



# Friends of Clayoquot Sound

www.focs.ca

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## Of mines and whales



© Leigh Hilbert Photography

Clayoquot Sound's grey whales really are Clayoquot Sound's grey whales. The local whales are part of a group of about 200 animals known as the southern feeding group that may range from northern California to southeast Alaska. Recent studies of genetics revealed that the local whales have a genetic distinc-

tion from the herd that they mix with in the breeding grounds and that migrates each year between Mexico and the Arctic. The genetic distinction is most likely because mothers bring their calves to traditional feeding grounds, and this begins a pattern of related individuals returning each year to this same section of coast. This is significant—it means they are tuned to this place.

... continued on page 2.

## Ancient forest in my eyes

My name is Thomas Martin. I am a member of Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation in Clayoquot Sound.

How can one explain what it is like to actually see and experience the old-growth forest as it was in the past? It can only be explained in blips—now you see it, now you don't. Great trees a thousand years or more old are disappearing so fast.

I worked in the ancient forest as a logging surveyor. I would start the day by getting

my field gear ready: maps, ribbon, spray paint, compass, hip chain, and a blazing axe.

I would start traversing streams, running deflection lines within a harvestable area for the mapping department. I often saw culturally modified trees (CMTs) that have been modified by bark removal on the uphill side for making ceremonial clothing and head-dress regalia. Other times I might see a partially finished canoe, or old stumps that were

... continued on page 3.



Mark Hobson

## Staff Update

The Board has created two new half-time positions. Dan Lewis is now our Executive Director. Bonny Glambeck has been hired as Campaigner and Volunteer Coordinator. Bonny and Dan are local kayakers who know the Sound intimately. They were key players in the 1993 protests and have campaigned overseas for FOCS.

## Thank you Valerie Langer

After more than a decade on the Board, Valerie Langer resigned to redirect her volunteer energy. A former FOCS campaigner, Valerie works for ForestEthics as Director of BC Forest Campaigns. She has contributed greatly to the success and profile of FOCS, and we all owe her a great debt of gratitude.

## Monthly donor campaign succeeds

The Friends rely almost completely on individual donations for our work. Monthly donations provide a stable monthly income that allows us to plan ahead. In 2010 we achieved our goal to add the equivalent of 100 new monthly donors, at \$10 per person per month. A huge thanks to everyone who signed up! For 2011, we plan to repeat that success, adding another 100 monthly donors.

**Please become one of them.**

*Continued from cover.*

## Of mines and whales

This new knowledge gels much of what has been learned about the local whales over the last few decades. We have known that many of the same individual whales return each year, feeding in the same locations, and even with the same associates, but we have not known why. It's clear the whales know Clayoquot Sound in ways only locals—who may have been around for 10,000 years or so—can know a place. These whales know every metre of its sea floor, currents and tides, every kelp bed, mud bay, cobblestone beach and sand bar. They know where prey is (or should be) week to week. If it's not there, they know where the next best place is to look. If older whales are passing this culture on to the younger animals the distinctiveness of Clayoquot's whales begins to be explicable.

Of more immediate importance, this genetic insight has management implications. Until now it had been generally accepted that there was free-flow between the southern feeding group and the overall eastern Pacific stock of some 20,000 animals—individuals in the two groups were interchangeable. That is, when one calculated the impact of losses of individuals—from whaling, to collisions, to health—they were subtracted from the 20,000-whale pool. Now we know this is fundamentally wrong, and any losses should be subtracted from just 200 whales.

The presence of grey whales in Clayoquot Sound depends entirely on a handful of prey species including mysids, crab larvae and amphipods. The whales shift from one prey species to another depending on quantity and quality of each. The key is the assemblage of prey species that live in Clayoquot Sound, not any single creature, which makes grey whale presence predictable each year.

Now we have a proposal for a copper mine on Catface Mountain, in the heart of the whale population.

The information necessary to know how the mining operation would ultimately affect the whales does not exist. We do know, however, that copper mining produces toxins. Grey whales depend on invertebrate populations that depend directly on primary producers in the ocean—the species most affected by toxins. Also, concentrations of toxins accumulate through the food chain leaving the species near the top end, such as grey whales, vulnerable. The outgoing tide from Catface Mountain flows directly to the outside of Flores Island just a few kilometres away—one of, if not the, most important feeding ground for grey whales in Clayoquot Sound. A lot is at risk—not only for the whales themselves, but for all the local ecosystems and the communities who depend on them.

*Dr. Jim Darling*

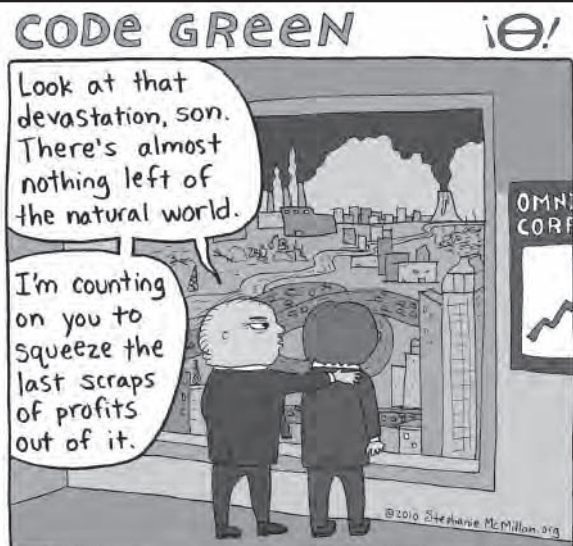
Wildlife biologist and director of the Pacific Wildlife Foundation

**For information on genetic study:** Frasier T.R, Koroscil S.M, White B.N, Darling J.D. (In Press). Assessment of population substructure in relation to summer feeding ground use in the eastern North Pacific gray whale. *Endangered Species Research* 14 (2).

***It's easy to become a monthly donor.***

You can use the form on back page, check our website, send an email to [info@focs.ca](mailto:info@focs.ca) or call us at 250-725-4218.

***Thank you!***



StephanieMcMillan.org





## Ancient forest in my eyes

*Continued from cover.*

contributors to canoes or longhouses. These CMTs can be seen while traversing the cutblocks, and I would ribbon them out for an archaeology company to document.

I have had the chance to see through my eyes the giant cedars, spruce, fir, balsam, and all the undergrowth and numerous streams that we all rely on to grow. Can you imagine walking on a giant cedar ninety feet long, ten feet in diameter, solid to the core? I walked on one wind-felled tree along the mountainside and I bet that cedar was an easy thousand years old. Trees like this are not left

on the hillside any more because they are in high demand on the market.

I often wonder how it was for our ancestors, as this is the forest they walked in every day to gather the food, medicines, and giant logs to carve sea-going canoes, construct longhouses and totem poles. I have so little time to see the forest where they gathered medicine, hunted, and did spiritual preparation...

Ancient forest that contributes a lot to culture is disappearing so fast that our culture will only be a story to tell our future generations—that giant trees existed to build a big canoe out of, and

that our old-growth housed, clothed, and fed our nation at one time.

I feel the only way you can preserve old-growth for a culture that is disappearing is to stop harvesting old-growth commercially, and manage what has been cut already to restore our streams, so that one day our old-growth trees may yet return home and say yes to our ancestors. We have learned that to survive we cannot over-harvest our ancient forests. Second-growth needs a chance to survive a healthy tree life and not be cut down as a young tree, but be left to reach its giant status at maturity.

So, jumping off the giant windfall, I pray that our ancient forest will heal from our visitors' commercial greed for old-growth harvest. These trees are very special and valuable to all and should be respected. These giants have a life to sustain.

***What happens when you have no old-growth—to a nation that relies on it?***

*Thomas Martin*

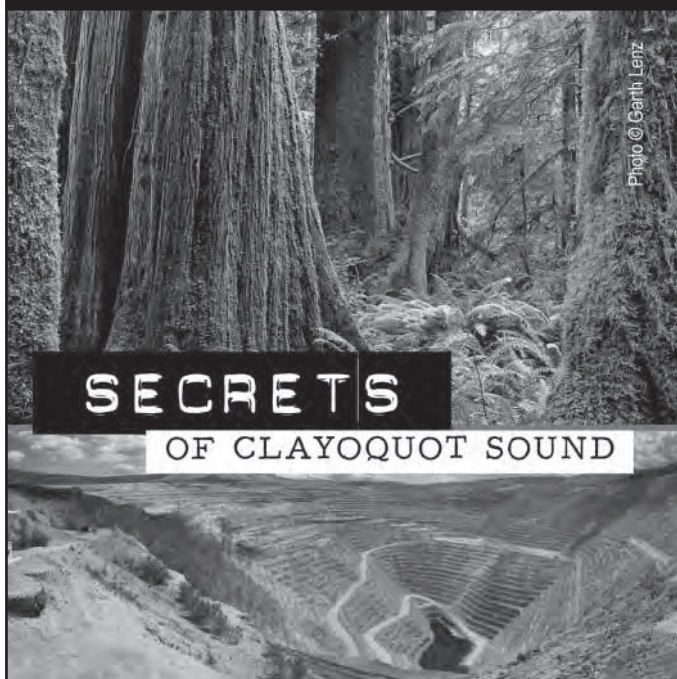


Photo © Garth Lenz

## Secrets of Clayoquot tour a success

Bonny Glambeck and Dan Lewis toured the entire Georgia Strait region this spring with a powerful slide show describing the ecology of Clayoquot Sound, and the issues here including logging, mining and fish farming. Bonny and Dan did a total of 17 shows for about a thousand people, raised thousands of dollars, and signed up 29 (and counting!) new monthly donors. Thanks to our funders—Mountain Equipment Co-op and Patagonia (via Tides Canada). The ***Secrets of Clayoquot*** will be showing this summer weekly at the **Clayoquot Community Theatre** in Tofino, on **Tuesdays at 8 pm.**

***Don't miss it!***

# Imperial Metals to explore for second Clayoquot mine

Imperial Metals is now exploring the potential for two mines in the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve—an open-pit copper mine on Catface Mountain 13 km north of Tofino, and a gold mine on the Pandora mineral property in Tranquil Creek, 20 km northeast of Tofino.

The Vancouver-based company operates two copper mines in BC—Mount Polley and Huckleberry—and has permits to build a third, Red Chris. It also owns other mineral properties in North America, mostly in BC.

## Fandora: gold

In August 2010, Imperial received a mineral exploration permit to drill 10 test holes near the old Fandora gold mine on the west side of Tranquil Creek about 4 km from its mouth. The permit includes reactivating old logging roads to access the site. Exploratory drilling is meant to determine how far the Fandora gold vein extends beyond the old mine site and to confirm additional gold veins.

Recently, Imperial applied for a minor amendment to the permit and indicated drilling is to begin this summer. As of June 1, 2011, drilling has not started.

Exploration at Fandora would fit into a worldwide trend. With the price of gold at record highs, old gold mines are being re-opened around the world.

## Catface Mountain: copper

This summer Imperial will not be doing exploratory drilling at Catface Mountain, although the current permit allows for drilling 9 more test holes. It's unclear why, but it's welcome news!



11-year old Kalilah of Ahousaht First Nations rocks out at the Imperial Metals AGM rally in Vancouver. See her perform: [www.youtube.com/FriendsofClayoquot](http://www.youtube.com/FriendsofClayoquot)

Don Staniford

In 2008 and 2010, twenty-one holes were drilled on Catface Mountain; 12 successfully to target depths of 300 metres plus, while the rest were aborted because of drilling difficulties. Drilling has confirmed that Catface ore contains about 0.4% copper, comparable to other low-grade copper mines.

Regarding acid mine drainage, we've been wondering about the accuracy of Imperial's claims that toxic drainage containing sulphuric acid (think "battery acid") is unlikely to occur from a Catface mine. It turns out that the company has not done a "metal leaching/acid rock drainage assessment program" and therefore is not justified in making that claim. Such an assessment will be required should Imperial begin applying for a mine, which it hasn't done yet.

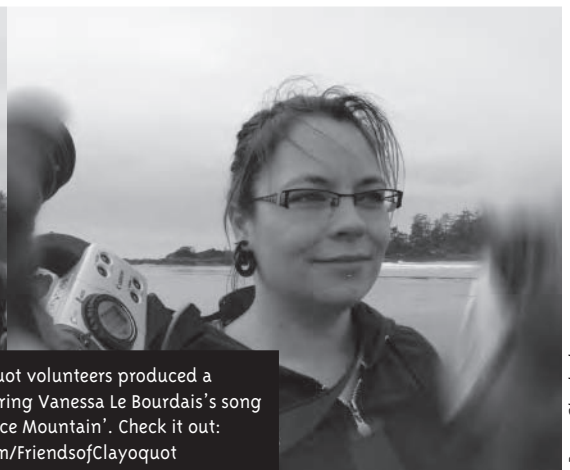
The Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve is no place for mining. Let Premier Christy Clark know: Clayoquot should be a mine-free zone! Please write her now. Her address is on page 6.

Maryjka Mychajlowycz

Check out 'No Copper Mine on Catface Mountain' on Facebook



Friends of Clayoquot volunteers produced a music video featuring Vanessa Le Bourdais's song 'No Mine on Catface Mountain'. Check it out: [www.youtube.com/FriendsofClayoquot](http://www.youtube.com/FriendsofClayoquot)



Bonny Clambeck



# Wild salmon are the lifeblood of the coast

**I** was studying orcas in the remote Broughton Archipelago off northeastern Vancouver Island when the salmon feedlots arrived. We were told they were good for us. Today my town is surrounded by 27 Norwegian feedlots, there are 8 people left, our school is closed, the herring refuse to rebound, the orca have left, and the wild salmon are barely hanging on. The feedlots were not good for us.

Wild salmon are in exceptional decline everywhere salmon feedlots move in around the world (Myers and Ford 2008). The problem is simple: they break the natural laws. By holding this nomadic fish stationary in crowded feedlots, they cause diseases to “go viral.”

People within Fisheries and Ocean Canada tried to write a policy to put wild salmon first, but they were thwarted. Because wild salmon need habitat from mountainous headwaters to international waters, they challenge government to curtail many industrial activities—from damming rivers, dumping mining tailings, and clearcut logging to offshore oil drilling. Despite the best efforts of First Nations, fishermen, scientists, environmentalists, even government fisheries officers, salmon feedlots have now recklessly been placed on every wild salmon migration route of southern BC.

Government and the BC salmon feedlot industry, which is now 92% Norwegian-owned, have told us for 15 years that there are no disease problems, but until now they have refused to release their disease records. That changed this winter. The Cohen Commission, a federal inquiry into the 2009 Fraser River sockeye collapse, ordered the fish farm disease records as well as all Fisheries correspondence, reports, and briefing notes to be released to the participants.

In testimony under oath we have learned that Fisheries and Oceans Canada kept secret evidence that a virus is infecting and killing the majority of many Fraser sockeye runs. The scientist who detected the virus has not been allowed to test the farm salmon, nor speak to the public. We learned the federal government considers public distrust of salmon farming a “crisis”, and that they are working with the companies to make us believe the industry is safe.

The inquiry continues until early September.

Wild salmon are the lifeblood of the BC coast, carrying rich ocean nutrients up the rivers into the mountains. They are essential to the wellbeing of all the life around them, feeding people and entire cultures, as well as ancient



Northern Coho Running, Learnie Hodges / [www.westcoastwild.com](http://www.westcoastwild.com)

rainforests, bears and whales. Wild salmon cannot be replaced by artificial systems that use oil to transport feed, made from wild-caught fish, the length of the globe to grow Atlantic salmon that don't belong here. Salmon farming starves one ocean and pollutes another.

These are farmers that never shovel their manure, using the BC coast as a dumpsite. They dye their fish pink. Salmon feedlots kill wild salmon. The science has been done and the courts are revealing the truth.

Aquaculture is not the problem. There are ethical, intelligent ways to grow aquatic food, but rearing a carnivore like salmon with a system that harms the environment is not the way of the future. Salmon feedlots must get out of BC waters.

*Alexandra Morton*  
Biologist and activist

Check out [www.alexandramorton.ca](http://www.alexandramorton.ca)

FOCS was proud to host Alexandra's  
Mayday Mayday talk in Tofino May 10.

# Flores Island Forest Watch

**F**lores Island lies about 16 kilometres northwest of Tofino. It is in the traditional territory of, and home to, Ahousaht First Nations. Flores is a very special place, less well-known than Meares Island but twice as big and every bit as spectacular. Mountains cloaked with ancient rainforest sweep down to sandy surf beaches along the outer coast—imagine Meares Island and Long Beach combined!

Friends of Clayoquot Sound did three Forest Watch trips over the winter (thanks Sander, Nick, and Greg for braving the elements!) which verified that Lisaak has surveyed quite a few logging sites and roads on the east side of Flores Island. It looks like they are getting ready for an all-out assault on this precious island.

Lisaak received a permit on April 1st to build a road into the intact ancient rainforest of southern Flores. They have not yet applied for any Flores cut permits, and in an April 21st email stated, "Our harvesting is focused on the approved permits in Bedwell and Kennedy 2nd growth at the present time."

For now our efforts (and yours) to keep Flores from being logged in the short term appear to be succeeding. Friends of Clayoquot Sound are hopeful that a long-term solution protecting the rainforests of Flores—such as conservation financing—will be found.

In other forest news, Lisaak and Coulson logged 216,000 cubic metres of wood here in 2010. This is the highest level of cut the Sound has seen since 1995—not an encouraging trend. Two thirds of the trees cut were ancient cedars, although the average composition of Clayoquot's forests is about one third cedar. Companies here and elsewhere on the BC coast are disproportionately targeting cedar-rich stands for logging, thereby endangering the survival of monumental cedars in BC's temperate rainforests.

Dan Lewis

## TAKE ACTION!

Ask the BC government to support conservation solutions and not to allow logging of Clayoquot Sound's globally rare intact valleys, including currently threatened Flores Island.

**Write to:** Premier Christy Clark  
Room 156, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4  
Tel: 250-387-1715  
Email: [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)



FOCS volunteer checking out giant cedar on Flores Island.

Sander Jain

*"British Columbia contains approximately 25 per cent of the planet's remaining primary temperate rainforest. Given the diminished and impoverished state of temperate rainforest globally, the importance of protecting what remains in BC must be elevated. Only limited protection now exists for BC's coastal rainforest, with most of the irreplaceable highly productive and biodiverse old growth already having been liquidated. Consequently, from an ecological perspective a substantial portion of what remains needs full protection to compensate for what has been permanently damaged."*

**Paul Paquet**

Raincoast Conservation Foundation's Senior Scientist



# A new approach to conservation

Clayoquot Sound's renowned wilderness has placed it at the forefront of leading conservation initiatives. However, in reality, little progress has been made in protecting Clayoquot's remaining ancient forests or in advancing the title, rights and community aspirations of the region's First Nations. With few economic alternatives in sight, and with debt accumulated by buying out forestry tenures, there is growing pressure for First Nations leaders to allow logging in some of Clayoquot's last remaining intact rainforest valleys. However, there are solutions.

The Clayoquot Sound Conservation Alliance (CSCA), an alliance of six environmental organizations—Friends of Clayoquot Sound, ForestEthics, Greenpeace, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club BC and Wilderness Committee—is working to address the ongoing uncertainties about the fate of Clayoquot's forests.

The CSCA is currently in advanced discussions with two First Nations in Clayoquot Sound to explore and develop a lasting solution to protect the remaining intact rainforest valleys and islands (68,000 hectares) within their respective traditional territories. Our aim is to work with First Nations to protect the intact

forest areas in conservancies (a protected area designation specifically designed to respect First Nation traditional uses), and to raise funds to assist First Nations communities in building a conservation economy as an alternative to logging old-growth forests. This approach is called conservation financing.

Conservation financing was used as part of the Great Bear Rainforest Agreements (a far-reaching agreement between environmental groups, First Nations, industry and the province on the north and central coast of BC), and may provide a model for solutions in Clayoquot Sound.

This approach to conservation is grounded in an understanding that conservation and community wellbeing are both essential to a long-term solution in Clayoquot Sound. It is a just and equitable model of conservation and we're excited and honoured to be exploring it with First Nations communities in Clayoquot Sound.

*Lee-Ann Unger*  
Coordinator, Clayoquot  
Sound Conservation Alliance



Tofino Photography

## Science Panel Symposium

The BC government established the Clayoquot Sound Scientific Panel in 1993 to recommend new methods of logging Clayoquot's ancient forests, and adopted these recommendations in 1995. A symposium organised this March by Ecotrust and hosted by Tla-o-qui-aht and Ahousaht First Nations gathered about 120 people to share lessons learned in the past 15 years.

Several themes came up repeatedly over the weekend: the need to resolve the First Nations land question and provide for human well-being was made abundantly clear by Clifford Atleo Sr. in Ahousaht.

The need to settle the land-use question, particularly as it pertains to the globally rare large intact areas of ancient rainfor-

est in Clayoquot Sound, was mentioned repeatedly by many people.

There is a need to integrate terrestrial and marine ecosystem management—Science Panel recommendations only apply to forestry and do nothing to regulate other industries such as fish-farming and tourism, let alone open-pit copper mines.

It was clear the Science Panel did not go far enough for many people, both Natives and settlers. It was acknowledged that, had they known then what we now know about the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change, the scientists would have made more cautious recommendations.

The fact that many people care about the future of our planet, particularly as it manifests locally in the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, was clear, and the fact that there is a huge amount of human intelligence and energy being applied to resolve these issues was hopeful and inspiring.

*Dan Lewis*

**For more details check**  
[www.ecotrust.ca/  
clayoquot-sound-  
science-panel-symposium](http://www.ecotrust.ca/clayoquot-sound-science-panel-symposium)



# 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.

**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



## 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.

☐ VISA or ☐ MASTERCARD

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## Or 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](http://www.focs.ca)



Ian McAllister

"What's been missing in the environmental movement is any real sense of the livingness of the land, of the song that rises from the oceans and sweeps across the continents carrying with it the voices of every living thing, all the people, plants, and animals, the mountains, lakes, rivers, forests, valleys, plains and deserts."

**Jonathan Merritt**, editor  
*Sacred Fire* magazine