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The

Thetis Island

Quarterly

Balloon
Darts

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**THE THETIS
ISLAND
QUARTERLY**

The Quarterly is published by the Thetis Island Community Association around the 1st of March, June, September and December of each year, to highlight the people and activities of Thetis Island. The new digital Quarterly comes free with TICA membership but both digital and print versions may also be obtained by subscription at a price to be determined after this trial year.

Perspectives and opinions contained herein are not necessarily those of TICA, and the editor reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, brevity or taste. Substantial edits must be approved by the author before going to print.

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The cover photo is from the Family Fun Day on August 12th, and was taken by Ted Hunter. See story on page 22.

EDITORIAL

So, here's a bit of history for you. This fascinating old Ferry Notice sign was on display at the Community Day event in June. This would have been during the time that our first ferry, the Ethel Hunter, started service to Thetis in 1959. Although the language isn't clear and the spelling is open to question, it seems that the Ethel Hunter could take a maximum of 50 passengers (priority to school attendees, it should be, not attendants, unless they were a seriously unruly bunch!) and no more than five cars. Bill Dickie notes: "The Chemainus Terminal was unstaffed during the entire time that the Ethel Hunter was on this route, so the instruction to line up in order of arrival was really left up to the customers to sort out among themselves!" (Thanks to Bill for all the background to the sign.)

It's because of Chris Pegg that the sign still exists. At one time, the old "white house", now owned by Carolyn Askew, was owned by one of the first Masters on the Ethel Hunter, Captain Maurice Clulow. There was an old garden shed in the grounds that was falling apart, but stored bits and pieces, including the defunct ferry sign. Chris and Marylyn Pegg were later tasked with managing the property, and Chris discovered and rescued the sign when he and Ralph Rebaud had to take down the shed. So, when we lose the Kuper this fall for its regular maintenance (October 11 to December 9, current estimate) and have to make do with a smaller ferry, this serves as a reminder - things could be worse! (Chris is storing and caring for the sign until we have a community space for historical memorabilia. Thank you, Chris!)

And while we're tempering our nostalgia, here's another surprise from the past. Not of Thetis, obviously, but a box of old photos from my grandparents turned up this gem, to remind us that no matter how "crowded" the summer sometimes feels, imagine what it must have been like for the inhabitants of Tynemouth Sands - normally a quiet English town in the 1920s, except, apparently, Bank Holiday Monday in August. Where on earth did they put them all? Not on the Ethel Hunter, anyway...

Veronica Shelford



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ThINC had a terrific summer program this year, which included visits to homes and projects particularly focused on sustainability and harmony with nature (see the September issue of "The Ripple" at thetislandnatureconservancy.org for a review of their summer events). In July, they organized a tour of Matthias and Jutta Zapletal's extensive and inspiring project. Matthias has been kind enough to give us a written version for the Quarterly.

ACTUALLY GETTING GOING...

How was it...there are many roads lead to Rome but only if you actually get going.

There are many projects which someone can do to be a little more sustainable or self-sufficient. Like improve biodiversity on a small scale or have a smaller carbon foot print. You only have to pass the point of talking about it and get started.

Here a few projects I am working/worked on - some can be done more quickly while others take a while.

Biodiversity on a small scale - the garden

As nature has told us since millions of years, diversity is the key to success. Any monoculture (doesn't matter how and in what area/field) will lead in the long term to a problem. If you look around you will find many examples where humans try to improve nature - it all failed as soon as you work against nature. The easiest to see is in the garden. If you reduce the plant variety to a few in a perfect organized shape and order you will end up having all kinds of problems with pest and plant disease. For me I think nature has a 'long time' experience and given us the blueprint how it works best with the least problems. And that all just by creating diversity in a NOT perfect, organized order. Planting vegetables of one kind, not all in one spot, and mix them up and add some colour (flowers/herbs here and there) and allow some weeds (more about weeds later!). This is actually what farmers did once, like 50+ years ago. I can remember it on our old farm - it was called inter-cropping in a small field, and mixed up. That was before the industrial-supported creed for quick money took over with herbicides and pesticides and fungicides and synthetic fertilizer and.....

Now by adding flowers and herbs and actually leaving a few so-called 'bad weeds' the variety of insects increase and the pollinators will provide free help to increase the vegetable crop. I can confirm this! You get the most cucumbers, peppers and strawberries etc. when the bumblebees take over. By



All photos in this article are by Carol Sowerby

Garden "patches" everywhere - elephant grass in the background

the way, honey bees are only ~5% efficient with pollination. Mason bees are ~ 95% and hover flies help too, plus they multiply by laying eggs in aphids. And there are a whole variety which do all kinds of voluntary work for us. And earwigs like to clean up aphid populations. Just provide them with a place to stay, like an upside-down small flower pot with some dry grass or fine wood shavings. I hope the nonsense of the earwig fairy tales has passed these days. So, if you leave some small 'messy corners' all these insects will have a place to call home. Plus, you can add an 'insect hotel' to improve it. The internet is actually full of good ideas about that.

Compost Heat

To get heat in the winter for your home or greenhouse there are more options than just electric, propane or burning wood!! The sun and bacteria can do this too. With a small thermal solar panel or heat from a wood-chip-compost pile you can easily support any heating needs. Thermal solar (NOT electric) = water cycled through pipes in a black panel. And wood-chip-compost is just wood chips from fresh green chipped wood (brush, trees, all kind of twigs), mixed if possible with



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some manure to get the nitrification bacteria working, and watered so the wood is soaked. Some call it a 'bio-kiln'. For me it is just a wood chip compost pile. But as with any regular garden compost - a dry compost doesn't work!

A pipe (simple black irrigation pipe) is looped in the wood-chip-compost pile and water is cycled through this pipe into a buffer tank. Sounds complicated but is very simple. From the buffer tank you can use it for floor heating or greenhouse heating or... This process generates at the beginning ~65C heat and decreases to an average of ~42C when you continuously take out heat. It will work for roughly one



Above: Detail of compost heating, the pipes looped through
Left: Greenhouses wherever they can fit in, with double walls for insulation



year'. The best time to start such a pile is spring or fall.

Biodigester - liquid compost (compost tea)

Once upon a time - or at the time we were running an aquaponic system in Prince George - we were trying to keep a closed cycle system. Meaning, you add fish food (feed the fish) and receive vegetables. Similar to Noah's setup at Jollity Farm but maybe 2-3 times bigger. Fish food we made at our farm, with insect protein and organic old grain varieties (which have water soluble gluten - fish are kind of 'celiac', gluten intolerant). The problem in a closed cycle system is what to do with the harvest leftovers like roots and vegetable cut-offs plus filtered out fish manure (fish poop)? With around 12000+ fish (Tilapia) in the tanks, from tiny one inch (we had our own breeding stock) to 30 inch, there is some manure available daily! The solution was using what nature does in any lake, river ocean = liquid composting. What works in a regular compost pile works in water too! By adding some oxygen (pumping in air) the nitrification bacteria work in water too. It is called liquid aerobic nitrification. Anaerobic-nitrification is like when you smell methane combinations /ammonia when your garden compost has not enough oxygen - same in a liquid composter.

The liquid compost was then added back into the aquaponic cycle and made the vegetables grow well and the fish were happy. Search for Northern Bioponics on the internet - there are for sure pictures floating around from our greenhouse.

So, this process of liquid composting can be used for the garden too. It is easy to produce liquid compost - use every weed and unwanted plant which can't go into the regular compost. You produce a compost tea after a good week (at around 22+C - colder water takes a little longer) which can be used as fertilizer diluted in water (maybe ~ one part liquid

compost to 7+ part water). If it doesn't smell the ammonia is broken down into nitrate and can be used. Don't worry - the nitrate level is not high enough to harm you or any plant and plants can take low levels of ammonia too. The leftover fiber material in the liquid composter barrel can be added to the regular garden compost. Best is to use two barrels. The seeds/roots of the weeds break down after ~3+ weeks so that they will not grow again on the compost. Don't forget to add some air to the liquid composter - just a small aquarium pump with 2 or 3 Watts and an air stone are enough. Without air you end up with too much anaerobic nitrification and it will smell. Anaerobic nitrification works too but is very smelly.

Constructed Wetland - a different way

Constructed Wetland is the way to use sewage to grow plant material instead of draining the sewage just into the soil - maybe to the disadvantage of the neighbours well down the hill. The principle 'out of sight out of mind' is very popular in any society on earth but it will only cover the problem for a while (see any garbage dump hill. The problem is not solved.)

The constructed wetland is an enclosed kind of 'pond' with a pond liner just filled with gravel, sand and loamy clay where you grow things like willow and *miscanthus* (elephant grass) on top. Elephant grass doesn't produce any seeds and since enclosed anyway can only multiply through the roots. The sewage from the septic tank flows into the bottom of this 'wetland pond' through a drain pipe. This water rises and the nitrification bacteria in the soil breaks down the sewage, making the nutrient available to the plants. The plants are harvested in the fall - composted and producing heat in our compost pile - and can later be used as fertilizer for the garden. Constructed wetland is a way human waste can be handled safely.

Working with wood and clay

A building material which has been used for thousands of years is no longer defined as a building material in the BC building code - clay. I could say "another proof of failure not to use long term knowledge" but I am not the one to judge. However, there are many ways to build a house/home. I choose to NOT build another square box, fill it with future garbage like fiberglass, styrofoam (in the way it is handled currently), vapour barrier and drywall with lots of toxic paint to kill all the mould fungus on the wall which will come sooner or later with this kind of setup.

For me a way was to look how it was done in the past, or how can I combine different solutions - past and present - to reduce the garbage at the end of the home's lifespan and to avoid toxic material completely. The solution was a 'house in a house' or a wood-chip-clay house in a dome. Why that? Well, wood and clay are materials that are locally available - at least here and on my property - and clay works best in low humidity climates - see New Mexico, Arizona, Africa - in buildings like pueblos, etc. Now, to give this clay house a low humidity environment, I put it inside a dome which



Constructed wetland area, growing elephant grass to be harvested for green material for heating up the compost

keeps the rain away from it. Rain water collected from the dome is used for the garden, plus possible wildfire protection (more tanks need to be built!!).

The wood chip clay house I am building is with regular wood framing. I avoided the real traditional timber framing because there are barely any companies doing it anymore, or at least affordable at all. I would need a good setup/tools and space to do and it would take too long for me with cutting and doing all the tenon joints (the real timber frame connections). I don't like the metal plate post and beam framing - well, it's a matter of taste.

So the compromise was just a double stud 12-inch outer wall filled with a mixture of wood chip and clay, no vapour barrier. The interior walls are double stud 8-inch. This gives a good amount of thermal mass to store heat. The floor will be a compacted and polished clay floor with floor heating. The ceiling is sealed - no vapour barrier - with a thin layer of wood chip clay and topped with 16+ inch cellulose fiber. The advantage of clay is that it swells slightly when absorbing humid air and so doesn't allow water to get further. Sure - humidity/moisture - everything is a matter of quantity and

that why it is inside a dome. And the dome is NOT used as a greenhouse to add moisture from plants inside the dome!! The big advantage with cellulose fiber is no rodents go in there, in my experience. I used it before more than 20 years ago in a log home I built. It worked well. The dome itself is just a 2x8 construction with metal joint connector for the geodesic triangle. The outside shell/film is a ETFE film used presently in commercial buildings where wide span, durability, clear, self-extinguish properties and low weight is useful. The film is UV resistant, lasts over 30 years and can be 100% recycled. The only disadvantage with this dome/home building was that the BC building code required using concrete for the foundation. Otherwise, it would be totally unaffordable, requiring a large metal ground anchor etc. No rock foundation in an earthquake zone!!



Above: The dome over the house under construction. Below: Detail of the dome from inside



And as usual there are obstacles of all kinds which can and did get in my way, but hopefully next year I will finalize the building.

Styrofoam balls or Styrofoam-clay the 100% recyclable building material

Since recycling under Cowichan Valley rules is more an ‘out of sight out of mind’ approach, I decided to do small scale, hands-on recycling and make something useful out of the expensive ‘waste’ - where resources and energy was wasted to produce it in the first place. I don’t like to see it burned, buried or floating in the ocean.

The first step was how to recycle Styrofoam. I bought an industrial shredder (funded by myself - no government or any other funds!!) for all kinds of plastic. Even wood can be recycled, small scale! (But for the wood I like to use my chipper and mulcher.) With this shredder I break down the Styrofoam into the single tiny Styrofoam balls. This material can be used, as is, as loose balls, or mixed with a little clay and water to fill walls and ceilings. You could add it to cement too but then it is absolutely NOT recyclable anymore and you add to the landfill later! I think loose recycled Styrofoam is a simple and cheap material for insulation. If you have to break down the construction, just vacuum all up in a large bag and it can be reused. Currently I insulate the walls

of our outdoor kitchen/vegetable and canning kitchen. The next will be to insulate a continuous working composter - both solid and a liquid composter - which can be active the whole year. And then there is the workshop on the schedule. I could have used it for our dome/home but didn’t want to get into more headaches with building codes.

The next step: For the other plastic like PE, HDPE or PP (you can see these letters in a triangle usually on the bottom of the container) I will shred it and melt/injection-melt it into any useful part I need like tomato clips or bag closer or...the sky is the limit. The forming mold I can machine myself - a thing where toolmaker training once-upon-a-time pays off at least for something. :)

I hope this creates some inspiration.

If someone needs help to ‘actually get going’ with a project?....just ask. Help is always for free.

Matthias Zapletal

REMEMBERING

GERRY SMITH

December 29, 1931 - April 19, 2023

Gerry and Vivian Smith had, reluctantly, to leave Thetis in 2017, but they left a lasting imprint on the island and the memories of all who knew them.

A quick history (from the *Eastern Daily Press, Norwich*): “Gerard Robert Smith was born and raised in a council house in Norwich, England. Some of his earliest memories are those of the Baedeker Blitz - the heavy bombing of Norwich and surrounding area by the German Luftwaffe in 1942.

“He would go on to train as a physical education teacher at Loughborough College before teaching at Thorpe Grammar School during the 1960s. Following two decades of teaching and training teachers, Gerry and Vivian bought a long-abandoned and remote croft house on the banks of Loch Shiel in the Scottish Highlands. They renovated it and transformed it into an outdoor activity centre.

“A passionate sailor, he sailed around the world with Vivian in a 36ft sloop during his 60s. This was a time before GPS and they traversed the Atlantic to the Caribbean, sailed across the Pacific to New Zealand, and navigated the Indian Ocean and Mediterranean before settling on Thetis.

“He was a builder, an artist, a musician, an aviator, and a sportsman and he wrote three books on sailing and coastal and celestial navigation. As his son Jeremy said, ‘He was a man who lived his dreams.’”

From Jeremy Smith: “Vivian and Gerry arrived in Thetis in 1991 in their late fifties. After having spent the previous decade in the even more remote and hardy place on the banks of Loch Shiel in Scotland, Thetis looked like an ideal place for them to live. (As Gerry wrote in his later “Farewell”: “Our relocating from the Highlands to Thetis was very much an upgrading for us because here on Thetis we had hydro, telephone, well water and neighbours.

“We regarded Thetis as ‘downtown world,’ a geographic facility which was



Gerry in his Loch Shiel days

a great luxury for us because with an excellent floatplane service we could reach Vancouver International Airport very conveniently when we travelled to other countries.”)

“The very first thing they did was put a road in. A lot of people see this road because it is right by the ferry dock. Gerry named it after Vivian (it is called Vivian Place) but did not tell her he was going to. They cleared the space at the top of Vivian Place and built a cabin, and then a house with advice and help from Ernie Hunter.

“Gerry coached soccer with the primary school children on a weekly basis, culminating in a match against the fire department. He gave all the kids who participated a certificate. He also pushed for a hard play area

at the Community Center which was also used as tennis court. Frances Jenkins and Vivian helped with that. Gerry sat on numerous committees, including the Community Association board, and acted as “Sports Committee” chair.

“Ever the adventurers, Viv and Gerry left Thetis periodically and went sailing across three oceans— the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian - in their 35ft yacht, Sea Raven. At



Gerry (back row, right) with Chris Rennie, coaching the soccer team. Front Row: Jacob Frankel, John Brown, Mac Rennie, Noah Wickham, Gryphon Rennie, Jamison Wickham. Photo by Myla Frankel

that time Gerry learned to fly and shared planes with Tim Theilman and Pete Rees. On one occasion he was sitting on the runway at Victoria slowly going through his checklist before takeoff when he got a very polite question over the intercom from the plane behind as to how long he would take. He looked behind and it was a huge Boeing.

“Perhaps, though, the thing he was most proud of was work with TIMA (Thetis Island Marine Association) and Peter Luckham, cleaning up Thetis Harbour from derelict boats etc.”

From Gerry and Vivian’s Farewell to Thetis, June 2017: “Were we really leaving the island which had been our global home for so long? Why?”

“Why leave when our world was friendly? Why leave when you’re safe - when children can enjoy the island environment without frenetic worrying over marauders, when folk are kind and helpful? Why leave when there’s abundant opportunity for self-expression to pursue interesting projects? Art groups, Scottish Country Dancing, friendly sports - tennis, sailing, canoeing, soccer - to name but a few. Trees, like great church towers, offered a protecting canopy which nurtured an abundance of small creatures, the mainstay of our natural world; a world which is a small island set amongst the archipelagic treasure of the Salish Sea which melds with the Pacific Ocean. From Thetis you can sail the world without touching land!

“... Returning home from our meanderings off island was always comforting, assuring and interesting. Had the ‘coons re-established their warrens in the cabin attic during our short absence? Were the deer still around and how many fawns had been born this season? Did the eagles continue to produce their scruffy, gawky, squawky chicks? We bought an expensive telescope to ‘close in’ on the aerie atop in that great fir. And were the maverick ravens voicing their demands, warning the “baldies” to stay away from their territory? Our pond still produced an abundance of lilies through which that colourful garter snake swam in the balmy sun-drenched water searching for salamander lunches and then gorging prey under the canopy of those lush green leaves? Oscar, a great blue heron paid us a visit frequently vying with the otters and kingfisher to hunt the koi and goldfish which took sanctuary under the abundance of very large lily leaves. Having cleared the pond of the colourful fish, 85 in all, Oscar and the competing, frolicking otters et al continued to visit - just in case!



Vivian and Gerry aboard the Sea Raven (sorry, don’t have these in colour!)



Whatever else, Gerry was always the sailor, traveller, adventurer

“But we had to decide upon our future. The present was crowding in on us. We had served already four decades on this planet and experienced good health and a very interesting life style which embodied travels in awesome places - great oceans and wild terrain. However, now being condemned by the years and imposing too much upon the excellent TIVFD emergency services and the frequent help from our friendly Capernwray students (we’re very independent - perhaps too much so) it was time to accept the reality of our own mortality. Family duties called also. Ageing siblings, their welfare and contact paramount in our concerns, resided in the UK. In our final years we must return to families. Sadly,

we have left Thetis...

“But we still dream the dream, remember our past, island years and we will always live with that one special indelible image: ‘I glanced down and there it was - a poignant moment in time. The encapsulated beauty of the Gulf Islands, on a perfect, calm day; clean air, fond memories, caring friends. Seas, trees in abundance, and the voices of skies and mountains. No one spoke - the scene stirring memories personal, heartfelt, too powerful for expression of mundane daily thoughts.’”

Gerry and Vivian took Thetis to their hearts, and they shall never leave ours. Fare thee well, Gerry.

The Smith Family and excerpts from the Quarterly

In Memory of
CATHERINE KOROL
1936-2023

Catherine was born in Lacombe, Alberta July 24, 1936 and was raised by James Buckland and Phyllis Mawdsley, with her siblings, John, Jane and Ann, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Catherine attended Albert School Primary, City Park High School and then Chapman Business School. She worked as an administrative assistant until she met and married her sweetheart, William (Bill) Korol August 6, 1955. She stayed home to raise their four children, Sharon, Bill, Diane and Susan. Catherine always created a warm, art-filled and inviting home for family, friends and relatives during her and Bill's many relocations: Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Edmonton (2nd time), Lions Bay, West Vancouver, Thetis Island and Qualicum Beach. They also had a winter home in Sun Lakes Arizona, where they spent 25 winters with wonderful friends, playing tennis, golf and enjoying the arts.

The arts were a very important part of Catherine's life: sewing, knitting, crocheting, rug hooking, spinning, weaving, stenciling clothing, cooking and painting. She began painting lessons in Winnipeg and joined groups both formal and informal in every community in which she lived. Catherine grew in her enjoyment, proficiency and expression through her oil paintings. Family, friends and acquaintances proudly display her detailed landscapes and seascapes that capture quality of light and the spirit of place. She was truly gifted in this regard. Her other arts endeavors kept her busy and connected with community. Whether it was a crafter's group, painting or knitting gathering, Catherine was always producing useful items such as blankets or sweaters that were sent to



children in developing countries or as gifts for family and friends.

Sports were another activity which both Catherine and Bill engaged in fully and through which they made many lifelong friends. They played badminton, tennis and golf at Winnipeg Squash Rackets Club, Derrick Club in Edmonton, Hollyburn Country Club in West Vancouver, Cottonwood Country Club in Sun Lakes, Mount Brenton Golf Course, as well as community centres in Lions Bay, West Vancouver, Thetis Island and during their many travels. Family and friends were the focus of Catherine and Bill's lives. Catherine's culinary repertoire grew from family dinners, buffets, wine and cheese gatherings to carefully planned multi-course formal dinners for a

dozen or more guests. Catherine had a huge collection of cookbooks and recipe boxes containing favourite tried and true recipes, which she gladly shared. Wine, conversation, great food and music were plentiful and friends loved to gather. She will be remembered for her smile, gentle spirit and the grace with which she carried herself through life.

Catherine's Christian faith was important to her. She worshipped and volunteered at the Anglican Church, West Vancouver United Church and Sun Lakes Community Church, though she always preferred behind the scenes roles, such as serving post-service coffee and goodies, preparation for rummage sales, women's groups and fundraising. She made lifelong friends in these communities. She was a faithful supporter of foster children through World Vision and Compassion and she wrote letters to each one of the children she sponsored.



Catherine and Bill in front of their garden on Thetis

Other volunteer endeavors were her role on the board at the Emily Murphy Transition House and Catherine learned to type braille with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB). She began this work as a volunteer, but was later hired in North Vancouver as a teaching assistant for seven years. She dedicated much of this time to one student with whom she celebrated her graduation from high school and acceptance into university.

Catherine's hobbies besides arts, crafts and sports included reading, gardening, playing organ and pets. The family had several cats over the years but her favourite pet was her Labrador retriever, Emma. Catherine would always stop to talk to anyone who was walking a dog.

Catherine was predeceased by her daughter Sharon Gayle Korol, her siblings and father. She died June 25, 2023 and leaves to mourn her loving husband of 68 years, William (Bill) Korol; children: Bill (Dianne), Diane, Susan (Karl); grandchildren: Shannon (Steve), Angela (Jo), Jason (Ana), Michael (Allie), Blake (Mandi) and great-grandchildren:

Everett, Jonas, Trinity and Brayden. There are so many close friends and community members who will mourn her death and also celebrate her very full and wonderful life.

Bill and Catherine were long-time residents on Thetis Island. Catherine served as a First Responder on the Thetis Island Fire Department, volunteered in the library, took part in exercise classes, book club and the knitting group. She and Bill both enjoyed playing tennis, walking the cardiovascular hills and taking part in a variety of community activities. They loved their ocean side home and entertained family and friends from far and wide. The view inspired many of Catherine's realistic oil paintings. She will be remembered for her smile, faith and the grace with which she carried herself through life. Please come and join family and friends for a celebration of life for Catherine Korol at Forbes Hall, Thetis Island on September 23, 2023 from 2:00-3:30 p.m. Bring your stories and memories to share. Light refreshments will be served.

Susan Korol Unger

In Loving Memory
EASTON VANCE

October 21, 1930 - July 7, 2023

Easton died peacefully at Cowichan District Hospital in Duncan after a short illness.

He is survived by his children Sheila and Michael, son-in-law Bruce, daughter-in-law Renee, beloved granddaughter Rebecca, brother Jim, sister-in-law Ethna, nephew Iain, nieces Jacqui and Dianne and their families, niece Valerie and nephew Neale and their families, brother-in-law John and his family.

The Vance family thanks very dear friends Kathryn, Michelle and Bing for their love and support of the family at this difficult time. The family would also like to thank Easton's friends and neighbours in the Thetis Island community for

their friendship and support of Easton over many years.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Cowichan District Hospital in Duncan. Thetis Islanders wishing to share their memories of Easton are invited to write to Veronica Shelford for an article in a future edition of The Quarterly.

An independent spirit with an inquisitive mind, Easton was an inventor, raconteur, and devoted family man and friend. He was much loved by his family and many friends in Australia and Canada, and will be very much missed.

The Vance Family



NATURE

THINC THANKS THETIS!

Another summer Nature House Program flew by and we are grateful for all the volunteers, Community Experts, S4 Guest Speakers, program participants, the Challenger family for the ever-popular Seaquarium, the Porter family for the use of the Portal, our summer staff Eden and Erica, and funders Province of British Columbia, Government of Canada Summer Jobs Program, Thetis Island Community Fund, ThINC members and Friends of the Nature House for making the Program one of our most successful. Thank you all!

The ThINC Team.

MARINE INVASIVE SPECIES AROUND THETIS ISLAND SHORES - part 2

An introduction to the topic was provided in the initial article featured in the winter 2023 issue. Consequently, part 2 will simply provide additional species that Thetisites will possibly encounter along island shores. As before, the page/species code for each one is provided for those appearing in *Marine Life of the Pacific Northwest* for more information.

Japanese dwarf eelgrass Zostera japonica

(Page 18, SW3)

Photo by Rick Harbo



The longer eelgrass on the left is the native species while the shorter on the right is the dwarf Japanese one.

Japanese eelgrass was most likely accidentally introduced as packing with the Japanese oyster (part 1). Shorter and much narrower than the native eelgrass, this species is most often adjacent and shoreward. Look for it on very flat, fine sand beaches relatively high in the intertidal zone.

Unfortunately for identification purposes, our native eelgrass may grow in a similar shape to the Japanese variety. Careful inspection at the bases of plants is required to distinguish the two absolutely.

Impact upon native species appears to minimal and it may even provide extra habitat. So likely, Japanese dwarf eelgrass would be classified as introduced and primarily neutral.

Japanese red alga Mazzaella japonica

Photo by Rick Harbo



Japanese red alga recently washed ashore

Appearing in the 21st century, Japanese red alga is a newer import, albeit not a deliberate one. It has become so abundant along Vancouver Island's east shore that is now subject to harvest – although this is not without controversy.

When recently washed ashore, it will appear red to a beach comer but aging results in its steady darkening. Particularly in summer, Japanese red alga may pile up on Thetis Island beaches.

Harvesting notwithstanding, it is likely early to determine its impacts upon Salish Sea marine communities. As divers and members of our Thetis Island Marine Explorers Club, we encounter it routinely and have documented many native species using it as shelter – particularly as juveniles. Pacific herring opportunistically utilize Japanese red alga as a spawning site.

Japanese brillo weed Gelidium probably coulteri

Photo by Rick Harbo



Above: a close up of Japanese brillo weed
Below: a beach full at Preedy Harbour.

Photo by Rick Harbo



Brillo weed seems to have accidentally made its way to our shores at about the same time as the above species. Indeed, its “modus operandi” matches up as it too, washes ashore in great summer abundances. Its colour transformation though is opposite as fresh material is dark and later “bleaches” paler.

Is it harmful, beneficial, neutral or some combination affect upon our Thetis Island shores? It is really too soon to know.

Several years ago, this alga was brought to my attention by several observant Thetis Island residents asking “What is it?” As often is the case, I had to say “I don’t know.”

After considerable research/consternation, I finally turned to an expert – Dr. Sandra Lindstrom. Sandra has authored several books and numerous scientific papers about Pacific Northwest algae. As always, specimens are important for taxonomic sleuthing and I was able to deliver material to her Victoria home and personal “research location.” Sandra was able to provide the identity as shown. Assignment of common names for many life forms is inconsistent – particularly for the less “exciting” – such as the seaweeds. Consequently, yours truly created one for this species, used in this article.

Orange lined anemone *Diadumene lineata*
(Page 87, CN20)

Exactly when the orange lined anemone initially arrived along Thetis shores is uncertain. This uncertainty is mostly due to its diminutive size (to 1 cm in diameter). It arrived

Photo by Rick Harbo



Above: a cluster of retracted orange lined anemones from a float in Ladysmith Harbour, and Below: a single extended anemone clinging to an eelgrass leaf in Cufra Inlet.

Photo by Jim Hester



very early during the last century in California from the Asian Pacific shores. Since then, it has located as far north as Alaska via various shipping and oyster transplanting activities.

A curious Thetis Islander must look closely to find it hidden among other marine life. Try lying down on harbour floats and looking among the attached creatures. Better yet, try snorkeling there – with owner permission and boat awareness of course. Tidepools are another option.

No doubt the orange line anemone has impacts on diminutive native marine life that have yet to be studied. A master’s thesis topic for some enterprising students.

Softshell clam *Mya arenaria* (Page 206, MC 11)

Likely one of our oldest interlopers, the softshell clam is believed to have arrived on the west coast from Atlantic North American shores in the late 1800s. This theory is as the result of it not being found in earlier First Nation middens.



Photo by Rick Harbo

A live softshell clam dug from a Salish Sea beach

This clam’s thin elongate and brittle shells are characteristic. Look for it at sandy/muddy Thetis Island beaches where it is reasonably common. It reaches a length of 17 cm. A living softshell clam buries from 10 to 20 cm below the surface while empty shells often rest upon the surface.

Displacement of, and competition for native species by this long-term immigrant would appear minimal. Although its population levels are low, the softshell clam is a valued seafood item for amateur clam diggers. As such, it is best categorized as an introduction rather than an invasive.

Purple mahogany clam *Nuttallia obscurata*
(Page 203, MC101)

In the 2006, former colleague Sarah Dudas discovered the purple mahogany clam in Vancouver Harbour. Easily recognized by its distinctive shells – dark brown on the outsides and purple on the insides, it no doubt arrived via ballast water from incoming cargo vessels.

Since then, it has spread widely north/south and graces Thetis shores where it is easily found by beach combers in (to 20 cm deep)/on the upper intertidal sand/gravel habitat zone.

With such a brief residency here, its long-term impact is to be determined. However as yet, it has not appeared to reduced native clam species while establishing significant populations – with Thetis Island being a good example.

On the plus side of the ledger, it has become a prey item for numerous predators including the oystercatcher and several



A selection of purple mahogany clam shells from Clam Bay

sea birds and moon snails. In addition, it is harvested and marketed. So far then, the purple mahogany clam would slip into the introduction column.

Japanese skeleton shrimp *Caprella muticum*

(Page 279, AR16)

The Japanese skeleton shrimp is another small (to 5 cm) and easily overlooked -- at least initially -- species. It made its way to this side of the Pacific either in ballast water, on hulls of ships or via aquaculture activities.

It is very similar to at least ten other native skeleton



A Japanese skeleton shrimp that was living on wireweed (see part 1 about this species) from Retreat Cove, Galiano Island

shrimps which it displaces to some degree or another depending upon habitat preferences. Close inspection of a specimen with a biological key is required to distinguish it from others -- although its spiny appearance is helpful. On Thetis Island, one finds it abundantly clinging to all manner of life hanging from floats/mooring lines. Snorkeling is a great way to observe this fascinating little creature.

Reports indicate the Japanese skeleton shrimp has negative effects on some bivalve aquaculture activities. However, it has become a significant prey species for many predators at various periods of life cycles. This includes the temporary inmates of Thetis Island's summer Seaquarium at the Portal.

It is yet to be determined the full impact of this recent Japanese "import" upon its newly colonized habitat. Therefore, it likely should remain an "introduction awaiting further developments."

Club tunicate *Styela clava*

(Page 349, CH13)



The club tunicate arrived here from the Pacific coast of Asia and likely via shipping activities. Growing to 15 cm tall, it is extremely abundant and obvious on floats and boat hulls in Telegraph Harbour. Although it clings to similar

A threesome of club tunicates removed from a Ladysmith float.

structures at other Salish Sea locations, it has not colonized seemingly useable nearby rocky shores.

It is a prized seafood in Korea where it is known as "mideuduck."

The author has yet to sample to determine how gourmet it might be. Could it be a future export to the Korean market? At this point, it certainly qualifies as an accidental introduction.

A Convenient Pairing:

Harbour star compound tunicate *Botryllus schlosseri* (Page 358, CH45)

Lined or chained compound tunicate *Botrylloides violaceus* (Page 358, CH46)

Although these two commonly encountered colonial species usually frequent similar habitat they have different origins. The harbour star compound tunicate is a North American native and hails from the Atlantic coast. The Atlantic coast of Europe is where the lined compound tunicate historically thrived. Floats, pilings and rocky intertidal areas are good territory for Thetisites to search.

Both species form slippery thick mats with countless tiny holes. In the case of the harbour star compound tunicate, a

Photo by Rick Harbo



Above: A harbour star compound tunicate showing its star-shaped patterning and Below: a lined compound tunicate with its wanding lining design. Both from Ladysmith Harbour.

Photo by Rick Harbo



mat features many star-shaped units (with tear-shaped zooids) each around a central a common opening. It comes in several, often two-tone colours. By contrast, the lined compound tunicate mats are comprised of paired holes in rows that resemble wavy lines. Mats of both species are a nuisance, particularly for aquaculture operators.

Both the harbour star compound tunicate and the lined compound tunicate supply little if any documented benefit to

the local habitats they inhabit. Negative impacts are likely and so invasive tags should be assigned to both.

There are other invasive invertebrate species found around Thetis Island shores but these are less common, smaller and/or less noticeable. And logic would say more may be on their way.

Alert – Coming To Thetis Island Shores Soon

The European green crab *Carinus maenas* (Page 300, AR95) has been steadily moving north from California where it arrived in the 1980s. In the Salish Sea, it has been



Photo by Rick Harbo

A close up image of the carapace (shell) of an European green crab showing the spine array mentioned in the blurb.

found at several sites, including Boundary Bay, off Salt-spring Island and this summer, in Ladysmith Harbour.

Thetis Island beach combers should be vigilant during their excursions. This green-coloured crab grows to 4 cm across its shell (carapace). Look at the carapace for three spines between the eyes and five on each side starting at each eye. If you find one, collect it alive and give the author a call (250-246-9770). Sadly, species of native crab have been killed by well-meaning folks who have been mistakenly misidentified them.

Andy Lamb

FOCUS ON THE PEOPLE’S APOTHECARY GARDEN (PAG)

The PAG is a wonderful little space, brimming over with fascinating plants that few of us know well. So, to encourage more visitors to understand it better, we are going to run a series of vignettes, taken from the information cards that ThINC has created. People are welcome to come and harvest plants for personal use any time the garden is open, as long as they are thoughtful harvesters who understand how to use the plant, and any risks involved. For this issue, a quick look at three plants normally harvested around this time: Mullein, Yarrow, and Ribwort Plantain.

MULLEIN - *Verbascum thapsus*

Non native (native to Europe and western Asia)

What to look for:

Mullein is a biannual plant that forms a dense rosette of leaves at ground level during its first year. The following year it sends up a tall flowering stem. The plant can grow up to 10 feet tall. Its thick, fuzzy leaves are spirally arranged. The flowers have five symmetrical yellow petals.

Medicinal uses:

Mullein is an expectorant, which means it helps the body expel excess mucus, and a demulcent that helps create a soothing anti-inflammatory coating over mucous membranes. It is used for cough, bronchitis, hoarseness, pneumonia, earaches, colds, chills, flu, swine flu, fever, allergies, tonsillitis, and sore throat. Mullein can also be applied to the skin for wounds, burns, hemorrhoids, bruises, frostbite, and skin infections.

Precautions:

Generally considered safe, but avoid consumption if pregnant or breastfeeding. Some people have been known to get a skin rash when handling.

Fun fact: "Mullein" derives from the Latin word 'Mollis' which means soft.



YARROW - *Achillea millefolium*

Native

What to look for:

A member of *Asteraceae*, yarrow is an erect, perennial plant that produces one to several stems 8-40 inches in height, and has a spreading rhizomatous growth form. Leaves are evenly distributed along the stem, with the leaves near the bottom of the stem being the largest. The leaves are 2-8 inches long, and are feathery. It has a cluster of tiny white or pink flowers.

Medicinal and culinary uses:

Yarrow is one of the most widely used medicinal plants in the world, primarily for wounds, digestive problems, respiratory infections, tooth aches, and skin conditions. It has been used by the Nuu-chah-nulth as a cough medicine, and the Cowichan as a blood purifier.

Precautions:

Avoid taking while pregnant and breastfeeding as it could cause miscarriage. Do not confuse with 'poison hemlock', which looks similar to yarrow.

Fun fact:

In Greek mythology it is said to have been used by Achilles to heal his warriors during the battle of Troy - hence the name "*Achillea*".



RIBWORT PLANTAIN

Non-native (native to Europe)

What to look for:

A member of the family *Plantaginaceae*, ribwort plantain is a herbaceous perennial plant, 8-30 inches tall. It has a thick rhizome and fibrous roots; leaves that are lanceolate and arranged in a dense rosette; and its inflorescence is a short spike, densely flowered with white flowers.

Medicinal and culinary uses:

A common edible plant, its leaves can be consumed as a tea, or eaten both raw or cooked. The seeds can be eaten as well. The consumption of its leaves is believed to treat a variety of ailments including cough, diarrhea, dysentery, hematuria, and throat colds. The leaves can also be ground up and used to treat skin irritations such as blisters.

Precautions:

Ribwort plantain is a safe plant, but some adverse reactions may occur, including nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea, if consumed in large quantities.

Fun fact:

The scientific name for this plant arises from the Latin word meaning "lance" due to its lance-shaped leaves.



From The Thetis Island Volunteer Fire Department

FIREFIGHTER CHALLENGE COINS

Many organisations demonstrate strong bonds of community spirit and the Firefighting community is no exception. Recently the TIVFD purchased a new Rescue vehicle from the United States and our dedicated Fire Chief drove the new vehicle back up to BC, only to find that it was not allowed to cross the border into Canada without some additional paperwork. Faced with this unexpected barrier of Red Tape, meant leaving the new vehicle in the US for an undetermined period while the paperwork was acquired. But... where to safely leave it without paying an arm and a leg? The Chief immediately contacted the nearest volunteer fire department about the problem and without hesitation they offered space on their lot for as long as necessary, free of charge! Demonstrating that Firefighter community support, wherever you are and wherever you are from.

In support of this theme of a strong firefighting community, I learnt something interesting fairly recently. Apparently, firefighters from the majority of fire stations, not just in Canada but worldwide, carry something called, Challenge Coins. A Challenge Coin is a small coin or medallion, made from various metals and often enameled, bearing the departments insignia or emblem. The idea behind the Challenge Coin is that it should always be carried by the firefighter and if one firefighter produces their Coin, this is a challenge for another firefighter to produce theirs'. If the other firefighter cannot produce their coin, then they have to buy drinks for the challenger. If they can produce their coin, then the challenger buys the drinks. This may sound frivolous to some but it does promote that sense of belonging to a community and acknowledgment of others facing the same daily challenges. It is also recognized that some Challenge Coins can outrank others, for instance coins awarded

from higher ranking officers or dignitaries, or specifically awarded for acts of bravery, or outstanding service.

I first learned about Challenge Coins from our very own Fire Chief, who showed us her favourite Challenge Coin, one that would certainly outrank all the others. This coin the Chief received from the Lieutenant Governor after giving the eulogy for retired TIVFD Fire Chief, Pete Rees, at the BC Fire Chiefs Conference, where she attended the Opening Ceremony and Memorial Service.

Challenge Coins are not unique to firefighters, many organisations have adopted them. If you look online there are numerous theories of their origins, stemming back to Roman times. One popular story is that they originated during the First World War, in the US Army Air Service, and as veterans began entering the civilian workforce, they brought



Lieutenant Governor coin - front (left) and back (right)

the tradition with them. It is certainly still very popular in military circles. The Challenge Coins represent a sense of pride in individual fire departments and it has become common for firefighters to swap coins between different departments, especially during joint operations, as an act of mutual recognition.



Regina Airport Coin - front (left) and back (right)

On a recent trip from Ontario back to BC, I got talking to some firefighters at Regina airport and happened to be wearing my TIVFD T-shirt. The firefighter respectfully asked if our department did Challenge Coins, before producing his own. Since we don't have our own coin, I didn't have to buy any drinks but it was interesting to see the Regina Airport coin. One day there may well be a TIVFD Challenge Coin and I'm certain that everyone in the department would carry it with pride.

Chris Roff



Being a volunteer firefighter on Thetis Island isn't something you do; it's something you are.

**I SUPPORT
BC VOLUNTEER
FIREFIGHTERS**

If you have a desire to contribute to keep our community safe, you should consider being a volunteer firefighter. We need women and men who are willing to respond and protect from fire and mitigate medical and other emergencies in our community.

Volunteer firefighters train for emergency response when residents or visitors call 911 on Thetis Island. The call may come anytime 24 hours a day, and in almost every situation, under emergency and stressful circumstances. It is the ultimate community service for those who need us. Despite this, our volunteer firefighter members often speak about the tremendous rewards that come with their work. We know there are others out there with the same commitment and compassion for our island community and hope you will consider a position in our Fire Department.

We are encouraging you to attend our fire fighter training night on September 27th at 7 pm at the Fire Hall to meet our team and get a feel for what we do.

We train every Wednesday evening from 7 pm to 9 pm, and also occasional special weekend training days throughout the year.

We train for a variety of emergency events including motor vehicle incidents, structure fires, wildfire, marina fires, electrical events, search and rescue, as well as medical emergency responses. Safety of our members is our priority, and the community funds the training and equipment through property taxes.

Many home owners may not realize that by having the Thetis Island Volunteer Fire Fighters trained and available 24/7 your home insurance fees are around 50% of what you would be paying without the Department. So even if you never have a fire or a medical emergency that requires a TIVFD response, volunteer fire fighters are supporting you.

Although it is a commitment to train with the team and be available when needed, we encourage you to consider joining. You need not be an athlete. You need no previous experience. You do need to be between the ages of 18 and 80 and can work with a team. We welcome your life experience and skills and you will make good friends upon whom you can count on to keep you safe during our emergency responses.

We are calling for you, and we hope you consider Answering the Call.

*Fire Chief Jeannine Caldbeck
Deputy Chief Peter Luckham
Captains Dave Tarris and Chad Kerr
Lieut. John Gall, and the great fire fighters on our team.*

SHARING THE ROADWAYS!

Thetis Island is a rural location with narrow roads, little infrastructure, elementary school children, wildlife and some tricky blind corners and driveways. Roads are shared by children, strollers, walkers, runners and cyclists, as well as commercial and personal vehicles. This all adds up to an extra level of caution and attention required for all users. Please be safe, follow signage, and anticipate there is always someone or something/someone else sharing the road. When accidents happen here, it is a tragedy felt around the island.

Here is what your fellow islanders are saying about road safety:

- Speeding to a destination because you are late is not okay. Take the extra time!
- It is often difficult to see walkers and cyclers in dappled changing light conditions: wear bright colored clothing to improve visibility.
- Some of the risky intersections could be cleared of brush to increase visibility in all directions.
- A stop sign means stop, not coasting through at a slower pace. Stopping allows you to make a full observation of the roadway you are entering.
- The ferry corridor is particularly dangerous for all users. Extra awareness is required to keep everyone safe.



- The posted 50KM speed limit is too fast for some of our narrow, winding roads: estimated distance to stop at 50KM is 75FT, at 30KM is 20FT.
- Expect the unexpected: someone you love may be sharing the road and you need to anticipate others as they anticipate you!
- Individuals with diminished hearing are not able to hear EVs!
- Using the road is a privilege and carries responsibility: your right to use the road depends on your awareness and safety behaviours.

Thank you for reading this article and keeping safety top of mind as you use and share Thetis Island roadways. Remember: Sharing is Caring!!

*Ad-hoc Road Sharing Group
(Carolyn Askew, Andrea Gall, Mary Forbes, Carol Stoker, Wendy Hinsperger)*

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

Thetis Island Elementary School has had a fantastic year of learning and activities. We explored our heritage and learned about different countries around the world; investigated Newton’s Laws of Motion; wrote stories; learned some new math strategies; did some woodworking, drama, French, and more. We buddied up with a class from Penelakut through pen pal letters, and spent some time together bowling, swimming, and doing archery and lawn games. The kids really enjoyed making these new connections with Penelakut students and we look forward to getting together again next year.

Over May and June TIES was busy visiting local beaches and gardens, participating in off-island field trips, and trying diligently to stay away from mosquitos! Our Penelakut buddies joined us at Andy & Virginia Lamb’s residence as we roamed the beach at



Amelia Ensminger and Ezzelyn Abel, at the annual Sea Star Count

low-tide investigating sea creatures. This is always a year-end highlight. As was our day at Capernway, where kids got to do a ropes course, play Moon ball, go swimming and tubing, and more. The kids really love this special day and we are so thankful to Capernway for hosting us.

On her last day of school, Ms. Charlotte facilitated a tea party! Kids came up with their own recipes and gathered ingredients from the People’s Apothecary Garden. They brought tea sets, table cloths, decorated with flowers, and brewed their own special teas for everyone to try.

We wrapped up our year at TIES with a performance and graduation ceremony at Forbes Hall. Students performed a few



Logan Dufort and Ivan Crook, serving tea at our tea party



Alder McClellen, Lily Galbraith, Ezzelyn Abel, Anika Elias, Jayleigh Gall, and Aubrey Gall performing a skit: “Mother Goose Interrupted”

skits and songs and were absolutely amazing! Four of our students will be moving on to Chemainus High School in the fall. They will be missed, but we are all excited for their next adventure. We ended our year with a Camp Out in the school yard; this was a lot of fun!

School will begin again on September 5th and we look forward to welcoming



All of our students performing a song at our final assembly



TIES students enjoying smores at the year-end Camp Out (over a propane fire ring!)



Charlotte Fesneax (TOC) with our four graduated students: Sophia Dufort, Amelia Ensminger, Aubrey Gall, Anika Elias

four or five new students! In the meantime, you'll find some of our students at the Nature House, Beach, Camp, Marina, Market, Pub, etc. We hope everyone has had a relaxing summer with family and friends.

Ms. Lucchetti & Ms. Simone

PHONE BOOK UPDATES

Shirlee & Mike Harris have a new landline number: 250-246-1965

Bill Cobb's email is billcobb994@gmail.com

Staying at the Redman's home from November 1st to March 31st: Karen, Lenny & Lilya Blue. Karen's cell is 816-582-2031, email Karen@cedarand-silver.com. Lenny's cell is 816-645-0167, email bluekc@yahoo.com

Ken Redman's phone # has changed to 250-210-6046. Their landline phone is no longer in use.

The TIRRA post office box number is 141.

Veronica Shelford

A REMINDER

Please keep sending me your Country Grocer receipts in support of the Harvest House Food Bank in Chemainus. Just put them in the drop-box for Box 18-0. Every \$500 in receipts provides \$50 in food vouchers. Many Thanks!

Anne-Marie Koeppen

MILESTONES

OWAIN RALSTON

SelfDesign Learning Community awarded Owain with the Governor General's Academic Bronze Medal as the student with the highest average marks at the school, based on all Grade 11 and Grade 12 courses. Owain focused the past two years on completing as many science and math courses he could to work towards reaching his goal to go to university. He achieved 100% in Physics 11, Precalculus 12 and Chemistry 12.

Catherine Dinim, principal of SelfDesign, wrote "This honor is a reflection of your exceptional abilities, tireless dedication to your studies and the countless hours you have invested in expanding your knowledge and understanding." We have observed Owain making conscious choices to focus extra time and effort on his assignments to reach his goals instead of other interests.

In one of his major research projects *A Casual Physics*, Owain wrote "I was deeply intrigued by air resistance, terminal velocity, and a particular Gizmo. This short essay intends to present my hypotheses on terminal velocity and air resistance and then contrast these with what the literature maintains. I will also try to understand the Gizmo more deeply, and thusly physics as a whole, by performing experimentation on the Gizmo to yield formulas and equations that can be used to predict various things. I will also conduct my research into the Gizmo without any prior research into the topic, so I will hopefully be going in knowing nothing and leave with a greater knowledge of physics and the Gizmo through reverse engineering formulas and equations. Owain reported that he enjoyed the process of "playing" with the Gizmo. Two other noteworthy papers were about the Daguerreotype



Above: Owain holding his Governor General's Academic Medal
Below: The certificate awarding the medal



process and Catalytic Converters. He wrote "why don't we peruse our way through catalytic conversion, all the while, attempting to gain a modicum of understanding of the topic, and to hopefully leave with a vast knowledge of some of the intricacies of just how cars manage to exist in our world of strict climate governance."

Owain's interest in science started at a very young age, studying the images of the family Volvo manual as bedtime reading and watched numerous "How Things Work" videos gifted by his Uncle Martin Williams. He loved experimenting and building with a variety of materials and on projects in chemistry and physics. He spent countless hours building berms and dams in the stream across from Clam Bay Road on Pilkey Point, with natural materials found in the forest. A deepened curiosity about Math started in high school and continues.

Currently, he is taking an advanced math course to further prepare for university. For the upcoming year, he plans to expand his work experience and knowledge with his father, Ian Ralston, working on site investigations for and implementation of wastewater designs. After that he plans attend university to study civil engineering.

The Pepin, Clark & Ralston families

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

FUN TIMES AT FORBES HALL ON AUGUST 5

Book and Bake Sale, Lunch, Merch, Art Exhibit, Concert

TICA members were chomping at the bit to get first dibs at the annual book and bake sale. Many were there to take advantage of the advance opening at 9:30am prior to the official opening at 10:00. There were more books than ever this year and a steady stream of browsers and buyers enjoyed the sale until 2:00pm. Over \$2400 was raised in support of the Thetis Island Community Library.

This year's event was enhanced with the availability of coffee, snacks and a fabulous lunch. Over 100 lunch munchers sat around in the multi-purpose room and outside on the patios enjoying delicious sandwiches. Thetis Island T-shirts were also on sale and TICA merchandise brought in a further \$1600 which will be put toward the rapidly diminishing debt from the renovation of Forbes Hall. An exhibition of paintings of Thetis Island added to the ambience and celebration of community.

In the evening, 65 live-music lovers were in attendance to watch and



Baking (above), Books (left), and Music (below left). What a great day!



listen to Danielle LP and Phil Albert perform a variety of songs. Much of the concert paid homage to the wonderful works of Joni Mitchell, but the crowd was equally enthusiastic about Danielle LP's own compositions. The artists were clearly as happy to be here as the audience was to have them at the hall. Truly, a good time was had by all.

Volunteers Behind the Scenes

The TICA library is independent of the Vancouver Island Regional Library system. It is entirely volunteer run. Friends of the Library ensure someone is present for opening hours each Saturday and Sunday throughout the year and on Mondays over the winter. Our librarian, Celine Valestrand, orders and catalogues books and has a weekly library session for our elementary school students for part of the school year. The book sale is dependent on numerous volunteers to donate baking and books, and for set-up, sales and take-down. This year it is estimated more than 2000 books were put out for sale, over 1300 were sold, and about 800 were boxed up, removed to make way for the concert, and taken to a range of thrift stores on Vancouver Island. Others will show up in our own local bibliotques now at four various locations.



Laurel March

FAMILY FUN DAY



A big thank you to all fellow islanders and visitors who came out to support the Family Fun Day on August 12th! This annual fundraising event hosted by the Thetis Island Community Fund was once again a great success, thanks to the 120+ people who attended.

As many of you know, island events like Family Fun Day take a great deal of time and effort to pull together. Our TICF board members were very grateful for the outpouring of support from volunteers. I had hoped to name you all but there are just too many of you! What a wonderful problem to have! I believe we broke the record this year with 34 volunteers helping our TICF team of 7. We could not have done it without you! A big thank you to all those who helped the afternoon before prepping food and setting up games in the tennis court and all those who helped in so many different facets during the event. It was such a boost this year to have a fresh team lined up to help with cleanup after an exhausting day of fun. Special thanks to members of



All Photos this page by Carol Sowerby



the TIVFD Auxiliary and SPU team for all their time and effort providing the drop tank swimming pool and sprinklers. The kids loved the pool! I don't recall a time when there weren't kids laughing and splashing in the pool during the entire event. Also, a shout out to our MC Robin who kept the upbeat music rolling and the crowd informed of activities to enjoy.

We have yet to tally what funds were raised from the FFD event but judging by the smiles and laughter of all who attended...our goal was accomplished! Families had a day of good ol' fashioned fun and that's all that matters. What a beautiful sight to see kids and parents leaving modern technology at home and enjoying the challenge of hopping in a coffee sack, running with a balloon between their legs, throwing balls at tin cans, racing cub cars and hammering nails, just to name a few. The water closet/dunk tank was a hit once again. Where else can one enjoy sitting on a toilet and getting soaked with a bucket of water from above? Only on Thetis!

On behalf of the TICF team, our heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who made this event possible and to all those who attended. We look forward to hosting Family Fun Day again next year!

*Tricia Hunter
TICF - President*



Three Photos by Ted Hunter



Photo by Carol Sowerby



LOOK WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT THE HALL!



Community Dinner - June 5, 2023

Don Sinclair (left) and the Food Services team prepared 80 dinners for guests at what one referred to as “a lovely community dinner party” (above).



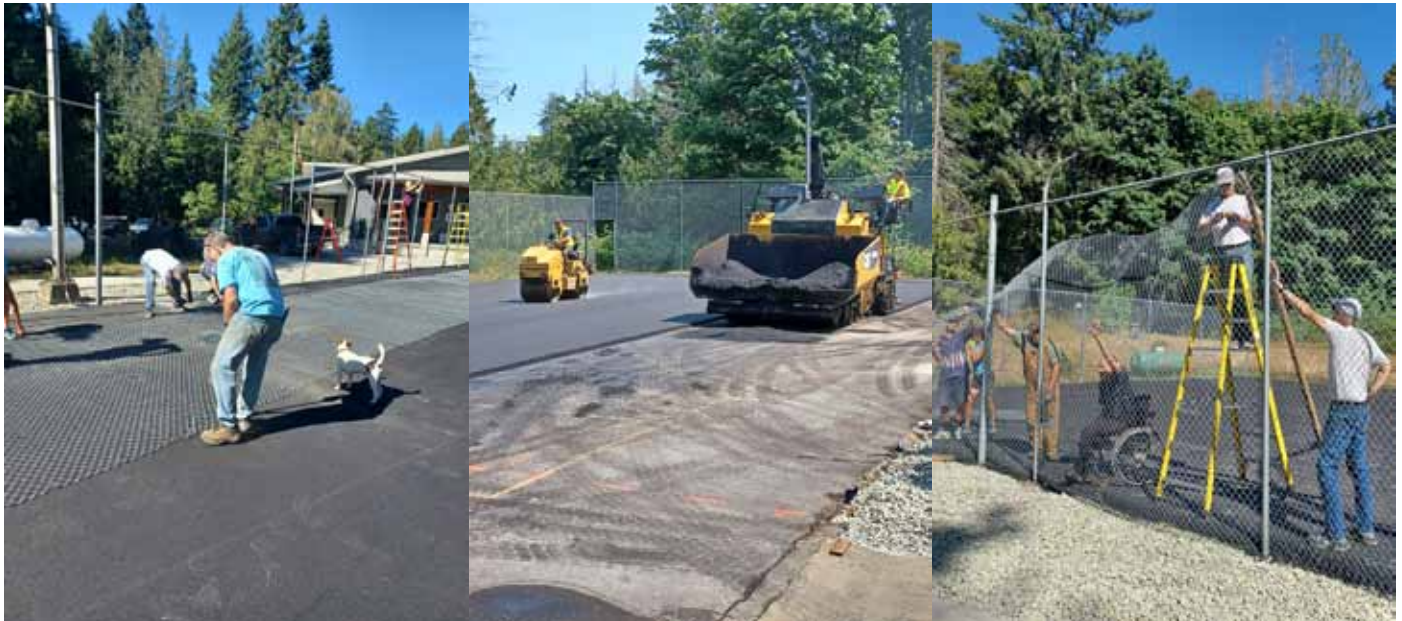
Community Day - June 22

Above and Left: The second annual Community Day was a great success with 27 Thetis Island groups present to explain and demonstrate what services they provide. Lunch was served to 90 guests.

New Sports Court

Thanks to a bequest the aging sports court got a face lift with new paving and painting. The fence had to come down to allow the pavers in and, of course, what comes down must go up again.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the project, including Havoc the dog.



Left: Fence comes down. Centre: The pavers came. Right: Fence back up again!



Canada Day Breakfast - July 1

Many thanks again to Virginia Lamb and her team for preparing and serving the fabulous, sold-out breakfast (we were too busy eating to take pictures...) 160 guests served.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Readers of The Quarterly are invited to contact the advertising department about inserting advertisements. We try to introduce our advertisers and their products to the Island and encourage Islanders to support off-island advertisers.

You may send ready-for-printing finished items or we can help design them. Deadlines for new advertisements are one month ahead of publication dates.

Rates are: \$5 per column inch for a single-issue ad, or \$4 per column inch if you advertise for a year (four issues.) Within that year you can change the size or content of the ad, and the discount will still apply. Some standard sizes and rates are:

	Per Issue	Four Issues
Business Card	\$10.00	\$32.00
1/4 Page	\$25.00	\$80.00
1/2 Page	\$50.00	\$160.00
Full Page	\$100.00	\$320.00
Page Sponsor		\$200.00

The Page Sponsor gets a quarter page ad in the advertise-

ment section and a 1/2 strip at the bottom of the page in the main body of the magazine. The Back Page Sponsor, because of increased visibility, does not get the 1/4 page ad, but has about 4 inches on the back page.

For further information contact Veronica Shelford or Carol Sowerby at quarterlyads@thetisisland.net

ACCOMMODATIONS





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- * Email sapepin@hotmail.com or call 250.246.9175

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