http://www.valdes-island-conservancy.org/ Summer 2021 Issue #8

VALDES ISLAND CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

President's Message
Marja de Jong Westman, Biologist

Natural spaces certainly have provided a needed refuge over the last "gone viral" year, haven't they?

Certainly Le'eyqsun/Valdes friends and neighbours speak to how thankful they have been to be able to retreat to the island when windows of opportunity have opened up.I write this message having received two shots in the arm and showing a tad more joy for being vaccinated than I could ever have imagined.

The Conservancy board has adapted and we have met monthly via the wonderful world of zoom, where faces can be seen and stories easily shared! The board now includes some new and returning youthful faces along with members of the original guard. The notable boost of energy and ideas from Anne Casselman, Graham Hill, Mark Bonar, Sarah Elliot, Jason Camp and Hugh Blackman has been so appreciated by those of us who have walked along with the Society since its early years, which includes, Bruce Livingston, Bill McElhanney, Doug Cochran, Doug Campbell, and Dan White. On the sidelines but still providing support have been Allan Doolittle and past- president Alexandra de Jong Westman. I have so appreciated the engagement of board members past and present. Like any society we rely on people being willing to find the time in their already busy lives to find avenues to support the Conservancy's efforts and the interests of our now 123 active members!

A few key memories are certainly worth sharing with all of you. One was a close to three hour meeting with representatives from Islands Trust where we achieved having Le'eyqsun/Valdes Island and the Conservancy's work put on their radar screen. Equally encouraging, were two meetings with government representatives to gain a better understanding of the ongoing process of treaty negations and where cabin community members fit into the process. As a quick sum up, I can say that when the appropriate time comes direct engagement with all islanders will be initiated and it is anticipated that engagement will occur in one to two years. It is the intention of the BC Government Treaty Negotiation Office to further learn, in more detail, the specific interests and concerns of individual landowners and lessees whose properties are adjacent to Crown Land that is subject to the Treaty Negotiation. Those interests and concerns will be considered in the Treaty Negotiation. The Conservancy supports the new treaty negotiation policy that clarifies and supports how negotiations will be grounded in the recognition of Indigenous rights and ownership of their lands and resources. Le'eyqsun/Valdes Island is a place of such historical and cultural significance to the Lyackson First Nation. We are thankful to be able to be present on the island.

Much of what we heard from our meetings with government officials we had already heard directly from the Lyackson First Nation Chief Thomas in our in-person get-togethers over the past

Inside This Issue...

Mission Statement

To conserve and protect the existing biological and cultural communities of Le'eyqsun/Valdes Island

Vision Statement

That Le'eyqsun/Valdes Island be recognized for its globally-significant and locally-rare biological diversity.

The Importance of Place Names
Tyler James

Our Hul'qumi'num Place-names are important to acknowledge not only because they are among the last remaining vestiges of our ancestors but because they represent what we are holding onto as a people: Our History and Culture. Through many years and laws, efforts were enacted to erase "the Indian." Our ceremonies and gatherings were made illegal, and it became punishable to even speak the old Language.

Our Culture was not written down in the history books by our own people, but observers from different backgrounds – from cartographers, to ethnographers, to government agents, to men of the church; each with their own agenda and bias. Our Culture has endured because at its core, teachings and words are passed down from grandparent to grandchild. There were no books or libraries to burn down. Instead, each elder is themselves a library, a wealth of information. The erasure of our Language and Culture was nearly realized because the Residential Schools took the children away from their first teachers. It is by the strength of those survivors, who were just kids, that our Language and teachings remain in any form.

A Place-name on a map and its translation into English can simply be seen as how it was used and what was gathered. But it is more than that. The ancestors carried these names with them as people moved from one permanent home to another. A name doesn't just tell you what is there, but who is there. The families that called these places home.

Acknowledging the traditional names connects us with the past. More than that, it honours the Language and those who first spoke it.

Tyler James is a descendant of Thee-o-latza. He was born and raised in the Cowichan Valley but his family lineage is from the T'eet'qe' village on Le'eyqsun/ Valdes Island. Tyler currently works as the Cultural Records Coordinator for Lyackson First Nation.

Presidents Message continued from page one...

few years. This year, the board and the Chief Thomas and Councilors and key staff members met in mid-April to say hello and keep each other up-to-date.

Details of all these meetings were shared with members via eblasts, but should you be a new or returning member and wish more information, please contact me.

So what does the year ahead look like? Many upcoming initiatives are highlighted in this newsletter – purple martin box building, kelp monitoring, gathering of islander's stories and some interesting findings from the bird world all of which remind us of the uniqueness of Le'eyqsun/Valdes within the group of southern Gulf Islands. This island boasts many intact ecosystems supporting high levels of biological diversity not seen on other islands. Another reason to be thankful to be present on the island!

In honour of this biodiversity, one project in the works will tie together our data collections from past Bioblitzes along with other sources of species data as we get help from the Salish Sea Biodiversity group and the Institute for Multidisciplinary Ecological Research in the Salish Sea (IMERSS) to collate, illustrate and exhibit all information on the Conservancy's website! We are hoping this project will be complete and visible in early September, in time to enjoy it prior to our AGM in October.

Marja

Letter From the Editors

Anne Casselman, Jason Camp and Hugh Blackman

As Jason, Hugh and I worked towards producing this year's newsletter - inheriting the BIG responsibility from Marja - we have been amply rewarded to see all the threads woven together into the pages before you. What is contained herein is a true community effort, beginning with our fantastic contributors and ending with Mark and Jane Bateman who generously give their time to lay out the words and pictures before you.

You will notice more family-friendly activities and pages in our enclosed junior edition – a welcome addition in our second pandemic summer we hope. And our content is bird heavy. But if you are anything like our family, this past year has attuned you even more to the songs, busyness and beauty of our bird friends as the traffic in our skies and roads died down and we spent more time watching the world go by from our windows. If we seek to achieve more reciprocal relationships with the natural world, then these articles provide valuable signposts for us to follow.

We are honoured this year to have been granted permission from Chief Thomas of the Lyackson First Nation to include a map of the island that includes the First Names for many of the places we know and love here, and the Hul'qumi'num translations into English. This honour is doubled by the words contributed by Lyackson First Nation Cultural Records Coordinator Tyler James who has generously shared with us his deeply resonant lens through which we can learn of these Place-names.

One final note, you will notice that this newsletter is now adopting the Hul'qumi'num (pronounced Hul-ka-MEE-num) language spelling of Le'eyqsun/Valdes Island.

Unsurprisingly, the word Lyackson is an anglicized version of the traditional name that has introduced an additional syllable. We have been informed that Le'eyqsun is pronounced more like "like-sen" (as opposed to the three syllable Lyackson). The apostrophe after the "Le" represents a glottal stop, rendering the subsequent “ey” almost silent as one briefly stops the sound in the back of one's throat before continuing to the second syllable "qsun". I intend to practice as I go and hope you do too.

It is a start and I hope you see the beauty in this word as much as we do. After all, there are several places in the world named after Spanish explorers with the surname Valdés (Valdez, Alaska and Valdez, Florida) but there is only one Le'eyqsun.

Afterall, it is a singular place.

Happy reading!
Anne, Jason and Hugh

"Reconciliation must inspire Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples to transform Canadian society so that our children and grandchildren can live together in dignity, peace, and prosperity on these lands we now share." The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, Volume 6.

Boaters! Do You Know About the New Orca and Whale Regulations?

Anne Casselman

This year has been a good year for our critically endangered (and beloved) Southern Resident Killer Whales. They have welcomed three babies into their pods this year - and when your population is a mere 75 whales, every baby counts. You may remember Tahlequah, J35, who lost her baby in 2018 and made international headlines on her 17-day long tour of grief. Well last September she gave birth to a baby boy, J57. A sign of hope. Perhaps the pandemic helped the orca mamas search for food in the quiet of reduced shipping and halted whale watching.

Meanwhile the federal government’s protection measures for killer whales are still in effect. Vessels must stay 400 metres away from all killer whales in southern BC coastal waters between Campbell River and just north of Ucluelet. This year, the 400 meter distance rule has been expanded to include Howe Sound. For all other whales, porpoises and dolphin species vessels must keep a distance of 100 meters, unless they are with their calf or resting, in which case keep a 200 meter distance. To put these distances in perspective, the average city block in Vancouver is 145m long.

Photo: Evan Baker

Some additional voluntary measures include: turn engines to neutral idle if you accidentally get too close and it’s safe to do so; and stop fishing and do not haul gear within 1,000 meters of killer whales.

Worrisome Waterbird Trends in the Salish Sea

Graham Sorenson

As we all have likely witnessed firsthand, British Columbia's coastlines are incredibly important for wintering populations of birds, from sea ducks to Snow Geese to loons and grebes to shorebirds on both rocky intertidal and mudflat habitat. Among the handful of migratory stopover sites for migrating shorebirds along the entire Pacific Coast, the Fraser River Estuary is singular in its size and quality. For species like the scoters, the goldeneyes and Long-tailed duck, the entire Salish Sea provides a key wintering ground.

At the same time, the southern coastline of BC supports a very large human population with continued urbanization, development, and human pressures on the marine environment. The importance and high use of this region by both birds and humans creates a conservation challenge that seems to be impacting birds, including waterbird wintering populations, based on a recent publication by Birds Canada.

In late 2020, Birds Canada published a detailed analysis of 20 years of trend data from the British Columbia Coastal Waterbird Survey in the journal *Avian Conservation and Ecology*. Our findings highlight important differences in waterbird populations wintering in the Salish Sea compared with the outer coast of BC, and describe likely environmental pressures behind the greater declines in the Salish Sea.

We analyzed population trends for 50 species and examined differences among groups with similar dietary requirements and migration strategies, known as guilds. We organized the species in this way to help tease out which factors are affecting bird populations. We also split the dataset into two regions: the Salish Sea (inner), and the Pacific Ocean (outer) coasts to allow us to see differences between the two regions in terms of how guilds responded to changes in their environment (Infographic, Figure 1).

The most startling results was that for 12 of the Salish Sea species we analyzed (Figure 2), the local population has declined compared to 20 years ago. The same was true for just three species on the Pacific Ocean coast (Barrow's Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Great Blue Heron). This same pattern was true across most of the foraging and all of the migration guilds that we analyzed.

Eight of the 12 declining Salish Sea species feed on aquatic invertebrates in the benthos (the rocks, sand, or mud along the coast that are always underwater, or that get covered when the tide is high), and these benthivores are the group that appear to be declining the most. This group includes the Surf, White-winged and Black scoters (which saw a decline of nearly 15% between 1999 and 2019); Long-tailed Duck; Black Turnstone; and Dunlin (which declined by nearly 10% in the same time frame). This finding is both puzzling and concerning. Previously, fish-eating species have been shown to be at highest risk of declines or distribution shifts (we did find some fish-eaters are still declining).

This new finding highlights the need to investigate how human activities are impacting the quality of the benthic environment in the Salish Sea. Could the declines we see in these benthivore waterbirds be related to activities like dredging or anchor sites of large ships or are pollutants and microplastics entering the Salish Sea food chain and affecting the invertebrates the benthivores feed on? There could be a "canary in the coal mine" element to this decline we see in the benthivores of the Salish Sea since the invertebrates they feed upon are dependent on water quality.

Declines in Salish Sea wintering birds could be either a result of species-wide declines or shifts in wintering areas (ie. so the bird numbers haven't declined globally, they've just moved away from the Salish Sea). To address the latter possibility, and to connect the trends with likely environmental pressures, collaborative research partnerships are needed. Birds Canada has begun engaging with international partners to understand these trends in the context of the entire Salish Sea (in Canada and the US Puget Sound). We hope to combine our dataset with other regional survey efforts and species tracking data to understand if species are changing their wintering distribution or if this is a larger scale population decline and to see how some specific environmental pressures (such as dredging, fishing, and pollution) impact waterbirds near those activities.

The good news emerging from our work is that populations appear "stable" for most species: 36 out of 50 species in the Salish Sea, and 32 out of 37 on Pacific Ocean coasts. These stable trends include 14 species for which the BC coast plays

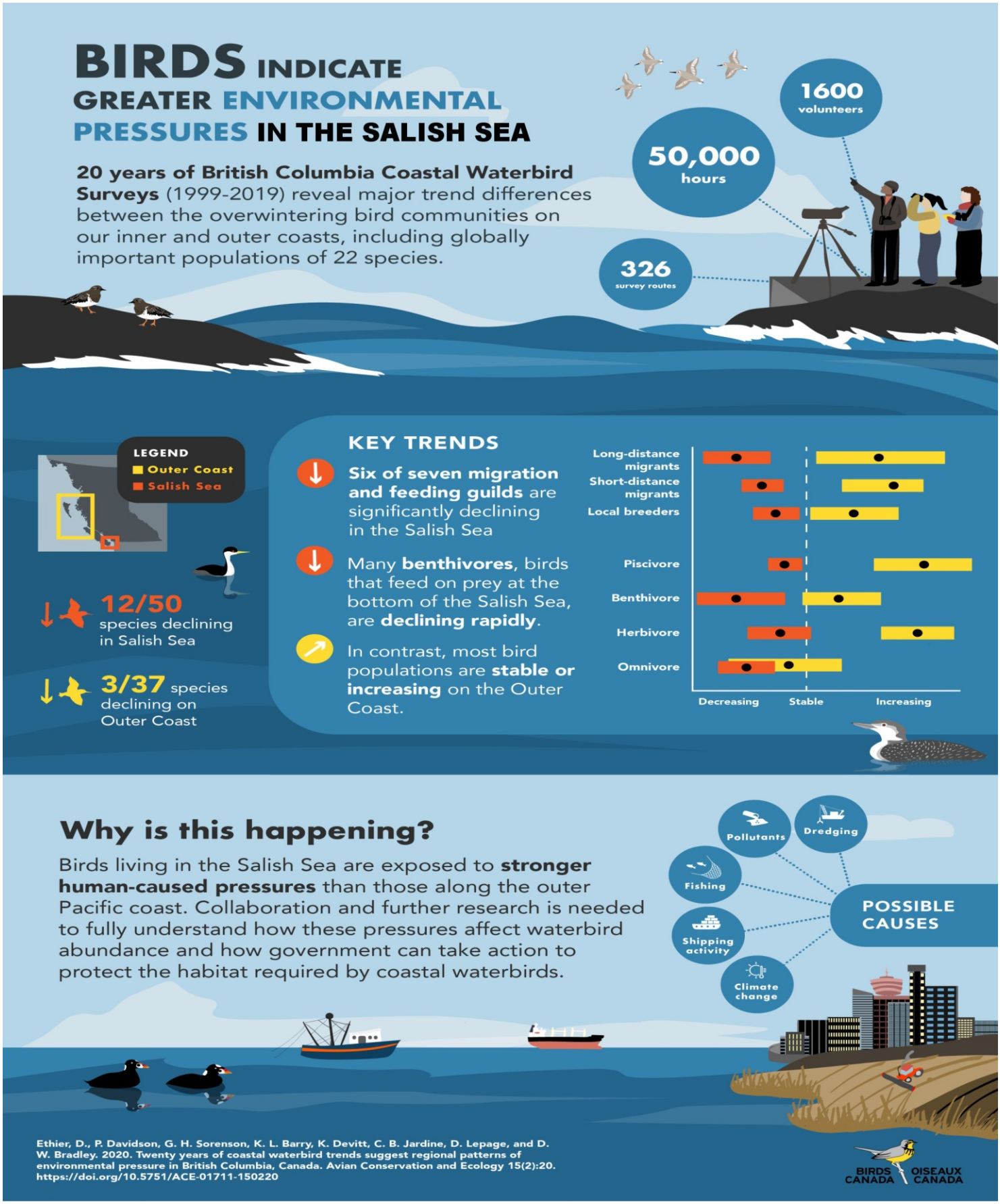

Figure 1: Infographic depicting results of 20-year trend analysis of BC Coastal Waterbird Survey data. Created by Alice Sun for Birds Canada.

an important role in supporting a significant portion of the global population. However, an additional seven species with globally significant numbers in BC showed declines in the Salish Sea.

If you'd like to take a deeper dive into the results of our study, the full paper "Twenty years of coastal waterbird trends suggest regional patterns of environmental pressure in British Columbia, Canada Twenty years of coastal waterbird monitoring shows regional trends of environmental pressure in British Columbia, Canada" by Danielle Ethier and colleagues was published in *Avian Conservation and Ecology* last year (Vol.15, No.2).

Or, you can watch a presentation by the authors and listen to survey volunteers' feedback and ideas, in the webinar "20-Year Trends from the BC Coastal Waterbird Survey" found on Birds Canada's youtube feed.

Birds Canada created the BC Coastal Waterbird Survey in 1999 to collect baseline information on the status and trends of waterbirds. Since the Coastal Waterbird Survey began two decades ago, approximately 1600 volunteers have contributed an estimated 50,000 hours to monitoring these bird populations throughout the winter. Their efforts have created one of the largest and most detailed monitoring datasets in British Columbia. If you are interested in joining the Coastal Waterbird Survey, please learn more about it www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/british-columbia-coastal-waterbird-survey/ and reach out to the coordinator at bcvolunteer@birdscanada.org with the subject "Interested in the BC Coastal Waterbird Survey".

Graham was the British Columbia Projects Coordinator for Birds Canada, coordinating several Citizen Science projects including the BC Coastal Waterbird Survey and is currently serving as Acting Aerial Insectivore Conservation Coordinator in the Atlantic region. He has worked in bird research, monitoring, and conservation for 10 years.

Figure 2. The 12 species found to have declining wintering populations in the Salish Sea based on Ethier et al. 2020 analysis of BC Coastal Waterbird Survey data. The left six species are all benthic feeders, and Common Loon and scaup sp. eat benthic prey while wintering in the Salish Sea. Western Grebe and both loon species are primarily fish eaters (piscivores), scaup species and Mew Gull are typically omnivores, and Trumpeter Swans are herbivores.
Photo credits: All About Birds and Graham Sorenson.

The Pelagic Cormorants of Pylades Channel

Michael Rodway

Pelagic Cormorants (Phalacrocorax pelagicus) have recently been found nesting on Le'eyqsun/Valdes Island. This is exciting news as both Pelagic and Double-crested cormorants have declined at many colonies in BC and many colonies have been abandoned. For Pelagic Cormorants in the Strait of Georgia, over 60% of known colony sites were unused when they were most recently surveyed and overall nesting populations are less than half of what they were 40 years ago (Rodway et al. in prep). Pelagic Cormorants typically build their nests on narrow ledges or cavities on cliffs or in sea caves and less commonly on beams and ledges of beacons, bridges, and abandoned ships. Eroded cavities and ledges on the Le'eyqsun/Valdes Island cliffs provide ideal nesting locations that are safe from terrestrial predators like American Mink (Neovison vison).

Pelagic Cormorant colony on the Le'eyqsun/Valdes cliffs. Photo: Rob Butler

What many area residents may not know is that the nesting site on Le'eyqsun/Valdes Island is one of the earliest documented Pelagic Cormorant colonies in BC. In the BC Salish Sea, only Mandarte Island has earlier records of Pelagic Cormorants nesting; in all of BC, there are only four Pelagic Cormorant colonies recorded earlier. The colony site on Le'eyqsun/Valdes Island has been located on the stretch of cliffs lying about 3-4 km south of Dibuxante Point, facing the north end of Ruxton Island across Pylades Channel. The histories of the nesting cormorants at this site and of the early naturalists that documented their presence are equally interesting.

Although Coast Salish people traditionally harvested nesting seabirds and their eggs for food and were likely familiar with the locations of most seabird colonies in the BC Salish Sea, the first documented records of seabirds nesting in the area date back only about 160 years. Early records were primarily from specimen collectors. By the turn of the last century in 1900, records of nesting seabirds were known from only three colonies in the BC Salish Sea: Mitlenatch Island, Mandarte Island, and Chain Islets near Victoria. Pelagic Cormorants had been confirmed nesting only on Mandarte Island. Egg collectors confirmed other nesting sites in the 1920s, but not on Le'eyqsun/Valdes Island. We now know that Pelagic Cormorants were first noted nesting on the Le'eyqsun/Valdes Island cliffs in 1920, making it the second known colony in the BC Salish Sea. But it was 40 years before that knowledge surfaced. The 40 year hiatus connects two young people with keen interests in the natural world and a lifelong dedication to its conservation.

Elton Alexander Anderson was born in Saanich in 1907. When he was eleven his family moved to Le'eyqsun/Valdes Island, where he and his younger brother were pulled out of school to work as their father's logging crew (Anderson 2019a). The boys also rowed around the islands and to Nanaimo to gather and sell fish. Elton made observations of seabirds in the area. After the family left Le'eyqsun/Valdes Island, Elton worked for many years as an independent logger in the Duncan and Cowichan area and later on Cortes Island. Throughout his adult life he was a keen naturalist and ardent conservationist (Anderson 2019b). He served as president of the Federation of BC Naturalists from 1971 to 1973 and helped stimulate the formation of many natural history clubs around BC. He promoted increased communication and collaboration amongst the various clubs so they could present a stronger voice for conservation in the province. After he died in 1975, the Federation created the Elton Anderson Award to acknowledge outstanding conservation efforts.

Rudolf (Rudi) Herman Drent had a large impact on the study and conservation of nesting seabirds in BC, both as a young university student and later as a professor at UBC (Rodway et al. 2020). It

was his early dedication to gathering information on nesting seabirds that connected him to Elton Anderson. Rudi was born in the Netherlands in 1937. In 1954, he enrolled as an undergraduate at the University of British Columbia where he was inspired to study biology by Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan. He carried on at UBC and in 1959 and 1960 studied Pigeon Guillemots nesting on Mandarte Island for his Master's thesis under the supervision of Dr. Miklos Udvardy (Drent 1965). During that time, Rudi became aware of how little was known about the distribution and abundance of nesting seabirds in BC. He also became concerned about the escalating threats to nesting seabirds from ever-increasing human disturbance. He decided to tackle both problems by compiling all the information he could find to produce the first catalogue of British Columbia seabird colonies (Drent and Guiguet 1961). To augment the limited data that were available, he sent out a questionnaire to lighthouse keepers, naturalists, and any other persons he thought might be able to contribute records of nesting seabirds. The questionnaire was titled "B.C. Sea-bird Inquiry 1960." Elton Anderson was one of the people who received it. When he answered Rudi's seabird questionnaire in 1960, Elton was able to contribute observations that he had made as a young lad around Le'eyqsun/Valdes and Galiano islands in 1920-1923.

Only small and variable numbers of Pelagic Cormorants have ever been recorded nesting on the Le'eyqsun/Valdes Island cliffs (Rodway et al. in prep). Historical records compiled first by Rudi and later mainly by Wayne Campbell, who for many years worked out of the British Columbia Provincial Museum (now the Royal British Columbia Museum), show that the colony apparently persisted for many decades after it was first noted by Elton in 1920. Maximum numbers were recorded in 1963 when 25 nests with adults were tallied by George McKay, who was managing the BC Nest Records Scheme at UBC at the time. Rudi surveyed the site in 1968 and saw only four nests. The site was then not used for much of the 1970s. Old, unattended nests were seen in 1977. In 1978, George Sirk from Cortes Island saw one nest with an incubating adult on 18 June but three days later no cormorants were seen along the entire stretch from Dibuxante Point to Blackberry Point. A few pairs nested in the early 1980s but none were found nesting during any of the major cormorant surveys conducted after 1983. Then, after apparently being abandoned for decades, the Pelagic Cormorant colony was again active in 2015: Rob Butler counted 19 nests and 75 birds on the cliffs. Nests with young were seen in August 2017 and paired birds were occupying nesting cavities in the weathered sandstone in March 2018. Twenty birds were present in both 2017 and 2018. Le'eyqsun/Valdes Island resident Dan White

Pelagic Cormorant with Sculpin. Photo: Rob Alexander

reported active cormorant nests in 2019. He did not identify species but we suspect that they were Pelagic Cormorant nests as other species of cormorant have not been recorded nesting at this site.

It is encouraging that this historic nesting site has been re-established. If human disturbance and other impacts can be minimized, as Rudi pleaded in 1961 (Drent and Guiguet 1961), then hopefully this heritage colony will persist into the future. Pelagic Cormorants are disturbed by boats approaching too closely to their nesting cliffs. If they fly off their nests, their eggs and young are vulnerable to predation by crows and other birds. Small young are also susceptible to heat stroke if they are left un-brooded in the sun for more than a few minutes. Bald Eagles can also cause major disturbances to nesting cormorants. Trudy Chatwin, who for many years worked as an Endangered Species Biologist for the Ministry of

The Pelagic Cormorants of Pylades Channel

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Environment in Nanaimo, has conducted many surveys of cormorants in the BC Salish Sea and has researched how cormorants respond to approaching boats and kayaks. She recommended a setback distance of 50-70 m to avoid flushing nesting birds (Chatwin et al. 2013). Enforcing such a setback distance for recreational boaters visiting the area is a challenge.

Pelagic Cormorants on their nests on the Le'eyqsun/Valdes cliffs. Photo: Marja de Jong Westman

Close monitoring of the Le'eyqsun/Valdes Island colony is warranted; annual nests counts would provide valuable monitoring information. Elton Anderson also recorded Pigeon Guillemots nesting on these cliffs in the early 1920s and pairs of Glaucous-winged Gulls have occasionally been seen nesting since 1977 (Rodway et al. in prep). Repeated annual counts of Pigeon Guillemots present around the cliffs and of Glaucous-winged Gulls nesting on the cliffs would add valuable data to a monitoring program. This could be an exciting and ongoing effort organized through the Valdes Island Conservancy.

Michael S. Rodway has been dedicated to the conservation of breeding seabirds in BC for the past 45 years. He is the senior author of the 4-volume book series "Seabird Colonies of British Columbia". The first two volumes are published and are available at wildlifebc.org. Part 4 in the series on the seabird colonies of the BC Salish Sea is in preparation and is expected to be available in 2022.

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YOUR VALDES ISLAND CONSERVANCY

The AGM is scheduled via Zoom for October 17th, Sunday at 4:00 pm.

https://capu.zoom.us/j/68404429116?pwd=SHFPWEhWSU5UM2JDa0tEQW9neldPdz09

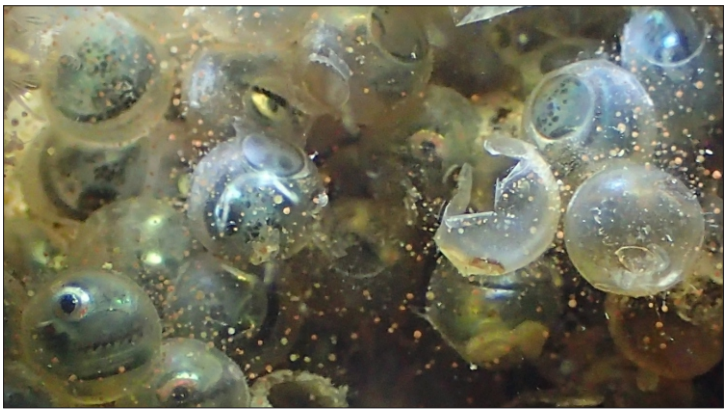
Meeting ID: 684 0442 9116 Passcode: 741557

Ode to Seaweeds, Our Forests of the Sea!

Marja de Jong Westman Photos by Larry Taylor

As is the case on land, where plants determine the presence and distribution of animals, seaweeds and true plants do the same in the sea. Our marine seaweed “forests” have some of the highest rates of primary productivity of any global ecosystems with primary productivity defined as the amount of organic material produced through that most wondrous chemical reaction of photosynthesis!

All that primary productivity supports the lives of many animals and we see different types of seaweed supporting their own unique assemblages of animals. Often specific partnerships have evolved between the seaweed and the animals. Examples of such partnerships include rockweed and the rockweed isopod, kelp and the kelp greenling, eelgrass (not a seaweed



Kelp greenling *(Hexagrammos decagrammus)* and egg mass. One of the many species of fish which call kelp forests and eel grass beds home. The freckled pattern of this species serves as camouflage. Pale blue eggs are laid in fall. Males may guard up to 11 egg masses simultaneously.

but instead an underwater flowering, rooted true plant) and the eelgrass nudibranch, to name only a few!

One particularly important group of seaweeds is the kelps. The term encompasses some 30 different groups of large brown seaweeds. Kelps are confined to coldwater coastlines and require a continual supply of nutrients. Because of these needs we see them distributed from Alaska to California with a break in their distribution in tropical areas, and then reappearing in the temperate seas of South Africa, New Zealand and Australia. Recent data indicates they range along 25% of the world’s coastline (Wernberg, et al 2019 in World Seas: an Environmental Evaluation, 2nd edition).

Bull kelp bed with *(Cnidaria medusa)* The multi-layers of the kelp forest helps diminish the forces of wave action and then allow species with very little control of their movements such as this medusa to feed and float within its embrace.

Two species of very large kelp make up the kelp forests around Le’eyqsun/Valdes island - the multi-stalked perennial giant kelp – *Macrocystis* and the annual single-stalked bull kelp *Nereocystis* with the bull kelp being more common. These two species can be found together or alternate places over the years dependent on conditions. The bull kelp tends to be more resistant to wave damage and thus will be found in more exposed areas.

Algae like the kelps are not true plants although a washed up piece of kelp complete with its float, long flat leaf-like blades, a stem-like stipe and root-like holdfast may appear similar to true plants. Algae do not have true leaves or true roots and instead rely on absorbing their required nutrients directly from the seawater. If you look closely at a piece you’ll see that they have increased their surface area for absorption by being wrinkled!

Kelp beds grow up from tiny spores settling out of the plankton onto a firm rocky substrate. Bull kelp is known to grow very rapidly. One Washington study recorded a kelp growing 14 cm in one day with growth indicated to occur both during daylight hours and at night! Bull kelp can reach 36m.

Currently there are concerns about the sustainability of kelp beds along our coast. We know that many species are intolerant of sea

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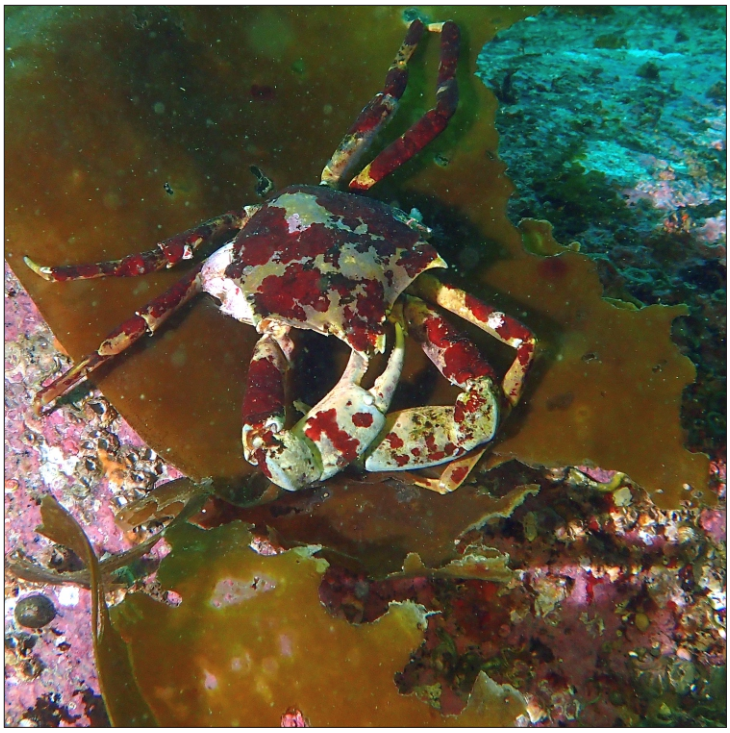
temperatures above 18 degrees C, vulnerable to lowering of nitrate levels related to El Nino events, and can disappear in regime shifts to sea urchin barrens. There has been a documented and significant global decline of kelp forests at a rate of ~2% per year. (Wernberg, et al. 2019. World Seas: an Environmental Evaluation, 2nd ed.).



Kelp crab *(Pugettia sp.)* There are a few species of kelp crabs but despite their differences they share a body form adapted to clinging and camouflaging in waving fronds. The claw-tipped long legs allow for this and the exoskeleton may be kept clear of settlers or become decorated with bits of sponge, bryozoan or algae. The juveniles of many species seek the protection of kelp holdfasts and other intertidal algae during the winter and migrate to the full frond forest in the summer.

This loss is on scientists' radar because kelp are known as "foundation species" and as such they define a unique ecosystem, providing its structure and controlling its biodiversity. They are multi-layered, provide multiple habitats, control the flow of water, the amount of filtered light, and provide food. Kelp forests are known to support up to one hundred species of fish, many types of seastars and crustaceans. It is the preferred food of sea urchins and bat seastars and some species of snails and isopods. Kelp holdfasts and fronds often serve as protective nursery grounds for juvenile fish and crustaceans. Indeed they provide the foundational scaffolding for a very biologically diverse ecosystem.

You might wonder why you do not see kelp forests year round. In the case of the perennial kelp it does die back each winter to its holdfast whereas the annual species do not overwinter. The seasonal changes in the kelp forest sees growth starting in March, with longer day lengths and nutrient inputs encouraging growth. Around the longest day of the year in June, the kelp forest is lush and at this time you will be able to see its canopy layers. Autumn is often a prime time in the kelp forest. It is dense, there is still enough sunlight for growth and nutrients are still available. As day lengths shorten and nutrients are used up, the forest starts to die back, fronds yellow and break off and at this time beachcombers often find shredded blades on the beach covered with encrusting animals known as bryozoans. Tumultuous storms of winter are the final pruners of these seasonal forests.

Further information:
https://tinyurl.com/yk5nd5gg
https://tinyurl.com/35zck2s4

Encrusting bryozoan: *(Membranipora sp.)* This encrusting mass is a colony of individual organisms belonging to its own group, Phylum Bryozoa. Each little unit, a zooid, making up the colony contains a single organism with a specialized set of ciliated feeding tentacles. The tentacles help collect planktonic organisms from the water column. Bryozoans come in a wide range of colours and designs but this species is the one commonly found growing on kelp fronds.

Marja is a biologist who spent the first part of her professional career "underwater" at the Vancouver Aquarium emerging onto land after 10 years to join the Biology Department at Capilano University as a teaching faculty member. The biologically rich marine and terrestrial landscapes of Le'eyqsun/Valdes have been her inspiration for some 30 years on the island.

House Boat Story

Becky Appleton.

Photos by Island Residents.

This is a story about the houseboat that flipped in Polier Pass and washed up on Le'eyqsun/Valdes Island on Sunday September 20th, 2020. It's a story of gratitude and thanks.

We watched the one week episode from the comfort of our home. We have surround glass windows on three sides of the cabin, so, as the tides ebbed and flowed and the wreck did the same, we were able to stay warm and dry while mother nature flexed its powerful arm. We were able to document the events and report to the Valdesians that were in Vancouver; their job was to stay in touch with Transport Canada, CBC, Victoria Buzz and Global News.

The Tuesday-Wednesday storm broke the house boat apart, but it also gave Transport Canada the opportunity to find contractors to bring a barge, divers and a clean up crew. The day by day reporting provided the CBC and Global with the material to keep the story alive for two days and a few news cycles. Our point of land did not have any residual debris, but South Bay and the reef beside our point were littered with a toilet, ropes, electrical wires, verandas, windows, doors, you name it.

The clean up contractors were amazing. We could not thank them enough for their thoroughness and pleasant attitude. They came with a command boat, (a tug to move the barge), an empty barge to hold the debris, a zodiac, and a tin boat. The sun was out and so were us Valdesians. We kept making small piles and supervising their efforts until all the 2'x2'x4' styrofoam floatation blocks were picked up. It took three long days of action to remove debris below the tide line. What was taken by the tides and deposited on other shores? We will never know.
The South Bay beach clean up in search of little white styrofoam balls will continue for another season or two. We are hoping that during the winter months, the leftover submerged glass will round their edges to become sea glass. We have alerted the community to update their tetanus shots, as we are bound to find rusty nails for a while and we will have to remain cautious.

Kudos to Transport Canada and a huge thank you to all of you, the taxpayers of Canada.

We are so glad that there was no fuel involved. This event was a stark reminder of the danger and the need to have strict regulations for tankers transporting fuel and bitumen along BC coastlines. Perhaps having the Coast Guard alert Transport Canada (it is their jurisdiction) of this event, might prompt someone into developing a model that would expose the extent of possible damage to our small coastal communities. A larger scale clean up model based on our current experience and cost, could be a valuable tool. Perhaps the studies have already been done.

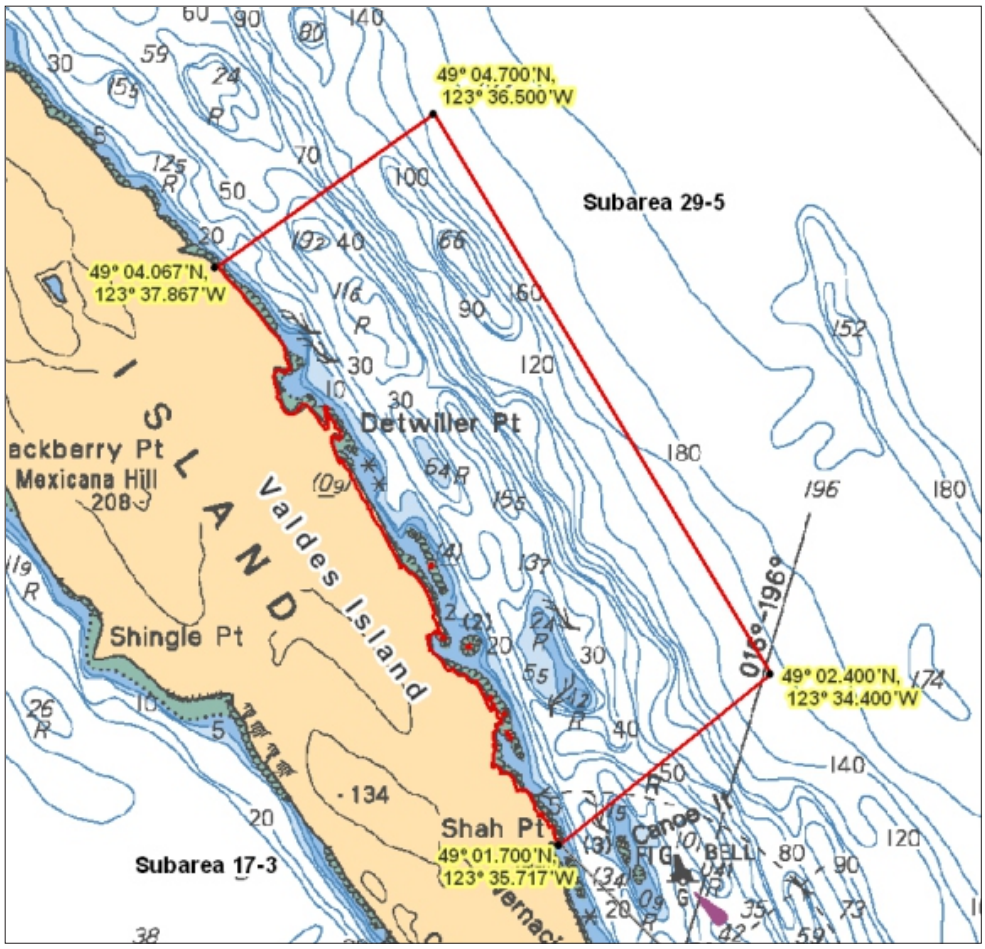
Becky Appleton and her family have been part of the fabric of the Valdesian community since 1992. Today her grandchildren now enjoy the cabin and their "Summer friends".

Help Our Fish Rebound

Anne Casselman

Monitoring and research programs in BC indicate that inshore rockfish, especially within the Salish Sea, are at low levels of abundance. We need everyone's help to protect and conserve these beleaguered species. With life-spans that range from 79-118 years, you can think of these small fish as the old-growth trees of our oceans. Each one caught will take decades to replace.

That said, the RCA off our shores is currently a bit tragic. Sure, its conservation value punches above its weight in terms of rockfish-friendly features but these benefits are undermined thanks to illegal fishing activity by recreational fishers. How many times have we gazed out over the water to see a fishing violation in the RCA?



Rockfish conservation areas Area 29 - Valdes Island East - Chart 3463

On Le'eyqsun/Valdes Island, a large portion of water off the southeastern shore is federally protected. This Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA), known as "Area 29 - Valdes Island East", was first designated over a decade ago. RCA's boost rockfish numbers by restricting fishing activity within their bounds. A 2019 DFO study found that the Valdes Island East RCA ranked 56 out of 132 Georgia Strait RCAs in its conservation benefit to rockfish -- not too shabby! A more recent DFO report from 2020 found that the Valdes RCA was one of 13 in the Georgia Strait bioregion that met the majority of key attributes valuable to rockfish. In other words, it's a valuable piece of the rockfish conservation puzzle in Georgia Strait.

Rod fishing for <u>any</u> fish (including salmon and lingcod) is prohibited within the RCA.
The <u>only</u> recreational fishing permitted within rockfish conservation areas are: invertebrates by hand picking or dive; crab by trap; shrimp/prawn by trap; smelt by gillnet.

Don't forget, if the Valdes East RCA can truly become a safe harbour for rockfish (and it certainly has the potential), all fishers have the most to gain since marine conservation areas can lead to a greater abundance of fish in adjacent waters as populations recover and "spillover" into neighbouring waters.

Report a fisheries violation

Any data points we can submit on fishing violations within our RCA will have value. They may help to make a case for DFO investments in education about the Valdes East RCA to fishers (which a 2019 joint UVic and Galiano Conservancy Association pilot on Galiano found is the most effective means of improving compliance) or they may inform in what ways the DFO can best deploy their resources to deter or enforce non-compliance within the RCA.
Email DFO.ORR-ONS.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca or call the fisheries violation phone line (1-800-465-4336).

Be sure to include details such as the violation (ie. fishing in a closed area), the date, time and location; any info on the violator (ie. how many are in the party); a description of the boat.

Purple Martin (Progne subis) Nesting Box Contest...

By: Aislyn, Katie, and Graham Hill

Photo: Ralph Hockin, VIC Spring 2017 Newsletter

Fun Facts

- Purple Martins are the largest swallow in North America
- Humans caused the loss of almost all natural Purple Martin nesting spots, typically tree cavities along foreshore areas
- The Purple Martin population dropped to less than 10 in BC in the 1980s
- Through recovery efforts, there were 1,200 nesting pairs and 95 colony sites in 2016
- Purple Martins are not really purple!!! Depending on the light, their colours can change from bright blue, to navy blue, to deep purple
- Purple Martins are about 20 cm long
- Purple Martins are carnivores, they eat winged insects (yum!)
- Purple Martins will return to the same nesting site every year
- Purple Martins' natural enemies are European Starlings and House Sparrows
- The oldest recorded Purple Martin lived for 13 years and 9 months

Contest Details

- Build a Purple Martin nesting box (details are below)
- Take a photo of the nesting box and send it to Graham (grh.474@gmail.com)
- Drop your nesting box off at a VIC board member's cabin with your name, email, and phone number attached
- The contest closing date is October 31, 2021
- The winner will be selected based on a random draw in November
- Entries will be entered into a draw for several hand crafted glass figurines (Island fauna-themed) made and donated by Mark and Jane Bateman of Cornucopia Glass studio in Victoria.
- Entry is open to both VIC members and non-members

Building a Purple Martin Nesting Box

- The box should be about 13" long x 6" wide x 7" high on the inside
- There should be a porch 2" deep
- The back wall should extend down below the floor about 6" for mounting it
- The box should have a removable wall for annual cleaning (see the figure that has the front wall pivot on nails)
- The box should have a waterproof roof and the roof should extend over the porch
- The door should be either:

a crescent entrance 3" wide x 1-3/16" tall installed level with the porch, or

a circle with a diameter of 2" installed 1" above the porch

- ¾" thick wood (or thicker) is the preferred building material because it provides good insulation
- More resources:

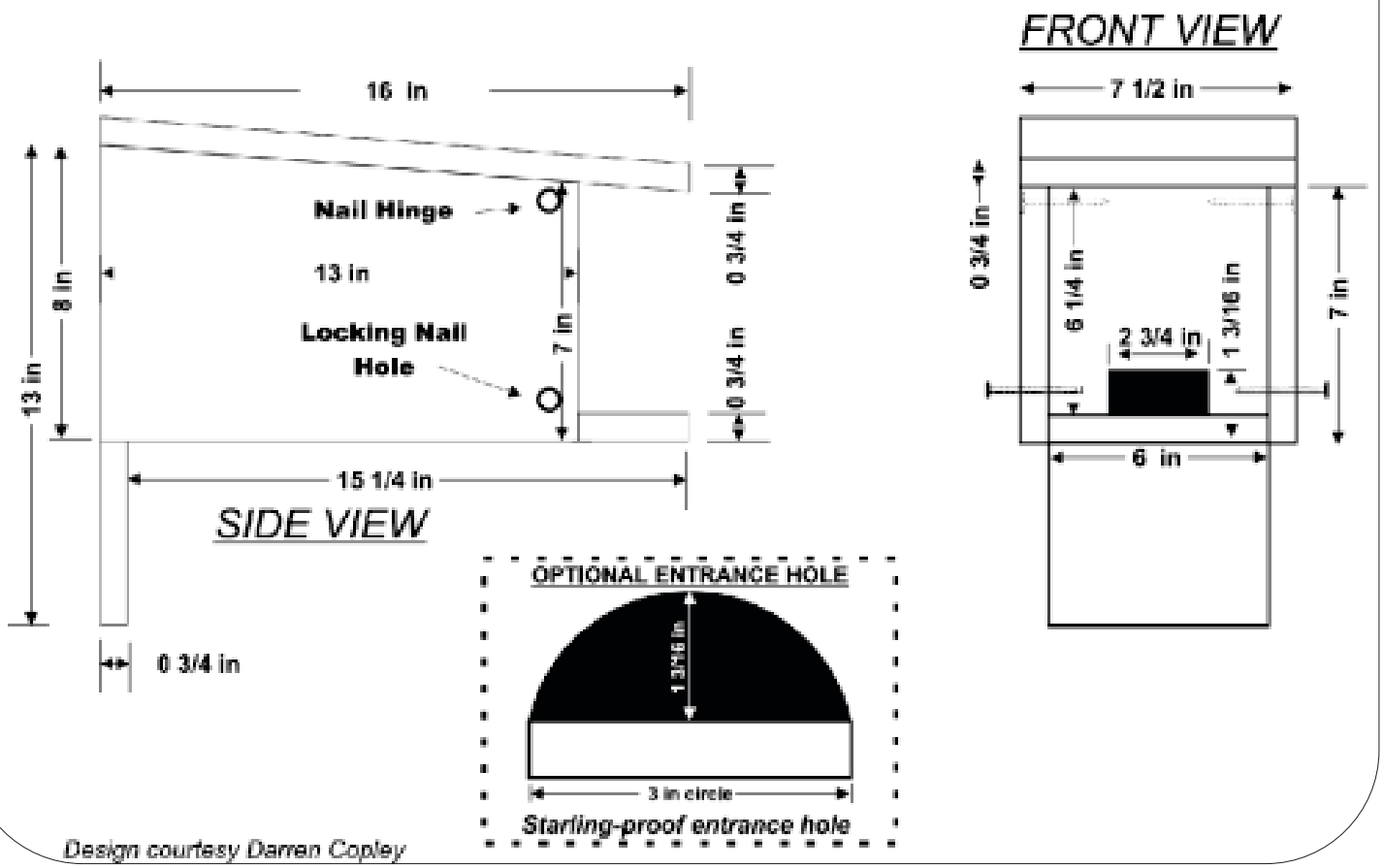
http://www.georgiabasin.ca/puma.htm

Gordon Webster models a beautiful nesting box.
Photo: Ruth McDonald

continued from page 15...

Western Purple Martin Nest-box Plans

Successfully used on Vancouver Island



Source: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/species-ecosystems-at-risk/brochures/purple_martin.pdf

The Ferguson Family comes to Le'eyqsun/Valdes Island...

by Bill Ferguson

All Photos: Courtesy the Ferguson family

Le'eyqsun/Valdes Island, despite being only a little over 20 miles from the Spanish Banks of Vancouver, is isolated. This defines Le'eyqsun/Valdes. It is not easy getting people and materials to this Island paradise.

Every cabin dweller experiences the task of getting stuff from the beach to the cabin site. This is done often with the help of a neighbour or a passerby. In most cases the cabin site comes first, then the carrying experience follows. In our case, it was in the opposite order. But for the need for exercise and the pleasure of participating in unloading a barge full of cabin supplies from Northern Building Supplies Ltd., the Ferguson family may never have settled on Le'eyqsun/Valdes.

Left to right, Bill Ferguson, Anne Camp, Jason Camp, J.J. Camp, Matthew Ferguson

The Ferguson Family comes to Le'eyqsun/Valdes Island

Continued from page 15...

Our connection to Le'eyqsun/Valdes was through the Detwillers. I met Gordon Detwiller in September 1967 at the start of our first year of Law School at UBC. He had just started dating Barbara Naegele and I with Jeanie. We all became fast friends.

In May, 1971 Gordon and I were finishing an exciting and intense year of Articles. This is the year of on the job training that a law grad has to complete to become a lawyer. Gordon asked Jeanie and me if we would like to go to Le'eyqsun/Valdes to help unload a barge of lumber and cabin supplies for the construction of 6, or so, cabins. I jumped at the idea. I was needing a dose of physical activity after a year of exercising my brain but not so much my body!

Gordon's dad, Lloyd (Det) Detwiller, had earlier assigned the Le'eyqsun/Valdes lots he had found and had surveyed between his friends, the bulk of whom were his buddies from the WW2 Royal Canadian Airforce and his medical administration career. A number of these Le'eyqsun/Valdes pioneers hired a barge and a tug and had loaded the materials prior to the weekend. I had never heard of Le'eyqsun/Valdes before this occasion!

My introduction to Le'eyqsun/Valdes was on a hot and sunny May long weekend.

Gordon and I had to work at our law firms on Friday. We took the ferry and made our way after work in my VW Beetle by the old dirt road to the Porlier Pass Marina which was at the North end of the pass near the lighthouse on Galiano Island. I think we were picked up by Det in his old handmade wooden boat. Jeanie and Barbara accompanied a group of cabinsite owners, flew over by float plane. The pilot had expected to land the plane in Starvation Bay, but rough water forced a change. He turned the plane by Porlier Pass and landed smoothly close by the wharf at Spanish Hills, where the passengers were picked up in a van and taken to the Porlier Pass Marina. A small boat was made available to ferry everyone across the pass to Valdes.

On Friday night at high tide, the loaded barge was left in position Number One by the tug in the bay at the north west side of Detwiller Point ("Livingston Bay"). The barge was high and dry at low tide the next day. We offloaded the lumber and supplies for Det and and Margaret's cabin. The materials included wooden boxes of 2 feet by 2 feet glass panes packed in straw, to be used to make a 'Valdes-style window wall'. These panes were to be incorporated into the wall between the upright two by fours in the wall construction creating a full view wall.

On Saturday night at high tide the tug moved the barge to position Number Two, the south east side of Detwiller Point (which I now call "Ferguson Bay"). The materials for Bill Marr's cabin (and maybe Murray Brown's Panabode) were to be unloaded after low tide the next day. Sunday morning was very sunny and dry and the tide as low as any I can remember. Jeanie and Barbara in addition to helping with the unloading made us great meals on Tom Read's wood stove.

The barge in position Number Two

At that time, we knew of only a few cabins already on Le'eyqsun/Valdes. What might have been on the Northern end of the island was a long way away and foreign to us. To the far South was the Greening cabin. At the next point South of Detwiller Point was Leon Peterson's cabin (now Hogan's). In Starvation Bay, Tom Read's (now Bell's) was the only cabin. This was designated as the work weekend communal home base, where the two young couples, Det, and Gordon's brother Doug stayed.

At high tide on Sunday night the tug moved the barge to position Number Three, "Oyster Bay" (now called Noel Bay). On Monday we unloaded the supplies for Gordon Noel's cabin and for a cabin to be built for psychiatrist Kurt Oviate. The Oviate supplies were never used by him. Those that hadn't "grown legs" were eventually salvaged a few years later from the wetland by Det and Tom Read to build Doug Detwiller's cabin, now the Campbell's location.

The Ferguson Family comes to Le'eyqsun/Valdes Island

Continued from page 16...

I may have missed out on a cabin or two. This was the start of a building boom on Le'eyqsun/Valdes. Gordon and Barbara took a year out of their careers and stayed on Le'eyqsun/Valdes to build Det's cabin and Dr. Cob Johnson's cabin. The Johnson cabin was built in the meadow above the Peterson cabin. The supplies for the cabins of Johnson and Flynn Marr, another meadow cabin, were unloaded in the little cut on the nearby shore.

Jeanie and I didn't return to the island until September, when we took groceries to Gordon and Barabara and spent a weekend with them. Jeanie recalls them saying this was their first holiday from work since their arrival in May. We hiked the trails and beaches, salmon-fished and had another perfect stay on the island with our friends. Gordon had the canny ability to learn, and hone, practical skills from books. Examples of these talents included deer hunting, tennis, pack horse loading and cabin construction! Barbara remembers him learning how to level the floor of Det's cabin with the book in one hand and a tool in the other.

The barge was also the beginning of the Ferguson adventure on Le'eyqsun/Valdes. Bill Marr started to build his cabin while anticipating that the Le'eyqsun/Valdes location would be too primitive for his wife. He got as far as the foundation: poles on flat beach rocks, the floor and the frame of one wall, when he realised his wife's wishes would prevail. "She won't go to a cabin without her hair dryer", he told Det.

Bill Marr starts work on his cabin

In Autumn, 1971, Bill Marr asked Det, " Do you think that young couple who enjoyed working hard on the barge unloading would be interested in subletting my lot?" We leaped to accept the offer!

With the able leadership of our friend Granville Airton, an experienced carpenter and also an engineer and the help of friends, Greg Bowden and JJ Camp, much of the initial work was done on one weekend. Our starter cabin was made livable by the summer of 1972. Of course, a cabin is never "finished". There is always something else to do followed by something to replace. The early cabin carpentry was accomplished by chainsaw, hand saw and sweat.

JJ's two children both now have cabins on Le'eyqsun/Valdes. Greg Bowden and his family also shared a cabin for a few years with Jeannie's cousin, Bob Smith, and his family.

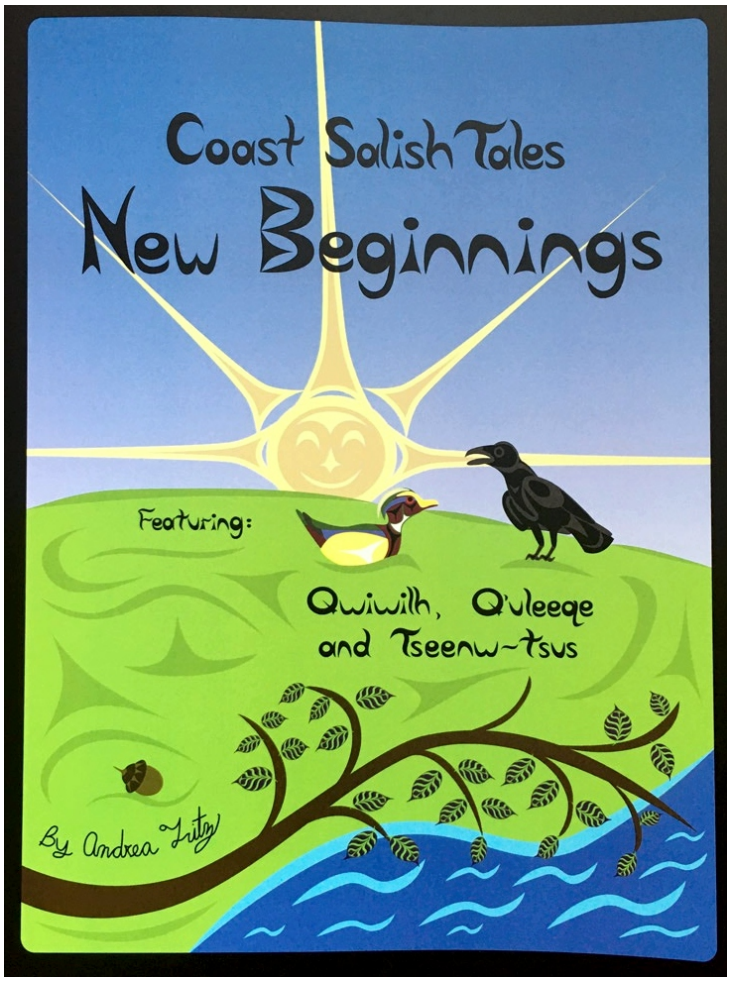
Bill Marr had been following a standard lumberyard plan for a 16 by 16 foot cabin with a large uncovered deck and had ordered supplies for that plan. This plan called for a center beam to be made out of plywood, but Granville decided we would modify the plan using a log for the center beam. We found the ideal log floating in the bay and cut it to size to extend over the cabin and the deck. With the help of Murray Brown, who was passing by, we put the heavy water-soaked log in place. Granville also decided we would utilize the extra plywood to roof the deck. He was a new father and realized we would appreciate the roofed deck when our newly expected child was born.

Bill and Jeanie Ferguson

We moved into our cabin in the Spring of 1972, the year our son Matthew was born and have lived there, through a number of changes to the cabin and family, happily ever after!

The Ferguson Family Story is one of many to be told, and to be included in the Island Stories Project. Please add your story about your family, your cabin, your special experience or your thoughts of the Island, and forward them to Bruce Livingston (stevestonectours@gmail.com).

Coast Salish Tales Series
New Beginnings:
Qwiwilh, Q'uleeqe, and Tseenw'tsus (Wood duck, Crow and the branches hanging over the water)
By Andrea Fritz
(all ages)

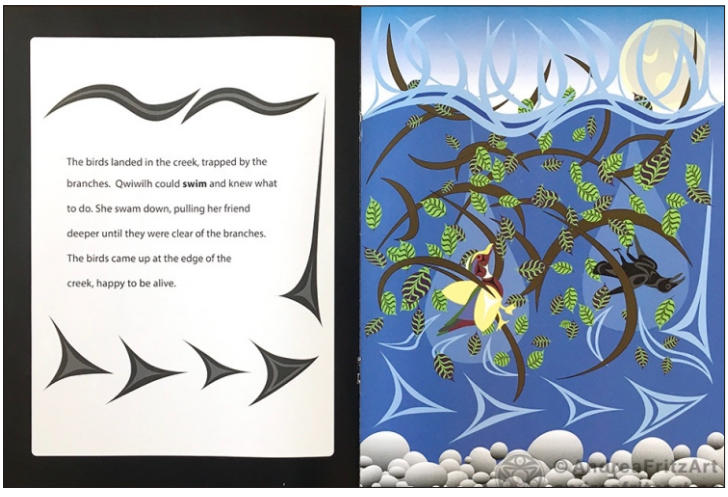


New Beginnings is such a treasure. This beautiful book is written and illustrated by Andrea Fritz, a Coast Salish artist and author from the Le'eyqsun First Nation of the Hul'qumi'num speaking Peoples of the West Coast of Canada. She teaches Coast Salish art in the Victoria School District and throughout BC, and has participated in numerous art shows and community based art pieces. Children and adults will enjoy this book for its gorgeous artwork, heart warming story, and deeper messaging. In this story, Qwiwilh comes back every year to her favourite nesting tree, which is "old, gnarled and perfect". She is greatly saddened when the branches break and the tree falls while she and her new friend, Q'uleeqe the crow, were playing in it. Q'uleeqe seeks help from Tth'upsiathun the wise old squirrel and together they plant an acorn where the old tree had been - signifying new beginnings. Because of her kind friends, Qwiwilh had a new oak tree to come back to every year with her children, and retold the story of her friend the crow. Important messages of kindness, friendship, fixing mistakes, family, and being open to new ideas are artfully communicated through this story. Every reader would be able to make personal connections to this book, and have it spark meaningful family conversations.

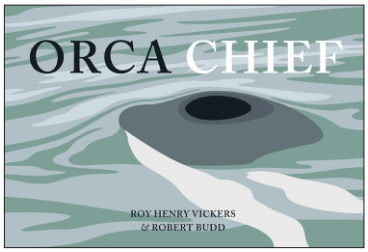
In addition to the story, also included are translations of a few key words and information about pronunciation of the Hul'qumi'num language. Fritz also includes references about the construction and shapes of Coast Salish art, and the importance of avoiding Cultural Appropriation.

New Beginnings is the first book in the Coast Salish Tales series. The next titles in the series are: *Sharing is Caring*, *It's Okay to Say, "I Don't Know"*, and *No Reward for Greed*. I can't wait until these next titles are released. Stay tuned for more reviews on this next year.

Copies of New Beginnings will soon be available at www.andreafritzart.com. Alternatively if you don't want to wait, e-transfer $25 to andreafritzart9@gmail.com. Make sure to include the mailing address where you would like your copy sent in the message box of your e-transfer, together with your email. You can follow Andrea Fritz's journey on instagram @andreafritzart.



Orca Chief
Written by Robert Budd
Illustrated by
Roy Henry Vickers
(all ages)

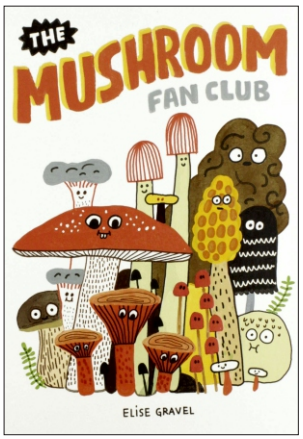


Orca Chief is the third book in the Northwest Coast Legends series, and its striking imagery and rich storytelling will delight readers of all ages. Robert Budd's storytelling is multilayered and touches on topics including the interconnectedness of nature, compassion, and forgiveness. Budd's rich storytelling pairs perfectly with new illustrations from world renowned Canadian First Nations artist, Roy Henry Vikers, whose vibrant colours and breathtaking landscapes bring the story to life.

The Orca Chief story is set thousands of years ago in the village of Kitkatla in Northwest British Columbia. Four hunters embark on a journey to harvest seaweed and sockeye for their village. Upon arrival at their fishing grounds, out of exhaustion and carelessness, they throw their anchor overboard without thinking of the marine life below. The Orca Chief learns of this and brings the men to the Orca house at the bottom of the ocean where the fishermen dropped their anchor. The hunters beg for forgiveness for their mistake and the Orca Chief offers them compassion and has a pod of orcas teach the hunters how to fish and hunt sustainably.

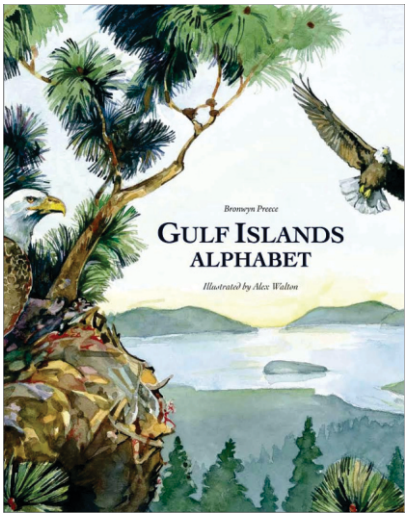
This book will spark important family conversations about stewardship, leadership, kindness, and thoughtfulness. Other books in the series are *Raven Brings the Light* (2013), and *Cloudwalker* (2014).

The Mushroom Fan Club
Written and Illustrated
by Elise Gravel
(0-12 years)



Cartoonist, Elise Gravel, shares her favourite family pastime - mushroom foraging - in her whimsical book, *The Mushroom Fan Club*. Gravel weaves interesting mushroom facts into her lovely story, highlighting some of the most beloved mushrooms such as the chanterelle and the morel, while touching on some of the lesser known varieties such as the dog stinkhorn (whose most identifiable feature will make all the kiddos chuckle). Gravel makes sure to include warnings regarding toxic mushrooms and safety around mushroom foraging in general. Her adorable mushroom drawings are anthropomorphized with the cutest little faces, while staying true to the identifiable features of each mushroom. This is a great book to get the family excited about going on a mushroom hunting adventure.

Gulf Islands Alphabet
Written by
Brownwyn Preece
Illustrated by Alex Walton
(0-8 years)



This poetic alphabet book that will take you on a journey through British Columbia's Salish Sea to celebrate the beauty of the Gulf Islands. Walton's gorgeous watercolour illustrations of Gulf Island landscapes, forests, beaches, and activities will strike a chord with all Le'eyqsun/Valdes folk. Preece's poetry with initial rhyme and Walton's captivating images conjure nostalgia for the region we all love so dearly. With this book, journey to "interesting sites inviting further investigation", along "cliffs to a cabin", and through "virgin forests on Valdes Island". *Gulf Islands Alphabet* is definitely a gem to gift to a special someone or to add to your family's book collection.

Christina Doolittle is a primary teacher in Vancouver and spends as much time as possible at the cabin with her family.

Flowers on Le'eyqsun/Valdes

Ruth McDonald

Ruth has a cabin at Shaw point that she shares with her husband Gord and best friend Don. Her first "sketching" was making a map of Le'eyqsun/Valdes so she wouldn't get lost. Since then she never leaves home without her sketchbook and watercolours.

Photo Gallery

Part of the crowd gathered at Shah point for the annual concert organised by Dan White and Gordie Marr. Photo: M Bateman

Gary Comeau & the Voodoo Allstars onstage. Photo: Mark Bateman

Turkey Tail fungus Submitted

Elephant Seal visits Shah Point. Photo: Giselle Prince

Paul Thomas, Tom Williams and friend.
Photo: Dan White

In Memory of Paul Thomas

b. April 1st 1982
d. July 16th 2021

Paul had a vibrant personality and was such a keen fisherman: Valdes was his favourite place.

Emergency and Contact Information

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire 1-800-663-5555
Cell Phone Fire *5555

Coast Guard 1-800-567-5111
Victoria 250-363-6611
Marine VHF Channel 16
Cell Phone *16

Nanaimo RCMP 250-754-2345
Cell 250-753-0946

Ladysmith RCMP 250-245-2215
Cell 250-245-6060

Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC) 1-800-567-5111

Poison Control Centre
1-800-567-8911

Nurse's Hotline 1-866-215-4700

Dan White (Water Taxi)
604-230-8115

CONCERNS AND/OR ISSUES INVOLVING WOODLOT AND MOSAIC LAND

Lyackson
Shannon Gammie
250-246-5019 (office) 250-701-8089 (cell)

Mosaic
Jimmy Hodgson 250-714-4698

INJURED OR ILL PERSON SCRIPT

"Dial 911"
LISTEN Carefully to EACH question, answer: CRISP and clearly! Speak S-L-O-W-L-Y

WHO: "This is _____ (name)"
"The phone is unreliable - call may drop at ANYTIME - I might NOT be able to call back.

WHERE: When asked for street address
"The closest street address would be the city of Ladysmith, approximately 18 km by air (bearing approximately 65 degrees). Our location is Valdes Island and is only accessible by water or air"

*** Please VERIFY before I proceed with EXACT location ***
GPS Coordinates are: ONE DIGIT at a time - Degree (°), Minutes (') and Seconds (")

NORTH:_____
WEST: _____

NEGOTIATING CONCERNS

"My biggest concern is _____ (describe #1 risk)"

Ask, respectfully, what level of response can be expected and when help is likely to arrive.

Relay Assistance - Land Based Emergencies

Note: Coast Guard Jurisdiction is BELOW high tide - NOT on land!
Relay Assistance via Coast Guard working channel 83A or, last resort, channel 16

Once on channel 83A (listen, if there is no traffic)
Say, "Victoria Coast Guard Radio, Victoria Coast Guard Radio, Victoria Coast Guard Radio"
"This is: _____ (name)" Repeat 3 times

LISTEN carefully to EACH question

"I am located on the South East corner of Valdes Island, approximately _____ metres north of Porlier Pass. This is a LAND BASED emergency. No phone service is available. Request Radio Patch through to 911." GIVE GPS COORDINATES