



# Friends of Clayoquot Sound

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Summer 2013

## 20th anniversary of Clayoquot 1993 protests



Marlene Cummings

July 5, 1993: first day of logging blockade at Kennedy River Bridge. Arrests began next day.

**T**wenty years ago, the day after Easter Monday, Premier Harcourt descended by helicopter onto Radar Hill, south of Tofino, and announced his cabinet's Clayoquot Land Use Decision. The BC government hoped it would prove an acceptable compromise between logging and conservation in Clayoquot Sound, the largest area of ancient forest remaining on Vancouver Island. But not so.

The Clayoquot Land Use Decision (CLUD) of April 13, 1993 sparked a mass protest, "Clayoquot Summer '93," that put Clayoquot Sound's ancient temperate rainforests on the international map. Over a period of six months the region became an icon for an environmental awakening. Clayoquot symbolized all that was wrong with industrial logging and was a touchstone for people's hope for change. It shook the province, inspired people to action and hatched a

marketplace-oriented strategy that has since been utilized in environmental campaigns around the world.

The conflict actually began in the previous decade over proposed logging on Meares Island, led by a group of volunteers from Friends of Clayoquot Sound and First Nations leaders who rose to protect their traditional territories. Reaction to the 1993 Clayoquot Decision transformed this local conflict into a movement with reverberations to this day.

The CLUD left almost two-thirds of the region, including many intact rainforest valleys, open to industrial logging. Public outrage about this decision funneled into the largest non-violent civil disobedience in Canadian history: 12,000-plus protesters came to the Peace Camp and logging road blockade, of whom 856 were arrested, tried in mass trials and sentenced to jail time, house

## What's Up in this issue

20th anniversary of Clayoquot 1993 protests

Clayoquot mining update

Clayoquot's newest salmon farm

Dead whale in Clayoquot salmon farm

Come run the Wild Side Trail

Summer events with FOCS

1993 memories

Japan's tsunami debris heads for west coast

New staff, new office



Marlene Cummings

Continued on page 4.

# Clayoquot mining exploration update: Catface Mountain and Fandora

According to its annual report, Imperial Metals intends to limit exploration in 2013 to its existing mines: Huckleberry and Mount Polley copper mines in BC, and Sterling gold mine in Nevada. It's also busy building infrastructure for the new Red Chris copper-gold mine in northwest BC, scheduled to open next year.

Hence, it appears Clayoquot Sound will be safe this summer from exploratory drilling. Imperial last drilled into Catface Mountain's copper deposit in 2010, to help assess whether it's worth developing into a huge open-pit mine.

Clayoquot Sound has a number of abandoned mines, one of which is the old Fandora gold mine in Tranquil Valley, which Imperial is interested in re-opening. The company received an exploratory drilling permit in 2010, and later applied for an amendment for additional drilling and trenching. However, no drilling has happened to date at Fandora, and it looks like 2013 will be drill-free too.

Maryjka Mychajlowycz



Catface Mountain.

# Clayoquot's newest salmon farm: Plover Point



Mainstream Canada's Plover Point salmon feedlot, Meares Island in background.

Early this year, Mainstream Canada, a subsidiary of Norwegian-owned Cermaq, began farming Atlantic salmon at its controversial new feedlot—Plover Point—along the shore of Meares Island in Clayoquot Sound.

The open net-cage feedlot was approved last fall, although it is opposed by Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation who declared Meares Island a Tribal Park in 1984, and by Tofino municipal council and chamber of commerce. Plover Point was the only site exempted from the moratorium on salmon farm expansion in BC while the Cohen Commission (2009-2012) examined the decline of Fraser River wild sockeye salmon.

Mainstream is proud that 2 of the 12 cages are made of copper alloy, a North American first, as part of a comparative trial between copper mesh and the usual nylon nets. But tinkering with open net-cages misses the point. What's needed is to get salmon feedlots out of the ocean and out of wild salmon migration routes.

The disease and parasite risks that

open net-cage salmon farms pose to wild salmon, and their other harmful effects on the ocean environment, are well-known in BC and globally and have prompted numerous inquiries, legislative committees and moratoria. Wild salmon are in decline everywhere that open net-cage salmon farms operate around the world (Ford and Myers 2008).

In the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve, where there are 21 feedlot sites, wild salmon are in serious decline despite having relatively pristine freshwater spawning habitat. At the same time, parasites such as sea lice and diseases such as IHN (Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis) are being documented at salmon feedlots in the Sound.

Plover Point serves as an egregious reminder not to eat farmed salmon and to choose sustainable seafood instead.

Maryjka Mychajlowycz

Check out SeaChoice's Sustainable Seafood Guide at [www.seachoice.org](http://www.seachoice.org)



"Chunder float" holding morts (dead fish) sits close to Meares Island.

# Dead whale found inside Clayoquot salmon farm

On March 27th a young female humpback whale was discovered dead inside the predator netting that surrounds Mainstream Canada's Ross Pass net-cage salmon farm, about 19 km north of Tofino.

The whale, reportedly not in fresh condition, was towed to a nearby beach where Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) scientists took tissue samples for a necropsy. The Norwegian-owned company claims the whale was already dead and somehow drifted up inside the farm's predator net, but that seems unlikely. DFO officials are conducting an "active enforcement investigation."

Four years ago, in March 2009, a young humpback whale was found inside Mainstream's Mussel Rock feedlot. It had entered through a gap in the outer predator net, which was being replaced, and became trapped overnight. Fortunately, that whale found its way out without mishap.

"Humpys," once hunted to near extinction, were legally protected in 1966. They began returning to Clayoquot Sound in the late 1990s, to the delight of locals, tourists and whale watching businesses. About 2,800 individuals now



Humpback whale breaching.  
Photo: John Forde, The Whale Centre, Tofino, [www.tofinowhalecentre.com](http://www.tofinowhalecentre.com)

spend time on the Vancouver Island coast—fewer than the estimated 4,000, prior to the rise of commercial whaling in the early 1900s. No longer considered "threatened," the species was upgraded to "special concern" in 2011.

As whale numbers grow, so too does the likelihood of another dangerous interaction with one of Clayoquot's 21 salmon feedlots, possibly leading to another whale death or the escape of farmed salmon. This is just one of many good reasons to pull salmon feedlots out of the ocean.

The bones of the Ross Pass whale are now on Salt Spring Island, buried in manure to remove the flesh. They are ultimately destined to become a museum display.

*Greg Blanchette*

# Summer events with FOCS

## Saturdays 10am-2pm

Find our info booth at the Tofino Community Market on the Village Green. If you've never been a part of a protest before, then here's your chance—come take a picture with a historic protest sign!

## Thursday evenings

Catch FOCS at the Tofino Community Theatre (on Campbell at Third, opposite Village Green) for an educational, entertaining presentation.

## Clayoquot Wild Weekend

August 8-11, 2013

*Celebrating 20th anniversary of Clayoquot Summer '93*

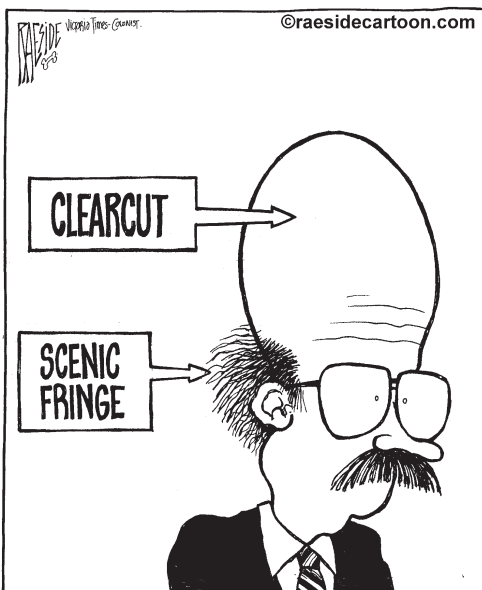
when thousands of citizens stood up to protect Clayoquot's ancient forest from logging

**Thursday evening** – Clayoquot Café presentations and discussion

**Friday night** – dance in Tofino

**Saturday** – picnic, group photo at Kennedy River Bridge, music jamming, camping at Kennedy Lake

**Sunday** – enjoying Kennedy Lake



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# Come run the Wild Side Trail

Beautiful Flores Island, home to the Ahousaht First Nation, is often called the "crown jewel" of Clayoquot Sound, with its many pristine, ancient-forest valleys and long, sandy beaches. It is home to the stunning Wild Side Trail, a First Nations-developed hiking trail that traces 11 km of beaches and headlands facing the open Pacific.

**Saturday, June 22nd**, is the second annual Run the Wild Side Trail race, staged in conjunction with Running Room sports stores. The race starts from the community of Ahousat and covers 22 km of beach, boardwalk and trail (return distance). A 10k route is also available for other levels of runners/walkers. Catch the boat ride from Tofino to this unique west-coast fitness event.

More info online at [WildSideTrail.com](http://WildSideTrail.com) or [facebook.com/WildSideTrail](https://facebook.com/WildSideTrail)



# TIMELINE

<b>1992</b>	65 arrested in logging road blockade at Clayoquot Arm Bridge.
<b>1993 Jan/Feb</b>	International campaign takes off with ad in <i>New York Times</i> and FOCS trip to Europe. Boycott of Mac-Millan Bloedel and other companies called for. Premier Harcourt travels to Europe to counter boycott call.
<b>April 13</b>	NDP decision to log 62% of Clayoquot Sound (74% of productive old growth forest).
<b>June 28</b>	FOCS sets up Peace Camp at "Black Hole" clearcut beside Hwy 4.
<b>July 5</b>	Daily blockades and arrests begin at Kennedy River Bridge on West Main logging road. Supporters begin arriving from all over Canada, US, and overseas.
<b>Aug 9</b>	Mass arrest, 309 arrested.
<b>Sept 1</b>	Mass trials begin in Victoria. Protesters receive jail terms ranging from suspended to 6 months, and/or fines ranging from \$250 to \$3,000.
<b>Sept 7</b>	Second mass arrest, 242 arrested.
<b>Oct 4</b>	Peace Camp closes, but occasional blockades continue until Nov 10.
<b>Oct 27</b>	Premier Harcourt strikes Clayoquot Sound Scientific Panel to draft "world-class" logging practices.
	Year ends having seen largest peaceful civil disobedience in Canadian history, 856 arrested, charged and sentenced; about 12,000 participated.



Cover story continued.

arrest and/or fines. By October 1993 when the protest wrapped up, it spilled into years known as the "War in the Woods." Environmental groups targeted corporate customers of BC wood and paper around the world, causing the province grief and the industry millions in lumber and paper sales.

In response to the non-violent but highly energized uprising, the political ground in BC shifted. Clayoquot marked a renaissance in First Nations land rights discussions and environmental groups became powerful intermediaries both in the wood supply chain and in the political discourse. Importantly, the public became defiant over what they saw to be legal but wrong – the destruction of the environment – and began to stir.

Out of the controversy the First Nations in Clayoquot Sound, who hadn't been consulted on the land use decision, were chosen to be first in the province's new treaty process and a ground-breaking pre-treaty agreement was signed. By October, then-Premier Mike Harcourt established the Clayoquot Sound Scientific Panel for Sustainable Forest Practices. The

outray against wanton clearcut logging sparked the province to initiate BC's first Forest Practices Code. The logging industry circled its wagons in an attempt to defend its tarnished reputation in the marketplace, but change was apace.

What happened in Clayoquot Sound in 1993 has had a major influence on global environmental movements, BC's Great Bear Rainforest campaign, and even the tar sands and pipeline campaigns of today—as well as on conservation of Clayoquot's forests.

It has been 20 years. 60% of Clayoquot's rainforests are now off limits to logging, but most of the region's intact rainforest valleys are still unprotected. And the region's First Nations communities still struggle economically.

Yet we see new opportunities for conservation and human well-being growing again in Clayoquot Sound. A lasting solution that permanently protects Clayoquot's intact valleys and helps First Nations to build a conservation economy may soon be at hand. The Clayoquot Sound Conservation Alliance (ForestEthics, Friends of Clayoquot Sound, Greenpeace, Sierra Club BC and Wilderness Committee) is working to move such a solution forward.

*Valerie Langer*

Director of BC Conservation for ForestEthics Solutions and former FOCS campaigner

## Logging has decreased dramatically in Clayoquot.

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



Ron Shaul

FOCS archives  
Marlene Cummings

## '93 memories...

*I*n 1992, when I was 65, I was arrested for blocking a logging road in Clayoquot. I was not sent to jail but my probation said I could not go near any logging road in BC.

I felt I could contribute to the 1993 campaign by teaching peaceful civil disobedience workshops for a month at the Peace Camp, a ways from the Kennedy Bridge blockade site. I ended up staying for 3 months and 6 days! I loved doing the workshops, meeting people from across Canada and beyond—from teens to seniors—and hearing afterwards of their experiences at the blockade.

Living in the camp was a life changing experience. Being older than most volunteers, I knew how to take care of myself without burning out. My favourites were singing and finding something to laugh about. My greatest memory? When *Midnight Oil* played at our Peace Camp, I got to sing and dance!

At 85 years I am still an activist for the environment.

Jean McLaren  
civil disobedience trainer

*I*n 1993 there were no cell phones or Internet. We spent two weeks phoning and faxing, encouraging people to come, but when we set up the camp we were a small core group of about ten people. Amazingly, people did start arriving. After our fax was read on the news, "This just in, an anonymous fax, blockades in Clayoquot Sound begin July 5th," the trickle turned into carloads. By early July, we already had about 500 people living in the clearcut known as the Black Hole.

Within weeks the camp had become a social experiment—an eclectic community united by a common purpose. It was an incredible cross-section of Canadians, figuring out how to live together, organize together and share shifts in the communal kitchen. People overcame their differences and worked side by side, changing the course of history – or sometimes just doing dishes. One thing is for sure: the experience changed the lives of those of us who experienced it forever.

Tzeporah Berman  
blockade coordinator for FOCS

*I* was actively campaigning in Ontario for BC old growth. When Elizabeth May and the Sierra Club organised the east to west "Clayoquot Express" in Nov. 1993, two friends and myself joined the train in Toronto. On the journey west we had many memorable encounters, particularly when we visited the previous blockaders in Nanaimo Correctional Centre – those who had already been arrested in the summer, then tried and sentenced. We spoke at the gates with arrested grandmother Betty Krawczyk. My anger toward the BC government and determination to be active were further heightened. Ours was the last blockade of that unforgettable year and when we blocked the bridge, we knew the likely court outcome. I was honoured to have been arrested -- and later in detention -- alongside Newfoundland fisher Bernard Martin who connected the overfishing and collapse of the east coast cod stocks to overcutting BC's forests.

Rob Thompson  
arrestee



# Japan's tsunami debris heads for west coast

The March 11th, 2011 Great Tohoku Earthquake in Japan resulted in a tragic tsunami that created a large amount of floating marine debris. Two years later the debris is still spreading over the North Pacific Ocean. There are currently 1.5 million tonnes of tsunami debris afloat in the Pacific, and it is estimated that 80 per cent will be deposited along the coastlines of Washington and Vancouver Island. The threat of this bombarding the West Coast over the next few years has created a new sense of urgency over the problem of marine debris.

The tsunami debris consists of a large number of bottles, plastics, and styrofoam, as well as pieces of fibre-glass from boats, construction debris, rope, fishing nets and buoys. The debris that has already washed ashore includes plastics, several small boats, a dock (Oregon), and the infamous Harley Davidson motorcycle (Haida Gwaii). Because of the large amount of plastic and styrofoam, there will be significant long-term impacts, both for local communities and ecosystems.

The environmental impact is especially detrimental in areas of high biodiversity such as Clayoquot Sound. Plastics mistaken for food can cause suffocation in marine animals, and disrupt food webs in delicate ecosystems, and science is revealing more about the toxic effects of bio-accumulation. Whereas the huge degradation caused by oil spills can last for 50 years, plastic debris degrades into smaller and smaller pieces and can



Japanese plastic fishing-net floats and aluminum Sprite bottle, found pre-tsunami in Brooks Peninsula on west coast of Vancouver Island. Similar items are expected in tsunami debris.



Left photo: Cory McGregor, right photo: Coby Gold

take over 500 years to fully deteriorate.

In addition, debris can carry invasive species, which are immensely damaging to marine ecosystems. The disturbance already caused by debris makes the coast particularly vulnerable to invasive species, and a highly invasive species of kelp, *Undaria pinnatifida*, has already been found on debris.

If tsunami debris is found, it can be documented through the Coastbusters app, which allows people to take pictures of debris on a smartphone, and records the location to help with tracking and cleanup efforts. Hazardous debris can be reported to the BC spill reporting line (1-800-663-3456). Fortunately, there is no threat of radioactivity.

The debris will continue to arrive over the next year. One million dollars in funding from the Japanese government has been secured to support coastal communities and First Nations with debris planning, management and clean-up. The debris management plan for Barkley and Clayoquot Sounds is being spearheaded by Ucluelet's Karla

Robison, and the regional working group will put the plan into action over the summer months.

The growing support for beach cleanups in the region is excellent. Nonetheless, it is important to not lose sight of the bigger problem. Marine debris will continue to wash up onto the shores of Clayoquot Sound for years to come. The 6th international conference on marine debris (May 2013 in Hawaii) will summarize lessons learned from this catastrophic event, review the state of knowledge of the long-standing problem of marine debris, and explore market solutions to the most urgent threats. With tsunami debris in the spotlight, there is a great opportunity to seek innovative approaches to address the global problem of ocean debris.

*Nicki Simpson and Andrew Almack*  
from PlasticShore, a non-profit that recycles plastic debris for eco-label certification in commercial product lines

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## Where were you during Clayoquot Summer '93?

Whether you participated or watched from afar, we invite you to share your memories, photos, stories, poems, songs via our new Facebook group:

**20th Anniversary of Clayoquot Summer '93.**



## Re-commit to Clayoquot Sound!

Twenty years ago this summer, 12,000 committed people came to protest the clear-cut logging of Clayoquot's ancient temperate rainforest. Almost 900 blockaded a logging road and were arrested for standing up for this irreplaceable wilderness.

FOCS was front and centre in that struggle. Since then, with our supporters' help, we've kept logging out of Clayoquot's remaining intact rainforest valleys. But logging continues in other areas of Clayoquot, salmon feedlots dot the ocean, and Imperial Metals is considering an open-pit copper mine and a gold mine here.

If you love the Sound's magnificent forest and ocean—whether or not you were here for Clayoquot Summer '93—we're asking you to re-commit. A monthly donation, even \$15, is the most effective way to help us stop mines, get salmon farms out of the water, and win more protection for Clayoquot's forests.



Peter Schulze

Please fill out the form on the back of this newsletter, click the **Donate** button at **focs.ca** or call us at **250-725-4218**, and we will gratefully set up your donation.



## Introducing new staff

Linnaea Fyles

### **Gillian H. Nicol** *office coordinator (and much more)*

West coast born, Gillian grew up planting trees at the age of four, helped initiate a local recycling program at age 14, and helped develop an organization to advocate against her local port expansion at age 17. Her passion to conserve the environment lead her to study Resource and Environmental Management and Business at the University of Victoria. She joined the FOCS team in October, and enjoys tackling new projects to further the protection of Clayoquot Sound. In her spare time, she's either exploring the outdoors, dancing or baking delicious gluten free goodies.

### **Emery Hartley** *campaigner*

Born and raised a Vancouver Islander, Emery has always been an outdoor enthusiast fascinated with exploring nature and understanding it. An activist from an early age, he has always informed people of environmental issues, and earned the nickname 'Salmon' in high school for trying to raise awareness around the issues facing wild salmon in BC. His early activist career led him to seek a deeper understanding of the natural world through a degree in environmental science at McGill University. Today he is excited to work with FOCS as a campaigner, striving to conserve one of the most enchanting wilderness areas in the world.

## Introducing new office



Gillian Nicol

We have moved from the green house on Neill Street (our home for 20 years) to 1160 Pacific Rim Highway, three driveways north of the Live-to-Surf /Beaches Grocery plaza.

Our new home is a ground-floor office on the left hand side of the main house – look for the small FOCS sign.

**Drop-ins and scheduled appointments are welcome.**  
**Call us at 250-725-4218 for further inquiries.**



# 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

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*"I still have many fond memories of time well spent on Vancouver Island, especially around Tofino and Clayoquot Sound. I am so grateful for FOCS and your 'eyes on the Sound' commitment. I am now 88 years old and have slowed down a bit—but I have a peaceful feeling when I know organizations like yours are so aware of the needs of our Planet."*

**-Mildred, Prince George**



*"Thank you for helping to preserve Meares Island and being the 'old growth' link to the mainstream consciousness. I paddled around Meares Island and was enchanted to be close to such ancient life. It was a turning point for me, and I felt immense gratitude for the work you have done over the years to save this legacy from being chopped and lost forever."*

**-Tanya, Vancouver**

## 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)

## Become a Friends of Clayoquot Sound supporter!

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**One-time donation:**  \$25  \$40  \$100  Other \_\_\_\_\_

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