



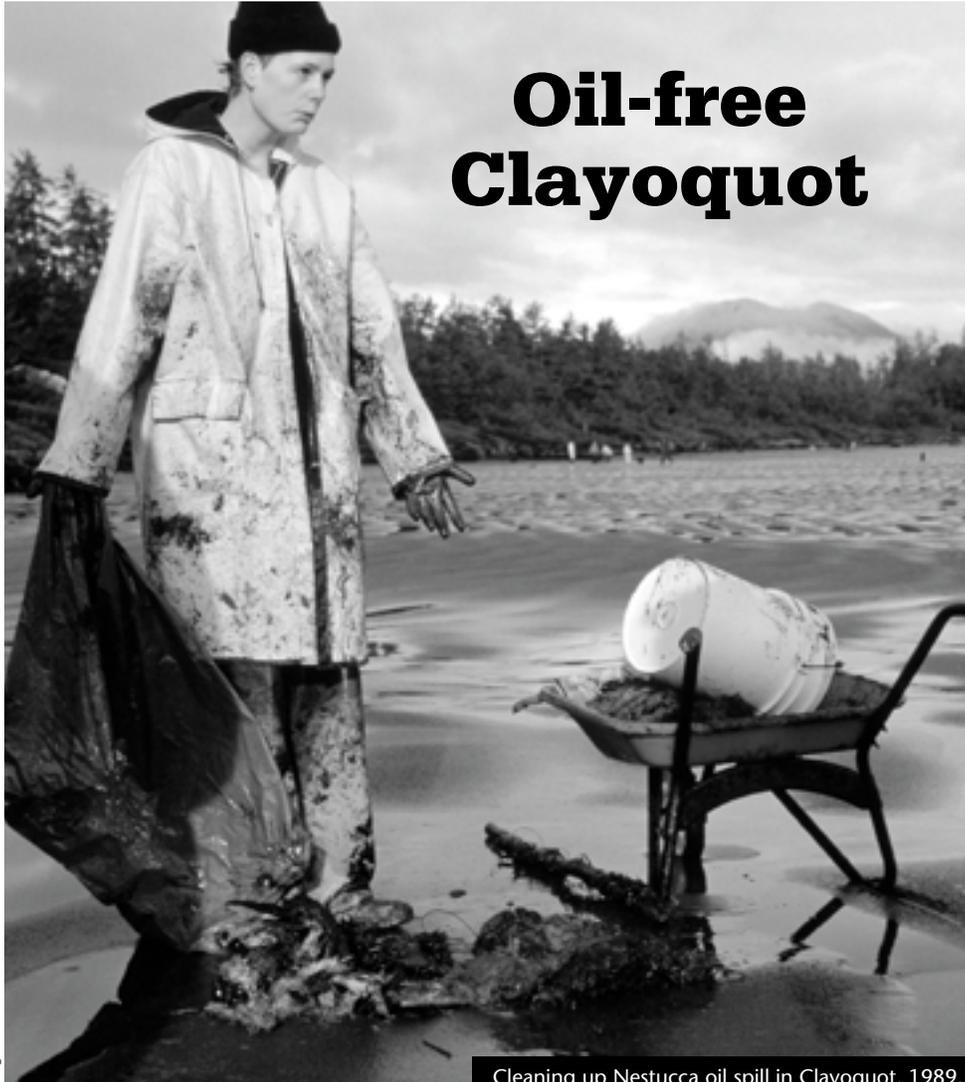
Friends of Clayoquot Sound

www.focs.ca

PHONE: 250-725-4218

info@focs.ca

Winter 2012 - 2013



Leigh Hilbert

Oil-free Clayoquot

Cleaning up Nestucca oil spill in Clayoquot, 1989.

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Keep it wild!

Her yellow rain gear smeared with crude oil, Valerie Langer is standing on the red carpet in the BC Legislature lobby. In her gloved hand is a dead oil-soaked seabird. Flecks of oil hit the freshly painted wall as she gesticulates. A distressed commissioner scurries about wiping up spots of oil, while explaining that the Environment Minister is not in his office today.

It's January 1989, just weeks after the Nestucca oil spill. During the holidays, the Nestucca oil barge rammed its own

tugboat in Washington State after a cable snapped. The US Coast Guard ordered the leaking barge to be towed out to sea. 5,500 barrels of oil were spilled. The spill could not be contained or tracked because the oil floated just below the surface. In the early days of January, to everyone's surprise and horror, the spill began to wash ashore near Tofino.

Locals quickly mobilized the clean-up. The Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations were at the forefront of these efforts.

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Peter Schultze

Biocultural diversity and reciprocity: *Lessons from the past to ensure a future*

While our planet experiences an extinction event on a historic scale, we are also losing indigenous languages at an equally alarming rate. Is there a connection? Biocultural diversity refers to a corresponding diversity in cultures (values, beliefs, languages), and life (from micro organisms to apex predators such as wolves and humans). A culture that is rooted for many generations in a given place will evolve tailored knowledge of the life forms there, which will improve its resiliency. Many indigenous cultures' ways of organizing societal relationships to environment have built into them ideas of responsible ecosystem stewardship, including, almost universally, an emphasis on reciprocity.

Reciprocity, the idea of exchange and mutual benefit, is key to maintaining a healthy relationship between a society and an environment, and can be thought of as a failsafe rule for maintaining biocultural diversity. It connects intangible understanding of relationship to environment with

actions and tangible results in biological diversity and ecosystem health. Although both human social systems and ecosystems are complex apart from one another, reciprocity offers a simple rule to be sure that each can be sustained and maintain resilience.

To illustrate reciprocity in action on a micro scale, take the following personal experience from my education in the Tribal Parks of Clayoquot Sound. An elder relative took me fishing in the early summer of 2010. After several hours offshore and many fish caught, we headed home. Rather than heading straight back to Tofino, he pulled his boat up along side Sea Gull Rocks and asked me to take a bucket and go to collect Sea Gull eggs.

Growing up in an urban centre, this was a completely new experience for me, and at first, an unsettling one. The birds were obviously alarmed at my presence, and I could feel their anxiety. After a brief and unsuccessful search of the lower clefts, I returned to report back to my elder. What I saw then both put me at ease and brought

home a teaching that had previously been given to me verbally. My relative was gutting the fish and depositing the innards onto the lowest rocks for the Sea Gulls and the other creatures to eat in exchange for what we intended to take. He instructed me to climb up to the higher cleft, where I was indeed successful in finding several eggs. Rather than feeling like a thief, because of the exchange of energy that we offered, I felt a sense of reciprocity.

How does this level of reciprocity ensure cultural and biological diversity? Having a diverse way of meeting your energy needs helps to ensure that no one resource is relied upon to the point of exhaustion. Reciprocity further ensures against exhaustion of resources by replenishing the resource on a case-by-case basis. In this way, the idea of reciprocity becomes a balancing force in biocultural diversity.

Eli Enns

Eli is a Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations member who teaches in the Native Studies Department at Brandon University.

Flores Island update

Last winter Iisaak Forest Resources applied for a permit to log the intact rainforests of Flores Island, ten miles northwest of Tofino. Friends of Clayoquot Sound has learned from the Ministry of Forests that Iisaak has withdrawn the cut permit application. The withdrawal of this permit allows much-needed breathing room to continue to work towards solutions.



Artwork by Joe David

No tankers, no pipelines!

The proposed plan to build a crude oil pipeline from the Alberta tar sands to the North Coast is the wrong choice for British Columbia. Allowing this pipeline to be built, and oil tanker traffic to ply the waters of the Great Bear Rainforest, would undermine the conservation gains already made there, as well as the way of life of coastal First Nations people. This proposal also poses a serious risk to the pristine waters and shorelines of Clayoquot Sound.

Please take a moment to visit our website now and send a letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper to add your voice to stop Enbridge.

<http://focs.ca/letter/action-against-enbridge/>



Zeitgeist shift: Moving beyond hope

After the 2012 Rio climate conference debacle, a collective “gulp” rose among ecological scientists and activists, who finally realized that their governments – beholden to the polluters – would not take the necessary steps to stop global heating. The environmental Zeitgeist shifted.

Former Irish president Mary Robinson lamented Rio’s “failure of leadership.” Ecology groups walked out. Indigenous leaders called the Rio “green economy” plan “a new wave of colonialism.” Writer/farmer Sharon Astyk wrote in *Scienceblog*, “Most of these events are about feeling good about pretending ... [The] fundamental policy changes that would be necessary... aren’t even on the table.”

Fifty years ago, Rachel Carson published *Silent Spring*, launching a public discourse about ecology. Today, we have more environmental groups and less wilderness; more “protected areas” but fewer species; more carbon taxes and greater carbon emissions; more “green” products and less green space. The most troubling trends – Earth’s temperature, species diversity, soil fertility, toxic dumps, shrinking forests, expanding deserts – are worse. After a half-century of environmentalism, we are less sustainable.

Why?

In the rich nations, we have approached “sustainability” backwards. We start with business-as-usual, with our desires and dreams, and try to imagine an energy future or a technical fix that will allow

us to have everything we want. It is good to be optimistic, but we have to move beyond hope. In the autumn, when leaves fall and the wind turns chilly, it is not pessimism to point out that winter is coming. Hope is a useful frame of mind, but not a strategy. We have to reverse our approach, start with Earth’s carrying capacity and nature’s patterns, and design our human communities based on that realism.

William Rees, creator of “ecological footprint” analysis, estimates that we annually overshoot Earth’s productive capacity by about 50 percent, depleting the real wealth of natural capital and overfilling Earth’s waste sinks, including the atmosphere. Rees writes that genuine solutions compel us to replace our culture’s “economic growth fetish.”

No species can grow out of habitat overshoot. To reverse the trends, we have to stabilize population, slow consumption, and respect Earth’s limits. Three years ago, *Nature* journal published “Planetary Boundaries,” showing that human activity has pushed seven critical systems – biodiversity, temperature, ocean acidification, nitrogen and phosphorus cycles, land use, fresh water, and ozone depletion – near or beyond critical tipping points. This year, *Nature* published “Approaching a state shift in Earth’s biosphere,” by 22 international scientists, warning that the disruption to these systems is forcing a planetary-scale transition “with the potential to transform Earth

rapidly and irreversibly into a state unknown in human experience.”

Piecemeal ecology does not work. Nature is not a collection of “things,” but a dynamic system of systems, co-creating, co-evolving, each subsystem interdependent with other systems and processes. To get ecology right, we must first humble ourselves and then apprentice ourselves to nature. We need to learn nature’s patterns, strategies, and solutions. Earth is under no obligation to fulfill our desires. The good news: we can live much more creative, productive, and happy lives with a lot less stuff.

Rex Weyler

Rex Weyler is an author, journalist and ecologist. www.rexweyler.com



Jacqueline Windh

Introducing the FOCS Wilderness Team

Friends of Clayoquot Sound is a small but powerful grassroots organization that depends on individuals for support for research, public education, and peaceful direct action.

The Wilderness Team is our group of supporters who donate monthly. Regular monthly donations are the most environmentally-friendly way of supporting FOCS and provide a steady and reliable source of revenue to carry out vital work. Even \$15 a month helps a lot. The cost of a couple of lattes and a muffin a month is cheap insurance against an open-pit copper mine in the heart of Clayoquot Sound.



Sander Jain

Friends of Clayoquot Sound have a brand new website!

Features include a weekly blog, a letter-writing tool, a calendar of events, and the ability to donate online.

Check it out at focs.ca

See page 7 to learn more about the FOCS Wilderness Team.



Tofino Photography

Tla-o-qui-aht opposed to Imperial gold mine

“You do not have permission from our Chiefs to be here. We respectfully ask that you leave our territory immediately.”

These words were spoken by Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations’ Tribal Parks manager Terry Dorward, during a joint field trip to Tranquil Valley with Friends of Clayoquot Sound and the Tribal Park Guardians.

Imperial Metals, a Vancouver-based mining company (also the proponent of a contentious copper mine proposal on Catface Mountain in Ahousaht territory), is keen to explore the potential of re-opening the old Pandora gold mine in the Tranquil Valley, just 20 km northeast of Tofino. They have a permit to begin exploration, but are currently seeking an amendment to their permit in order to do more work than originally planned.

Re-opening Pandora would be consistent with a global trend. With gold prices at record highs, old gold mines are being re-opened around the world. Imperial’s proposed Pandora mine could open the area to more gold mines and major industrialization, as the gold vein appears to extend both east and west of the old mine, indicating a prospective area of gold mineralization in excess of 2,500 hectares.

The Tranquil Valley is within the ha’houlthee (territories) of the Tla-o-qui-aht hawiih (hereditary chiefs). The traditional name for this place is Eelseu-

klis/Onadsiilth. The Eelseuklis village site, at the mouth of Tranquil Creek, is only 7 km due north of Cannery Bay, at the mouth of the Kennedy River. In 2007 the entire Kennedy watershed was designated as the Haa’uukmin Tribal Park by Tla-o-qui-aht.

The Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks approach to resource management is a revitalized traditional approach combining and applying spiritual, social, economic and environmental stewardship in a healthy modern context. “These lands and resources hold significant cultural and spiritual importance to our Tla-o-qui-aht Chiefs and Peoples and it is our collective responsibilities to continue our Traditional ways for future generations to come,” said Dorward.

Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations have stated publicly that they are adamantly opposed to any mining activities in their territories. At the FOCS “Mining Clayoquot’s Future?” public forum last winter, Terry Dorward stated, “Our Tla-o-qui-aht peoples feel so strongly about protecting this important watershed that we will launch a local and international direct action campaign to shut Imperial Metals down here in Tla-o-qui-aht.”

Imperial Metals is moving forward

to explore the Pandora property. They are currently applying to the BC government for an amendment to their exploration permit. If granted, they could begin work immediately. The BC government has not properly consulted with Tla-o-qui-aht as of this writing. Please take a moment now to visit our website focs.ca/take-action/ and send your letter asking the BC government to not approve Imperial’s permit in Tranquil Valley against the will of Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations.

Dan Lewis
FOCS Executive Director

I have to acknowledge that resistance may ultimately be in vain. Yet to resist is to say something about us as human beings. It keeps alive the possibility of hope, even as all empirical evidence points to inevitable destruction. It makes victory, however remote, possible.

– Chris Hedges

DFO approves salmon farm expansion in Clayoquot Sound

Marnie Recker



Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and the BC Liberals have approved a new salmon farm in the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Norwegian-owned Mainstream Canada plans to site the 55-hectare open net-cage feedlot at Plover Point along the shore of Meares Island near Tofino. This is the first new salmon farm approved in BC since DFO assumed responsibility for regulating the industry in 2010.

In July, FOCS joined with Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations, the Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform (CAAR), Greenpeace, and the Wilderness Committee to call on the BC Liberals to not approve Mainstream's Plover Point tenure application.

The federal government is still seeking answers about the collapse of BC's wild salmon runs through the Cohen Commission. The Commission is scheduled to release its findings at the end of October. Its recommendations will likely call for new measures to curb the expansion of salmon farming on the BC coast.

Meanwhile, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has proposed a two-year, coast-wide pathogen surveillance program to get a more complete picture of the infectious salmon anemia (ISA), infectious haematopoietic necrosis virus (IHN), and infectious pancreatic necrosis (IPN) situation in British Columbia's wild salmon. All of these pathogens are highly contagious and can cause mortality in wild and farmed salmon.

Two of Mainstream's salmon feedlots tested positive for IHN this summer. CFIA ordered that close to one million diseased salmon be destroyed. Mainstream is currently looking into the possibility of compensation from the federal government or its insurance provider, according to Norwegian parent company Cermaq's CEO Jon Hindar. In May, Gary Marty, a BC Ministry of Agriculture fish

pathologist, stated, "Vaccines for IHN are available, but Mainstream Canada did not vaccinate fish at the company's Dixon Bay farm." Mainstream didn't vaccinate their fish against this known disease, and now they want a bailout. Why should Canadian taxpayers bear the burden of Mainstream's questionable business practices?

Tofino District Council, the Tofino-Long Beach Chamber of Commerce, and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations are all opposed to the Mainstream Plover Point proposal.

In an October 15th media release Terry Dorward, Tla-o-qui-aht Elected Councilor, stated, "The new site will have negative impacts to our Wah-Na-Jus/Hilth-Hoo-iss (Meares Island) Tribal Park. Our Tribal Parks Declaration clearly states that our seafood, shellfish, salmon streams, herring spawning areas and medicinal plants must be preserved for future generations. We will not allow governments and industry to run roughshod over our rights to clean water and sustainable fisheries. We are investigating legal options and will not rule out direct actions to stop Mainstream Canada's Plover Point fish farm."

The Plover Point salmon feedlot has been approved, but this is not the final chapter.

Bonny Glambeck
FOCS Campaigns Director

"No science is immune to the infection of politics and the corruption of power."

— Jacob Bronowski

"Air that smells fresher than anything you've ever known, trees dripping with rain and moss, waves crashing around you—this is Clayoquot Sound to me."

I first visited 18 years ago, and fell in love with the rainforest. Last summer, having returned for the second time, I was in awe once again. There is something powerful and humbling in the presence of trees that have lived longer than a millennium. The vibe here is of age and wisdom.

The reason I donate every month is because Clayoquot Sound represents Canada, nature, and harmony to me. The fact that it is still under constant threat makes it all the more important to support the efforts of FOCS and give what I can to preserve this amazing place for my children in the future."

Armaity
Toronto, Ontario



Armaity Homavazir

Keep it Wild!

After several years living in Tofino, I felt that I still hadn't found the treasure that I know is hidden in the mystery of this place. I've known for a while that I wouldn't find it staying in town—I would need to venture out and spend extended time in the region called Clayoquot Sound. How close Tofino is to the vast wilds of Clayoquot, and yet how far one still can be away from them when living in this outpost of industrial civilization!

This summer, I found the right circumstances to go on extended kayaking expeditions, taking me to many wild corners of the Sound. The more often and the longer I set out to satisfy my curiosity to explore and experience nature, the greater grew my curiosity, the longer I wanted to stay out there, the less I wanted to return, and the deeper I wanted to delve into the wilderness.

While climbing up mountains on Flores Island; hiking deep into intact river valleys and up steep creeks to reach remote mountain lakes; paddling at night under starlit skies enchanted by meteor showers and watching huge clouds of bioluminescence as fish swarmed under me; while observing deer in river estuaries; sitting still amongst trees and letting the forest find me; warming a salamander in the palm of my hand; paddling with throbbing heart amongst Orcas; while being constantly mesmerized by the interplay of clouds, fog and light; pondering the fate of the cosmos while falling asleep next to the campfire deep in a wild river valley; being silent for long periods of time and trying to see things for what they are without creating a thought and labeling them; and while continuously learning from nature, orbiting its secret treasure without ever arriving where it is hidden; I came to understand that my love for this place is inexhaustible—it is in fact continuously growing.

I learned that I have never before felt as much at home anywhere as in the vastness of Clayoquot Sound—because no place has ever enabled me



to experience and enjoy my self and nature as much as Clayoquot Sound's wilds do. I learned that being at home means being in love with a place that makes you experience your self, and being in love means nothing else than being continuously mesmerized by the unfathomableness and infinity of something. The beauty and the value of all the things I have seen, what I experienced and learned out there this summer defy words. I learned that the treasure I have always been looking for is the mystery of nature itself—something that cannot be arrived at or

known, but something that lets us set out again and again to experience and feel it by connecting to our true selves in it...

Wild places in their undisturbed evolving vastness and abundance are nature's most compelling showrooms. No doubt Clayoquot Sound is one of these compelling places—let's keep it wild!

Sander Jain

www.sanderjain.com

Cover story continued.

Friends of Clayoquot Sound established an emergency bird hospital. A kitchen was set up to feed the hundreds of volunteers who came to help.

Unfortunately, the response from officials was not so quick. There were many reasons why: winter storms and huge waves, a remote and inaccessible coastline, a delay by Canadian Coast Guard in order to secure a potential payer for the cleanup, problems in information exchange between the American and Canadian authorities, duplication of efforts among agencies, and jurisdictional conflicts amongst agencies. In short, the bureaucracy was paralyzed.

That was why Valerie and I had traveled to Victoria with our oily rain gear and a bag of dead birds, to garner media attention and to insist that the government provide personnel, equipment and money for the clean-up.

In the end, 56,000 seabirds died. The Canadian government reported "coastal ecosystem destruction" which comprised damage to fish stocks, marine mammals, shellfish, bald eagles and other animals that fed on oiled carcasses, as well as to Nuu-chah-nulth seafoods. No follow-up studies of possible long-term effects have been conducted.

For locals it was a living nightmare. Resident Leigh Hilbert recalled, "It was very hard emotionally, to see birds

dying in the oil. A lot of people reached a breaking point; they were exhausted emotionally and physically, everything was oiled, the smell was everywhere, it became our lives for weeks."

The Nestucca spill was only 5,500 barrels. Within months the Exxon Valdez spilled 257,000 barrels, almost 50 times more, enough to cover virtually the entire length of the BC coast. If Enbridge builds its pipeline from the Alberta tar sands to Kitimat, 225 supertankers per year, each carrying up to 2 million barrels of bitumen oil, would snake through the coastal archipelago and eventually travel offshore of Vancouver Island. The spectre of an oil spill 350 times the size of the Nestucca spill is not acceptable. The remote rugged coastline and the nature of the bitumen oil itself would make clean-up impossible.

Some things have changed in Clayoquot Sound since 1989. Sea otters, not seen in the Sound since the early 1900s, have returned. So have humpback whales. Eco-tourism has flourished and become the driving economic force. The area has been designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. There's one thing that hasn't changed. People around the world still feel a deep love for this place. Friends of Clayoquot Sound are part of the groundswell of opposition to Enbridge's proposal. Together, let's keep Clayoquot Sound oil-free.

Bonny Glambeck

FOCS Campaigns Director



Marnie Recker

Join the Wilderness Team

In the past two years many people have joined the Friends of Clayoquot Sound Wilderness Team of monthly donors. This has greatly improved our ability to continue campaigning to end the logging of ancient rainforests, stop the building of open-pit copper mines, and get salmon farms out of the pristine waters of the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. But the challenges we face in winning all three campaigns are immense, and we have a lot more work to do.

FOCS is renowned for punching way above its weight—we make every dollar count, here where it matters, on the ground in Clayoquot Sound.

Please take a moment now to fill out the coupon on the back of this newsletter.



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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:

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



Tofino Photography

*and some might call it
conservation*

*some might call it
common sense*

*and maybe it's because
i'm a libra*

*i say balance balance
balance.*

– ani difranco

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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