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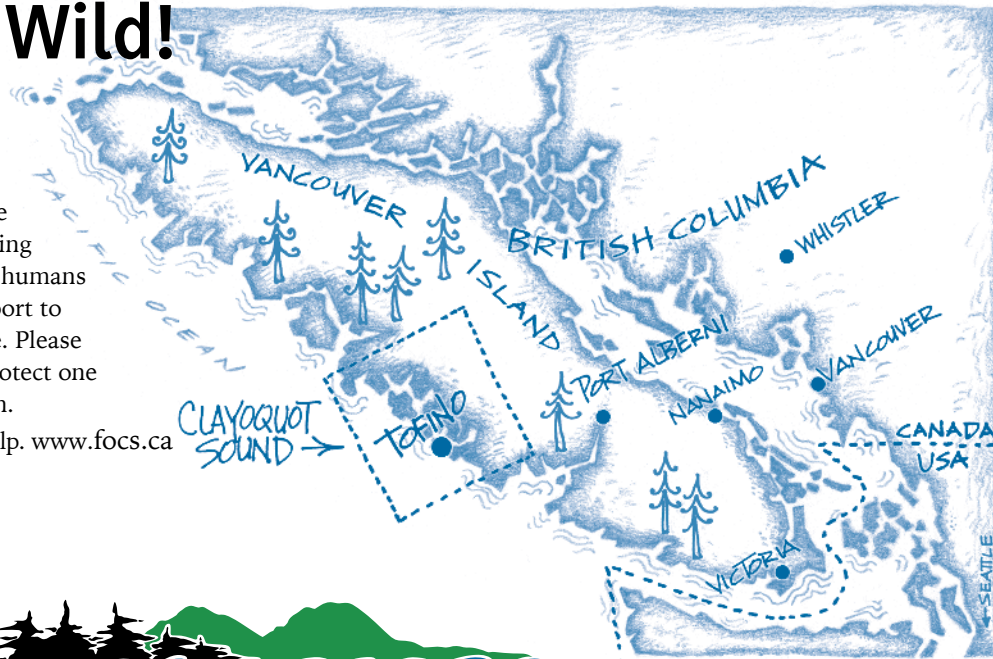
Friends of Clayoquot Sound is a grassroots organization advocating protection for the ancient temperate rainforests of Clayoquot Sound. We are part of an international movement calling for a shift of consciousness in the way humans relate to the Earth. We need your support to continue to educate and 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: 1160 Pacific Rim Hwy, Tofino
info@focs.ca www.focs.ca



Join our Coast Action Team!

Friends of Clayoquot Sound has always been sustained through the commitment and action of our community members. Today there are many opportunities to contribute your skills to our important work including:

- Earthkeepers Youth Programming
- Training Workshops
- Adventure Outings • Trail Building
- Direct Action Support
- Beach Cleanups • Market Tabling
- Event Planning & Coordination
- Benefit Concerts
- Banner & Sign Making
- Photography & Video Production
- Designing Publications & Merch
- Distributing Posters & Newsletters
- Social Media Promotion
- Gathering Petition Signatures
- Blogging • Fundraising
- Data Management
- Gear Maintenance
- Ideas you have?*

Together we can build a movement for environmental justice!



Join our Wilderness Team by becoming a monthly donor!

Includes annual membership.

Monthly donation: \$15 \$25 \$35 Other _____

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Thank you! Payments will continue automatically on the first of each month until you notify the Friends of Clayoquot Sound of any changes or cancellation by calling 250-725-4218 or emailing info@focs.ca. You can also donate by credit card on our website: www.focs.ca

Become a Friends of Clayoquot Sound member!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

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

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

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PHONE: 250-725-4218

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Summer 2016

Wild Salmon Paddle Launches: A sea kayaking fundraiser for Clayoquot Salmon Festival



Wild Salmon Paddle Launches - A sea kayaking expedition fundraiser for salmon conservation.

"Salmon are the backbone of the coast, playing an integral role for coastal livelihoods, cultures, and ecosystems," emphasized Wild Salmon Paddle Expedition Leader, Simon Behman. "With annual salmon returns in the Pacific Northwest diminishing due to polluting human activities, the salmon need our help!"

After launching in Victoria, BC the expedition will end in Juneau, Alaska, journeying a distance of more than 2,000 kilometers. Following the migration routes of wild salmon, the expedition is taking place from early April to August of 2016. Simon Behman will lead the expedition

from Victoria, BC to the finale in Glacier Bay, Alaska, while sea kayaking guide, Nick Gallant, supported the expedition from Victoria to Tofino.

"I want to give back to the coast that has given me so much by fundraising for salmon conservation for Friends of Clayoquot Sound, educating through social media, and engaging communities along the way about the importance of salmon," said Behman.

The Wild Salmon Paddle is an example of the commitment needed to protect the irreplaceable value of wild salmon. The funds raised will support the Friends of Clayoquot Sound organizing the Clayoquot Salmon Festival, participating in the Clayoquot Sound Salmon Roundtable, and contributing to salmon conservation efforts.

WHAT'S UP in this issue

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Join Our Coast Action Team!

Mark Your Calendars!
Clayoquot Salmon Festival
October 12 - 19

BIG WINS of 2015 in Clayoquot Sound



Tsimha Martin

Friends of Clayoquot Sound supporting the Warriors for Yaakswiis during the action to evict Cermaq's fish farm from Ahousaht Territory.

Ahousaht salmon farm eviction sets global precedent!

On September 19th, 2015, world precedence was set with the first ever removal of a salmon farm from the oceans! In July, the BC government approved a salmon farm proposed by industry giant Cermaq, a subsidiary of Mitsubishi. The proposed new farm, Yaakswiis, was to be located in Millar Channel, adjacent to the Atleo River. On September 9th, when Cermaq moved in to anchor the fish farm, members of the Ahousaht First Nation known as the Warriors for Yaakswiis came out in boats to block installation of the pens. Cermaq employees withdrew and the Warriors occupied the empty fish farm on the ocean. The Ahousaht Chiefs and Council responded by asserting the permanent protection of Yaakswiis and telling Cermaq to permanently remove the farm. "It was this easy with just a handful of warriors... Imagine what we can do with all the people that care for this planet," said Lennie John of the Warriors for Yaakswiis.

Stephen Charleson



Members of Hesquiaht First Nation blocking logging equipment from moving into their territory.

Hesquiaht say "NO" to logging near Hesquiaht Harbour!

In August 2015, the Hesquiaht First Nation effectively stopped the harvesting of old growth timber from a block located near Hesquiaht Peninsula Park in their Hahoulthee (traditional territory)! Iisaak Forest Resources arrived in Hesquiaht territory to set up operations and start building logging roads to harvest old growth forest, located near the internationally renowned Hooksum Outdoor Education School run by members of the Hesquiaht Nation. Decades of ecological degradation caused by logging operations have left landscapes scarred by clear-cuts, logging roads, and landslides. These ecological impacts have threatened salmon rearing streams, to the extent of killing off salmon runs from a number of small streams, and destroyed clam beds in the adjacent estuaries. "We will take whatever steps are necessary to prevent logging in our territory," said Bernard Charleson, Tribal Administrator. Subsequently, Iisaak's Board of Directors stated it will stop logging in Hesquiaht traditional territory until new direction is received from the Hesquiaht Nation.

End of industrial logging in Ahousaht Hahoulthee!

In October 2015, the Ahousaht Hawiith (hereditary chiefs) announced an immediate moratorium on industrial logging in their traditional territory. The Ahousaht Hahoulthee (traditional territory) covers almost 60% of the land area of Clayoquot Sound and includes most of Clayoquot's unlogged and intact valleys such as Sydney, Pretty Girl, Ursus, and Bulson, as well as all of Flores Island. This move by the Ahousaht Hawiith follows in line with their Community Land Use Visioning process which "intends to produce a set of management values designed to protect a traditional way of life while supporting a continued transition to a modern diversified sustainable economy."



Nicky Young

#ImperialNoMore disrupts mining AGM!

In May 2015, at the Imperial Metals Annual General Meeting in Vancouver, around 50 Indigenous warrior women and activists voiced opposition to Imperial Metals. The company responsible for the Mount Polley tailings disaster, is attempting to push forward two mines in Clayoquot Sound. A delegation of activists from Clayoquot Sound participated in the action as part of the #ImperialNoMore movement, including members of the Tla-o-qui-aht Nation, the Ahousaht Nation, and Friends of Clayoquot Sound. The activists rallied in front of the hotel shutting down traffic on Burrard Street in downtown Vancouver. The action concluded with activists occupying the hotel plaza, forcing the shareholders inside to use alternate exits.

By Torrance Coste

2016 is going to be a busy year for our popular Clayoquot Sound trail building program. We'll make three trips to Wah-nuh-jus – Hilth-oo-iis Tribal Park in Tla-o-qui-aht Territory in the heart of Clayoquot Sound for an immersive rainforest experience. Friends of Clayoquot Sound volunteers are welcome to join trips that will be led by Wilderness Committee staff, with work directed by Tribal Parks staff from the Tla-o-qui-aht Nation.

TRIP DATES:

Friday, June 10th – Monday, June 13th
Friday, July 15th – Monday, July 18th

The Big Tree Trail is a lynchpin of Tofino's booming tourism sector, and it is important to the Tla-o-qui-aht Nation's participation in the local tourism industry. Volunteers will work alongside Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks staff to repair, upgrade and expand the famous Big Tree Trail near Tofino. In the last few years we've made a lot of progress, and this summer our aim is to complete the boardwalk and loop trail.

Volunteers are responsible for their own food and camping equipment (trail building supplies provided). We'll be camping in hand-made campsites about an hour's hike from the trailhead, with no services at all.

Meares Island Trail Building Opportunities



FOCS Organizer, German Ocampo, trailbuilding with the Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks and Western Canada Wilderness Committee crew.

Volunteers will need a moderate to high level of physical fitness, and hiking and backcountry camping experience is preferred, but not required. Working alongside Indigenous people on a mutually beneficial project in one of the most renowned rainforests on Earth is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

To sign up for a trail building weekend, contact Friends of Clayoquot Sound @ 250-725-4218 or office@focs.ca.

Earth keepers: Generation Next

By Jeh Custerra



FOCS Campaigner, Jeh Custerra, presenting with Surfrider Pacific Rim at Ucluelet Elementary School.

Earth keepers is a new FOCS initiative engaging local youth in the creation of artistic projects to strengthen youth leadership, artistic voice, environmental steward-

ship, and regional connectedness. Engaging youth in creative ways about sustainability issues is important to empowering their ability to have their voices heard on the issues facing the coming generations. The program aims to engage youth between the ages of 13-21 who want to develop communication skills and explore artistic techniques in a supportive and fun environment.

The youth will participate in facilitated sessions while receiving ongoing mentorship and guidance from facilitators. Each session begins with activity-based learning, and transitions into artistic experimentation and creation. Through the creative storytell-

ing modalities of photography, music, and video, the participants explore and communicate their connections to place, environment, and sustainability. Celebrating the youth's work and understandings of these related issues is essential in building leadership, artistic voice, and regional connectedness.

Stay tuned for a youth arts celebration with exhibition and performance this fall. www.focs.ca/earthkeepers

Ecological Emergency for Vancouver Island's Rainforest



A stand of old growth trees on Catface Mountain in Ahousaht territory.

By Jens Wieting

Temperate rainforests are a globally rare ecosystem covering less than one percent of the planet's land base. They are also the territory of Indigenous people, home to species that don't exist anywhere else and one of the best carbon storehouses on the planet. Today the majority of these forests have been logged.

Much of the remaining intact old-growth can be found along the coast of British Columbia. In many areas salmon

still run in the rivers, trees over one thousand years old still tower across streams, bears and wolves still roam the forest and unknown numbers of beetles inhabit the canopy.

As a result of final implementation of the Great Bear Rainforest Agreements in February 2016 85 percent of the Central and North Coast rainforest is now off-limits to logging through a combination of protected areas and strict logging rules. In contrast, on Vancouver

Island and along B.C.'s south coast, coastal rainforests are now in a state of ecological emergency as a result of too much logging, now combined with climate impacts like droughts and storms exerting additional pressure, resulting in severe consequences for watersheds and salmon.

A new Sierra Club analysis shows that almost half of the 155 landscape units on Vancouver Island and the South Coast have lost over 70 percent of their productive old-growth rainforest. This threshold is a serious concern, because scientists studying coastal rainforests have warned that with less than 30 percent of the original diverse old-growth rainforests there is a high risk of species extirpation. Only about 13 percent of the forest on the Island is protected.

The partly protected intact valleys of Clayoquot Sound, the Brooks Peninsula on the North Island and Carmanah-Walbran in the South (despite the missing Central Walbran part) are important protected areas providing habitat for endangered species. By supporting the aspirations of First Nations in Clayoquot Sound, the BC government can assist with protecting the last remaining cluster of intact rainforest valleys on the Island.

North and South of Clayoquot Sound the unprotected Klaskish landscape unit (including East Creek) and the partly unprotected Walbran landscape unit are the most outstanding contiguous larger areas of intact productive old-growth rainforest. They are of paramount importance to restore north-south connectivity between intact rainforest areas.

Other important intact rainforest areas are Mt. Wolfenden, Nimpkish, Tsitika River, Artlish River, West Sayward, Mount Nora, Tahsis and Leiner Rivers, Nootka Sound, Nahmint and Henderson Lakes, Cameron Lake, McLaughlin Ridge and Gordon River East/Edinburgh Mountain Ancient Forest.

A comprehensive conservation strategy for Vancouver Island must begin with immediate steps to safeguard remaining intact areas, followed by planning for restoration reserves in all areas of the island where old-growth rainforest ecosystems are at high risk of species loss. Only immediate action will allow forest dependent species a better chance to adapt to the changing climate.

Criminalization of Land and Environment Defenders in the Americas



Imperial No More land defenders at the 2016 Imperial Metals AGM singing the Women's Warrior Song.

By Jen Moore

Here in Canada and throughout the Americas, many governments have embraced a resource extraction agenda. In many cases, people are opposing the imposition of this model for economic growth, and speaking out against specific projects and/or their impacts — Indigenous and Afro-descendent peoples, farmers, environmentalists, journalists, and other concerned citizens. But when they do, they increasingly become the targets of threats, accusations, and smears that attempt to label and punish them as enemies of the state, opponents of development, criminals, even terrorists. Mexico and Peru, where there has been little pause in neoliberal deregulation of the mining sector since the 1990s, also provide examples of intensified criminalization.

Mexico, the country of choice for Canadian mining investment abroad since the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), is one of the deadliest countries in which to defend land and the environment, where criminalization can easily lead to murder. The criminalization and murder of community leader Mariano Abarca in 2009 in connection with Blackfire Exploration's "Payback" mine in Chiapas illustrates how the Canadian government's idea of "economic diplomacy" may fail to address — or even contribute to — repression and violence. The Canadian Embassy in Mexico knew of tensions around Black-

fire's mine; Abarca himself had told the Embassy about armed workers being used to intimidate peaceful protesters. When Abarca was detained, mere weeks after speaking about this with the Embassy, the Embassy received some 1,400 letters expressing dire concern for Abarca's life. Nonetheless, the Embassy's response was to support the legitimacy of Blackfire's operation. Three months later, Mariano was murdered. All of the suspects in his killing were connected to the company, and justice has still not been served.

In Peru, Canada has spent tens of millions of dollars in overseas development aid since the 1990s on projects that reinforce a role for the state as either absent or servile to corporate interests, and highly reliant on short-term mining revenue. As the number of mining conflicts has soared, parallel legislative changes have stiffened penalties for social protest and given police greater impunity to use lethal violence against protesters.

From 2006 to 2014, 230 people were killed and 3,318 wounded in socio-environmental conflicts, principally around mining projects. State armed forces, which may even be directly employed by mining companies, are frequently the aggressors. At the same time, as of mid-2014, some 400 people were facing legal persecution under generally spurious accusations made by companies, company staff, or public prosecutors, including for rebellion, terrorism, and violence.

Canada provides the final example, riding its own wave of deregulation,

dependency, and devolution into a state increasingly intolerant of growing public dissent over extractivism. Over the last decade, Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) and Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) security reports, along with government policy documents — notably on antiterrorism strategies — have equated economic interests with Canada's "national interests" and designated groups opposed to these inter-

ests as a threat to Canada's national security. Groups challenging government policy, particularly surrounding the energy and extractive sectors, have been infiltrated and subject to surveillance by both CSIS and the RCMP. The recent passage of the Anti-Terrorism Act, Bill C-51, raises further concerns about enhanced powers for Canadian intelligence agencies, among other provisions, being used against Indigenous groups and other organizations contesting the government's extractivist agenda.

It is becoming ever more dangerous and difficult for affected communities and organizations who are fighting for Indigenous rights, self-determination, and environmental justice in the Americas to speak out and do their work. As this situation worsens, the Canadian government has increasingly dedicated its diplomatic services, aid budget, and trade and investment policy to promote and favour the interests of Canadian mining companies and to influence decisions over extractive projects and related policies. The trend of repression and deregulation in Canada to favour mining, oil, and gas projects is consistent with the model that the Canadian government promotes abroad.

For more information read the Mining Watch report "In the National Interest? Criminalization of Land and Environment Defenders in the Americas" at www.miningwatch.ca

Tofino says "Straws Suck!"



A community rally organized by FOCS and Surfrider in support of the Global Climate March in Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks.

By Michelle Hall & Lilly Woodbury

The idea to stop using plastic straws in Tofino came through a suggestion on the Surfrider Pacific Rim forum on Facebook. Surfrider Pacific Rim is the volunteer-run Tofino-based chapter of Surfrider Foundation. We are a powerful activist network who campaign globally to "Rise Above Plastics" and promote eliminating single use plastics. This includes bags, plastic water bottles, and straws which have become the overwhelming norm of our daily lives.

Surfrider Pacific Rim volunteers developed the "Straws Suck" Campaign in February, 2016 to encourage local businesses in Tofino to stop using plastic straws, only give straws on request, and provide biodegradable/compostable straw options. The organizers set a target of facilitating all businesses in Tofino to eliminate plastic straws by Earth Day - April 22, 2016.

We reached out to local businesses by email and in person. By Earth Day, the Straws Sucks Campaign was being supported by businesses who never had straws in addition to those who have eliminated them for good.

Thanks to the following businesses for saying no to throwaway plastic straws:

- Beaches Grocery •
- Big Daddy's Fish Fry • Calypso •
- Common Loaf •
- Crystal Cove • Dolphin Motel •
- Earth Mama Love • The Fish Store •
- Ice House • Jamie's Rainforest Inn •
- Kuma • Long Beach Lodge •
- Marina West Motel • Jack's Pub •
- Middle Beach Lodge • Pacific Sands •
- Ocean Outfitters • Ocean Village •
- Red Can Gourmet • Rhino Coffee •
- The Schooner • The Sea Shanty •
- Shelter • Sobo • Surf Sister •
- Tacofino • Tin-Wis •
- Tofino Botanical Gardens •
- Tofino Coffee • Tofino Motel •
- Tofino Sea Kayaking •
- Tofitian • Tony's Pizza • Tuff Beans •
- Tuff City Sushi •
- Whalers on the Point •
- Wickaninnish Inn • Wildside Grill •
- Wolf in the Fog •

Businesses in Tofino that depend on tourism realize how our local community can make a global impact as this area continues to grow as a travelling hotspot. These businesses understand the real opportunity here to become more ecologically conscious and set standards that can influence people who travel here.

Everyone can continue to rise above plastics by ending consumption of single use plastic, starting with straws, and leading to other products like bags, utensils, and plastic bottles. As humans, we cannot defend the use of throwaway plastic like straws if we are going to claim that we care about the ocean.



Andrew Bailey

Tribal Parks: Declaring Indigenous Rights for Traditional Land Stewardship

By April Ingham

It was an honour to be invited to participate in the 2016 Tribal Parks Gathering hosted by the inspiring peoples of Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation in the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve within Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks. Assembled were many First Nations elders, leaders, cultural teachers, community organizers, and environmental protectors. These powerful change-makers journeyed from as far north as the mighty Peace River region of Treaty 8 through to the central north coast of California, and central Canada. All have contributed to or are engaged within a growing movement reclaiming Indigenous rights and responsibilities for traditional land stewardship.



2016 Tribal Parks Gathering hosts, organizers, and participants sharing knowledge.

lisaak, the Nuu-chah-nulth word for *respect*, was our gathering agenda.

Respected members of the Tla-o-qui-aht community attended, some of whom had been directly involved in historic battles in the 80s to protect ancient forests from clear cut logging within their pristine territories. Working together with environmental groups, including Friends of Clayoquot Sound, First Nations led a blockade

on Meares Island and fought in courts, winning a major victory when it was ruled that no development could occur on the island until their land claim was settled. In 1984 the Tla-o-qui-aht people declared Meares Island a Tribal Park; this was the first one ever to be declared in the province of British Columbia.

In 2014 the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation extended the Tribal Park designation and its protections and management to cover the balance of their traditional watershed territories. The Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks territories are world-renowned for their beauty, drama and abundance. So it was profoundly

comforting to be enveloped by these lands and their local champions as we attended sessions, shared heart-warming stories, feasted, discussed our challenges, lessons learned, and what we can do better together as we protect and safeguard our lands and territories. We departed refreshed, cleansed by the rain, uplifted by expanded possibility and resolute in solidarity.

Hishuk ish ts'awalk means *everything is one* in Nuu-chah-nulth.

FOCS Community Space Success!

By German Ocampo



A full house at the FOCS Community to take in presentation by Dr. Lu Carbyn.

When the Amazing Tans Gift Shop in downtown Tofino closed for the winter, Tan Thakudruea & Stamatis Pitsos donated their space to FOCS to operate from January to March 2016. The FOCS Community Space launched and we invited community members to utilize the space

to share ideas and engage in meaningful conversations. For two months the FOCS Community Space hosted 44 events attended by over 400 people from all walks of life. The events ranged from documentary film screenings to speaker presentations to music making workshops to yoga and

chi gung. These events showcased the important work undertaken by groups such as Surfrider Pacific Rim, Transition Town Tofino-Ucluelet, and many local people who wanted to share their talents. As an example, on March 8th the West Coast Community Resource

Society hosted an International Women's Day appreciation event at the FOCS Community Space. The event was attended by over 40 women who enjoyed wellness services, a complimentary lunch, a community discussion about missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada, and "Fury For the Sound," a film about the important involvement of women in the environmental movement in Clayoquot Sound. FOCS Community Space has helped to deepen relationships around the well-being of the region. A big THANK YOU to Tans Amazing Gift Shop for sharing the space and to everyone who participated and contributed!