-aht. In response, they have launched a call for public support of a mining moratorium in their traditional territories. The Tofino and environmental communities have been quick to rally behind the Tla-o-qui-aht in their opposition to mining. Among oth-

Continued on page 2.

Help fund Fandora campaign

Signs of bears are everywhere as we hike through Tranquil Valley, pushing through dense salmon-berry and salal, looking for the abandoned Fandora mine shaft.

Tranquil Valley houses sacred bathing pools and medicinal plants. Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations land use vision is to restore this partly logged area to its former natural splendor.

But gold mining threatens the valley. Imperial Metals now has a permit for exploratory drilling to assess whether to re-open and expand the old Fandora gold mine.

Gold mining is toxic and destructive. A single gram of cyanide, a chemical used in gold extraction, is enough to kill a grown person. The energy required to power a gold mine is many times that currently used by the entire Tofino-Ucluelet region.

Friends of Clayoquot Sound are determined to stop the Fandora mine from becoming a reality. Your financial support is critical to our campaign. Please consider becoming a monthly donor or giving a one time, campaign specific, donation.

\$200 fuels an "eyes on the sound" expedition.

\$100 keeps our expedition on location for a night, or runs a letter-writing session.

\$50 sends 80 post cards or letters to government calling for a mining moratorium in Clayoquot Sound.

Continued from cover.

ers, the Tofino-Long Beach Chamber of Commerce, Friends of Clayoquot Sound, Greenpeace, Sierra Club BC, Clayoquot Action, and Wilderness Committee are helping to put together a campaign pushing for a mining moratorium on Tla-o-qui-aht territory.

The Friends have been working against mining in Clayoquot since 2008 and we intend to keep it mine-free! Over the coming year, our mining campaign will be focussed on assisting the Tla-o-qui-aht in their opposition to the Fandora gold mine project. Our initial steps will focus on awareness and include presentations exploring the social and ecological impacts that mining has on a community, as well as the local alternatives being promoted by the Tla-o-qui-aht and Tofino communities. Should direct action become a necessity, we are collecting pledges from people willing to support or participate in a peaceful action camp preventing access to the exploration site.

Clayoquot Sound, the largest intact old growth forest left on Vancouver Island, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, home to 45 threatened or endangered species, must not be mined. This is an area that holds tremendous potential

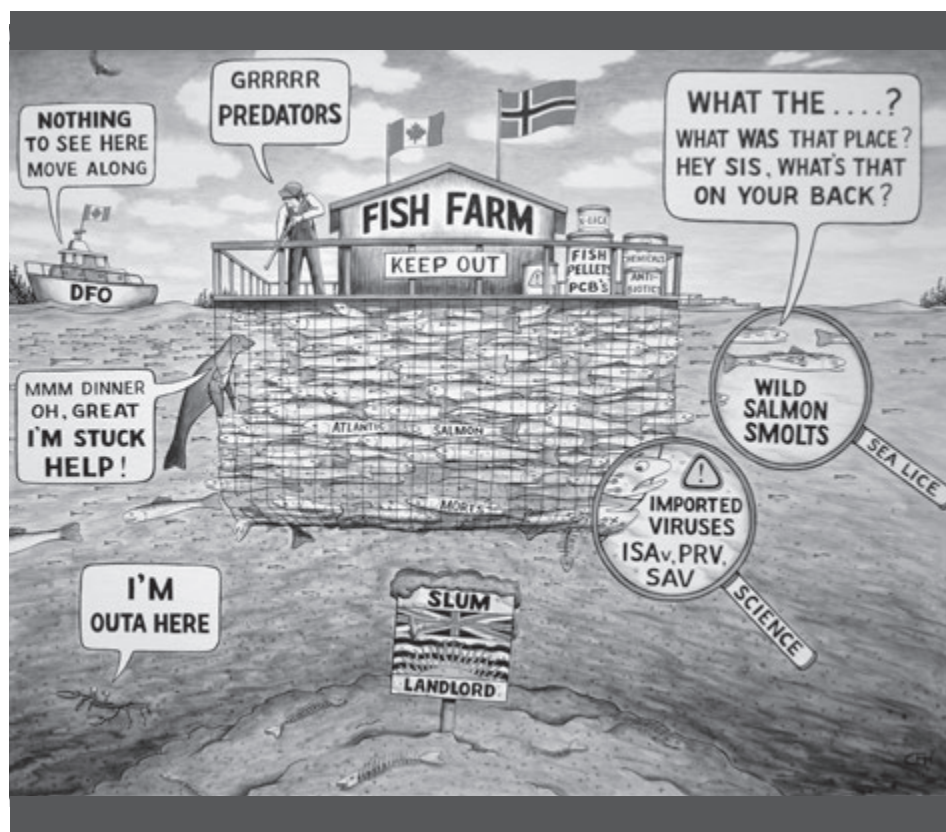
for sustainable land use and for communities to thrive without industrializing their landscape. The Tla-o-qui-aht land use plan strongly reflects that vision and we support their call that mining is an unsustainable and destructive activity on their territories.

Emery Hartley
FOCS campaigner

TAKE ACTION

*Help keep
Clayoquot
mine-free!*

Go to www.focs.ca/takeaction/, click "No to gold mining in Tranquil Valley!" and sign our letter and petition asking for a mining moratorium on Tla-o-qui-aht territories.



Cartoon printed with permission from Gary Haggquist ©

Biofouled tsunami driftage arrives

The first tsunami debris (driftage) documented in BC to carry live Japanese biofouling species washed ashore just south of Clayoquot Sound in summer 2013. It was a piece of jointed wood carrying live Japanese barnacles and mussels. Japan's tragic March 11, 2011 Great Tohoku earthquake and tsunami sent 1.5 million tonnes of debris afloat in the Pacific Ocean, an unknown amount of which is heading for the West Coast, mainly Washington state and Vancouver Island. Some has started arriving, but less than anticipated, with another wave expected during the storm season this fall and winter. Already, over 175 species of live biofouling marine organisms have been found on tsunami driftage that has washed up on North America's coast. There's a real threat of exotic and potentially invasive species establishing in Clayoquot Sound, and elsewhere

Dispatches from Clayoquot

in BC and North America. A regional monitoring program is keeping track of tsunami driftage in Clayoquot and Barkley Sounds, with information fed into wider databases.

Tofino Council targets Mineral Tenures Act

BC's antiquated Mineral Tenures Act, over 150 years old, allows staking of mineral claims in approximately 83% of BC – just about anywhere except national and provincial parks – including on private and municipal land. Mineral exploration and mining then trump all other land uses, for example, those envisioned in local and regional plans. Clearly, the

Act needs amending so that local and First Nations governments can have a say before tenures are granted. In Clayoquot Sound, we are facing the possibility of two mines within 25 km of Tofino. Hence Mayor Josie Osborne, on behalf of Tofino Council, proposed a resolution requesting the province to modernize the Act, after public consultation, to ensure “the full range of interests – including social, cultural, ecological and economic – are given fair consideration on BC's land base.” Tofino's resolution was unanimously endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities in spring 2013, and in September by the Union of BC Municipalities.

Maryjka Mychajlowycz



Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations welcome Rainbow Warrior into their territory.

Locals gather on shore with banners and signs.

Rainbow Warrior visits Clayoquot

In early October, Greenpeace's ship, the Rainbow Warrior, swung by Clayoquot Sound (on its way from Korea to Canada) to display an “End destructive salmon farming” banner. Clayoquot Sound has

21 salmon feedlot sites in its ocean inlets, one of the highest concentrations in BC. The action highlighted that ecologically damaging open-net-cage salmon feedlots must be removed from

Clayoquot's and BC's ocean, something that FOCS and many groups have been advocating for years.

Clayoquot Wild Weekend

From August 8th to 10th, Friends of Clayoquot Sound marked the 20th anniversary of the Clayoquot '93 logging protests and campaigns.



Maryjka Mychalowycz



Pete Rockwell, treelinephoto.ca

Left: Folk singer Bob Bossin performs at Tofino Village Green.

Above: At Tofino Community Hall, panelists discuss the events of 1993 and their significance. Tofino Mayor Josie Osborne moderated.

Left to right, Valerie Langer (FOCS campaigner), John Cashore (NDP cabinet minister), Karen Mahon (Greenpeace), Terry Brown (arrestee), Tzeporah Berman (FOCS blockade coordinator), Maureen Fraser (Tofino local), Joe Martin (Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation), Elizabeth May (Sierra Club). Note: affiliations given refer to 1993.



Pete Rockwell, treelinephoto.ca

Revisiting Kennedy River bridge, site of summer-long logging road blockade in 1993.

Join our Wilderness Team of monthly donors

Place-based, grassroots organizations such as Friends of Clayoquot Sound are essential local voices and 'eyes on the ground.' Mobilizing locally, promoting environmental education, steadfastly advocating for conservation, and coordinating with larger organizations to amplify our local voice when engaging with government and industry, are all part of what makes us an effective organization, renowned

for punching above our weight.

We can only continue to provide a voice for Keeping Clayoquot Wild! through the continued support of our members and the building of our Wilderness Team of monthly donors. Please support our work by joining our Wilderness Team and donating monthly. Just \$15 a month is a big help. We make every dollar count, here where it matters, on the ground

in Clayoquot Sound. And members of our Wilderness Team can join our 'eyes on the sound' excursions!

Please take a moment now to fill out the coupon on the back of this newsletter. Or go to www.focs.ca, click the 'donate' button and choose the monthly option.

Thank you!

Legacy of Clayoquot 1993: *Taking stock*

The 20th anniversary of Clayoquot Summer '93 – a logging blockade that ranks as Canada's largest act of peaceful civil disobedience – garnered a fair bit of media coverage.

Here are three news excerpts that describe the legacy of 1993 when thousands of citizens stood to protect Clayoquot's ancient forest, almost a thousand were arrested, demonstrations of support happened around the world, and newly-invented market campaigns targeted logging company MacMillan Bloedel.

McRuer [Sandy McRuer, professional forester] says one of the immediate consequences of the 1993 Clayoquot protest was a major transformation for the better in the way the [BC] forest industry conducts itself.

"Roads that would have slid off the mountains are now not built, or built to stay on the mountain. Creeks that had no protection are now protected. Clearcuts

that then went up one side of a mountain and down the other as far as the eye could see are now limited in size. Wildlife habitat is now accounted for as an integral part of each cut block. And planning processes were implemented that accounted for rates of cut in valleys, wildlife habitats and old growth values on a landscape basis. ... [T]he forests of the entire province were impacted and ... have benefited from the actions taken by the environmental movement."

Stephen Hume,
Vancouver Sun, August 20, 2013

Many of those who went to Clayoquot Sound as teenagers or students are now at the forefront of campaigns that seek to shape environmental policy on Alberta's oilsands, pipelines across B.C., Canada and the U.S., tanker traffic, fish farms, mining ventures and protection of the boreal forest.

Stephen Hume,
Vancouver Sun, August 10, 2013

As Canada's economy becomes more firmly linked to its resources, George Ho-berg, a professor at the University of British Columbia who specializes in forestry and sustainable energy policy, said the impact of Clayoquot Sound protests can't be ignored.

"They were a watershed moment in environmental politics in British Columbia, and they had an enduring impact on the forest industry, but also broader impacts on other resource industries," he said.

"The conflicts over pipelines now have in some way been inspired by Clayoquot Sound, and if there's ever a time when one of the two big pipeline proposals in BC ... get approved, I think you'll see a civil disobedience campaign that will dwarf the one that occurred in Clayoquot Sound."

Kim Nursall,
Globe and Mail, August 11, 2013

Maryjka Mychajlowycz



Hoodies and t-shirts

FOCS shirts are now available. We have hoodies and t-shirts with Joe David's *Life of Meares Island* design. This design was a politically charged symbol of the successful 1984-1985 Meares Island logging blockade. Don't miss the chance to get this beautiful piece of political history while helping a great cause.

These shirts are absolutely gorgeous!

Hoodies are black with green design on back.
T-shirts are green with black design on front.

Sizes: unisex S-M-L-XL

Cost: hoodies \$65

t-shirts \$25

hoodie and t-shirt combo \$85

+ shipping and handling

To order please email us at **info@focs.ca**
or call us at **250-725-4218**.

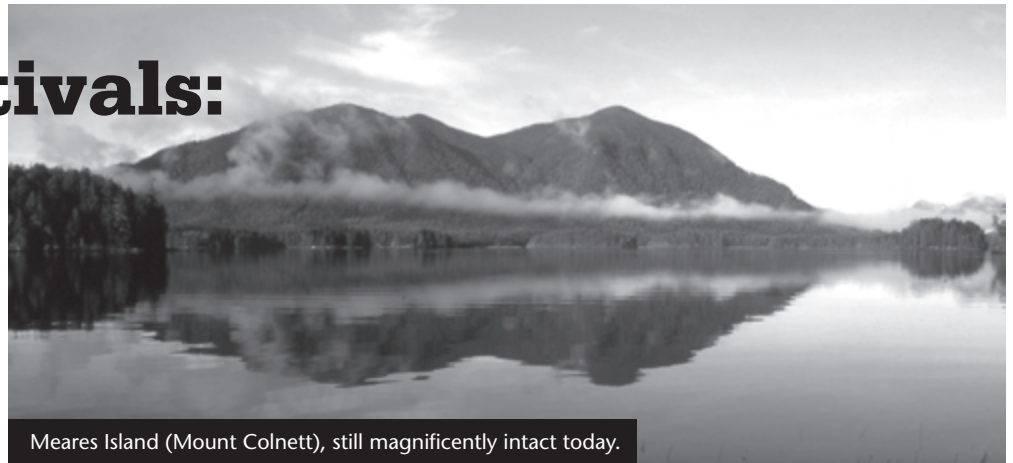
Many thanks to Mermaid Tales Bookshop in
Tofino for helping us with the initial costs.

Emery & Gill sporting FOCS hoodies at tree-climbing workshop.

Easter Festivals: 1984 and 2014

When we were glibly told in 1977 that Meares Island would soon be logged, right in front of Tofino, we started organizing and raising awareness of the forestry issues here in Clayoquot Sound. Friends of Clayoquot Sound (FOCS) was officially incorporated as a non-profit society in September 1979.

When the Meares logging permits were issued in fall of 1983 we resolved, "We are going to celebrate this place, not give up!" Perhaps the first thing that FOCS really "did" was in fall of 1983, when we invited everyone in BC to come and see for themselves if logging the spectacular old growth of Meares Island made any sense. During the Easter weekend of 1984 we celebrated the wonder of this place, and announced to the world that destruction of the intact forest on Meares Island was simply unacceptable. First Nations affirmed their deep connection and claim to Meares, and Tla-o-qui-aht Chief Councillor Moses Martin read the Meares Island Tribal Park Declaration. Regional and international musicians performed alongside the traditional Tla-o-qui-aht and Ahousaht.



Meares Island (Mount Colnett), still magnificently intact today.

Adrian Dorst

Thirty years later, Meares Island remains unlogged, claimed by Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations as a Tribal Park.

On April 22nd, Earth Day 2014 (the day after Easter Monday), we will again celebrate Clayoquot Sound, confirm its value and the intention of residents to ensure its healthy future. There will be a reaffirmation of the Tribal Park concept and renewal of the Tribal Park sign on Meares Island at C'is-a-qis, and hopefully the return and installation of the Cedar Woman statue.

*Save this date on your calendar!
Join FOCS, Tla-o-qui-aht and Tofino in this celebration of Clayoquot Sound, both for what has been achieved, and the further protection we hope to achieve.*

Michael Mullin
a founding director of FOCS

Check out Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks and Wilderness Committee's 2013 publication, *Welcome to Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks!*
http://wildernesscommittee.org/sites/all/files/publications/2013_tla-o-qui-aht_Paper-Web-2.pdf



Tofino Photography

Salmon spawning grounds

As we near the creek mouth, I pull back on the throttle and keep both eyes on the bay's muddy bottom until time to raise the propeller. A small seal cruises out of our way, calmly observing us with dark eyes. My two friends and I use paddles to pull us forward until the boat grounds on the mud, then wait for the quickly rising tide to nudge us to shore.

Autumn is a time to look and listen. The bay echoes with gulls' cries, and we are absorbed by their choreography of sound and motion until we spy a slow salmon's fin or tail breaking the water's surface. We study the shallows around us for more of the dark gliding

fishes. An eagle emerges from the forest and soars overhead, calling.

As our boat approaches shore gradually, the unperturbed gulls walk or fly to the far side of the grassy estuary. They continue to feast on salmon parts; bones are scattered over the grass. Here a severed vertebra, there a jaw with formidable-looking teeth and back here, a disembodied tail.

For one moment the birds quiet down and the still air is pierced by the wild cry of a red-tailed hawk. We humans look at each other wide-eyed, and jump out in our gumboots to carry the anchor to shore.

Dozens of yellow bodies choke the

low stream. These are big chum salmon. Many are missing sections. Often I come across empty skins, as if they were shed like a snake. What predator dislikes salmon skins? How does it remove them so neatly? Some drape over low branches, like shirts laid carefully to dry.

Barely submerged, the dark grey still-living move slowly among the dead, except for sudden splashes, bursts of energy, pinnacles of desperation. There hasn't been enough rain to swell the stream, so the salmon cannot travel any distance up the creek. Many are half out of the water, struggling to keep their noses under. As they make their noisy

Continued on back cover.

Clayoquot Sound endangered species: the Golden Goose?

Emre Bout

T'ashii Paddle School cultural tour in traditional dugout canoe.

The BC government's Clayoquot Land Use Decision of 1993, the resulting massive protests, and the Scientific Panel standards of 1995 greatly slowed logging of old growth in Clayoquot Sound. While every other coastal logging town in BC chose to log almost everything, Clayoquot Sound has followed a different path. And while some local people still lament the loss of forestry jobs, a study has never been done on the actual economic impact of the Land Use Decision and Science Panel standards.

Right now other people, in other places, are contemplating the question of what is the wisest economic choice, in the long term: to log, or to leave the natural beauty in place? The answer is becoming ever more relevant.

For instance, people in the Discovery Islands made a strong argument recently that choosing not to log their area would make more economic sense,

bring more money in for the province, and create more jobs. The issue was discussed in a recent article by Briony Penn in *Focus Magazine*, called "Killing the golden goose" [<http://focusonline.ca/?q=node/591>]. Logging was slated to go ahead, but since the article came out the new Minister of State for Tourism and Small Business, Naomi Yamamoto, has opened a dialogue with tour operators.

People intuitively feel that the choice to leave natural resources where they are can be more lucrative in the long run, but they don't have the information to make a winning business case. A few of us are trying to crunch the numbers and see what the impact has really been.

Today, Tofino/Pacific Rim is the most lucrative marine wilderness destination in BC. Stats Canada data show that employment did not decline here between 1991 and 2011, compared to other areas,

despite the choice to drastically reduce logging. The value of real estate has shot up in Tofino particularly, which is a mixed blessing, but shows a strong local economy. And yet ... we still have most of our old-growth forest, the golden goose that will keep giving (if we let it live).

A 2009 Ecotrust report concluded that the Tofino area had adapted to the Clayoquot Land Use Decision well by expanding the tourism economy, but warned against relying solely on that. Since then the area has developed a higher education initiative, and people are working on other plans to build a sustainable economy.

The consequences of our resource decisions are apparent to the eye, and it will be interesting to see if the same is reflected in the numbers. Towns like Port Alberni or Powell River that decided to log every last stick so "no jobs would be lost" have windows boarded up and are in decline. The fact is, forestry slumped anyway: it ran out of trees. If we in Clayoquot Sound had chosen to keep on cutting, as some people would have preferred, where would we be today?

Patrick Canning

Logging is greatly reduced in Clayoquot

In 1993, the volume of wood logged was 450,000 cubic metres (equivalent to 450,000 telephone poles). In the last 10 years, logging has varied from 70,000 to 200,000 cubic metres per year.

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**

Send your donation to:

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Continued from page 6.

splashing street-gang ambushes, trying to take over shallow pools crowded with the dead, I glance up at the cloudless sky between the trees, and yearn for rain. I need the rainforest to live up to its name.

Near the forest wall the stench is too much for me. I turn back and almost step on a bear scat full of what looks like salmon roe. Next to it is a carcass with its middle cleanly removed. This landscape of gore nourishes and fertilizes the trees and berry bushes. The water-dwellers we're here to see have been returning to spawn in this place for thousands of years.

The hawk flies over us and perches in a tall, skinny, leafless alder, waiting for the humans to leave. The anchor is lifted dripping and heavy from the water and we hoist ourselves on board. Slowly we paddle for deeper water as the seal returns, turning its head to watch us go. Behind us is Lone Cone, ahead, Mount Colnett.

The next day pours rain . . .

Christine Lowther

an author who lives in and writes about Clayoquot Sound



Join our Wilderness Team by becoming a monthly donor!

Includes annual membership.

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Thank you! You may change or cancel your monthly donation at any time by simply letting us know. You can also donate by credit card on-line at our website: **www.focs.ca**

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Name: _____

Address: _____

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Annual donation: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$40 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other _____

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