

## **LEFT COAST EVENTS (pt ii) - Victoria & Islands - Aug 15th, 2005**

Posted by

Monday, 15 August 2005 05:40 - Last Updated Monday, 15 August 2005 05:40

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### **LEFT COAST EVENTS (pt ii) - Victoria & Islands - Aug 15th, 2005**

1. RECONNECTING TO LIFE: A WORKSHOP FOR ACTIVISTS - September 24 & 25th
2. The 7th Annual Salt Spring Island Apple Festival - October
3. Acousticfest 2005, Open Air, other Music Options
4. ISLAND BLUEGRASS NEWSLETTER (IBN)
5. Employment Options for Persons with Disabilities
6. Logging Propaganda at new BC Ferry Terminal
7. MEDIA TIPS AND LEADS
8. Revisiting Hiroshima - By Norm Chomsky

#### **1. RECONNECTING TO LIFE: A WORKSHOP FOR ACTIVISTS**

The Council of Canadians is pleased to sponsor a two-day workshop (including an evening session on the first day) for local community activists.

Reconnecting to Life workshops welcome everyone who cares about our planet. Exploring and moving through our defenses and distractions will enable us to touch our true feelings about our troubled world. Facing our distress in a safe and transformative process helps us to find refuge and renewal in our own hearts, in nature and in community.

No solutions or answers will be offered; rather, the workshop provides an environment in which we can draw on our collective experience to find ways forward which are heart-felt, thoughtful and sustainable.

An intensive and safe group process involving interactive exercises, creative processes, ritual, reflection and discussion will enable us to:

examine the relationship between social justice and environmental movements  
support each other in strengthening our desire to participate in protecting our planet and all life on it

#### **Participant comments**

"The process enabled me to transform pain and anger into energy and hope and personal action. Thank you."

Community activist

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"The retreat was fantastic! The atmosphere was very open, the work was deep, rigidity was totally absent and the last evening was explosive fun!"  
Volunteer, David Suzuki Foundation".

Jackie Larkin and Maggie Ziegler are active in labor, social justice and environmental movements. Currently Jackie is employed as an educator with the BC Nurses Union and Maggie as a psychotherapist specializing in trauma. Both have extensive facilitation experience and have partnered in recent years to co-facilitate Reconnecting to Life retreats. Their work, inspired by the writings and mentoring of Joanna Macy - eco-philosopher, activist and workshop guide - also integrates a wide range of diverse experiences and influences.

**WHEN:** September 24-25, 2005 (The session on September 24th will run from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM including dinner. The September 25th session will run from 9:00 to 5:00 PM.

**WHERE:** Queenswood House  
2494 Arbutus Road, Victoria  
(a beautiful and tranquil retreat minutes from the city centre)

**COST:** \$100.00/participant includes nutrition breaks both days, two full lunches and one dinner, plus all participant materials.

The workshop is very popular and tends to fill quickly. Registration is on a first come-first served basis and space is limited so please register early. Reserve your space by phoning R. Burris at 386-5452 or e-mailing [rburris@shaw.ca](mailto:rburris@shaw.ca) . Please include your name, address, phone number and organization/group(s) of which you are a member. Please mail your \$100.00 cheque, made out to the Council of Canadians - Victoria Chapter to Roberta Burris, 2745 Blackwood Street, Victoria, V8T 3W6

From: "Jackie Larkin" <[jlarkin@bcnu.org](mailto:jlarkin@bcnu.org)>

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2. The 7th Annual Salt Spring Island Apple Festival

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On Sunday, Oct 2, 2005, you can get to Apple Heaven while still on earth!  
Become a Salt Spring Island Apple Connoisseur for a day.  
Get to explore our incredible island, the Organic Gardening Capital of Canada.

We grow over 350 varieties of apples here, with an apple history back to 1860.

Highlights:

The Grand Opening at Fulford Hall will include some theatre. We will be visited by the Ghost of Johnny Appleseed, who will address the crowd. We will also get to see Captain Apple, a new superhero, whose main ambition is to connect children with the wonderful world of Apples. Then to top the whole thing off, the QUEEN, portrayed by Reid Collins, will knight Johnny Appleseed .

This festival will be celebrating the finest British apple, THE COX ORANGE PIPPINS and at least 22 of the fabulous Cox crosses that exist.

Over 200 labeled varieties of apples on display at Fulford Hall, with the collection sold to the highest bidder at the end of the day.

All apples are grown organically on Salt Spring Island.

About 15 farms open to the public, some only on Apple Festival Day. These farms will feature their own combination of apple tasting, orchard touring, historical facts, education info, apple selling, apple juice, and apple preserves.

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Learn about Blue Orchard (Mason) bees from the experts.

Get to taste at least 100 apple varieties, just at Apple Luscious Organic Orchard..

Visit and taste the apple baking of Salt Springs own Bread Lady, who bakes in a wood fired outdoor oven.

Get to taste the pies of the Salt Spring Island Women's Institute, who had 8 labeled varieties of apple pie last year.

Get to experience red-fleshed apples.

Enjoy lunches in the orchard, by incredible local cooks.

Take home your fall supply of apples.

### Details

The festival runs from 9 AM to 5 PM.

Tickets are \$10 each, students \$5 and children under 12 are free. Tickets will be available ONLY on Sunday, Oct 2, 2005 (the day of the festival) at

a) Fulford Hall

b) outside the Ganges Info Centre.

Proceeds to the Organic Apple Network of Salt Spring Island (OANOSI) to purchase apple processing equipment.

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Here is a website for the 2005 Salt Spring Island Apple Festival

<http://www.saltspringmarket.com/apples>

### Contact Info

Apple Luscious Organic Orchard  
Growing over 200 connoisseur apple varieties  
Certified Organic by IOPA (#902)  
Harry Burton  
110 Heidi Place  
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K-1W5  
<http://www.appleluscious.com>  
250-653-2007

The 7th Annual Salt Spring Island Apple Festival  
Sunday, Oct 2, 2005  
A chance to visit Apple Heaven while still on earth!  
<http://www.saltspringmarket.com/apples/>

From: Harry Burton <[burtonh@saltspring.com](mailto:burtonh@saltspring.com)>

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### 3. Acousticfest 2005, Open Air, other Music Options

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Acousticfest 2005

Peter Rowan's New Acoustic Trio (8:30pm-10pm)

Marc Atkinson Trio (7pm-8pm)

Zubot & Dawson (5:30pm-6:30pm)

Friday, August 26th, 2005

"Open Air" - Centennial Square, Downtown Victoria

Showtime 5:30pm - 10pm, Doors 4:30pm

Tickets Only \$23, \$25 @ Door

Tickets available at: Lyle's Place 250-382-8422 & McPherson Box Office 250-386-6121

To Schedule interviews with Peter Rowan:

Bobbi Hoffaman - (Keith Case and Associates)

Phone (615) 327-4646

Fax (615) 327-4949

[bobbi@keithcase.com](mailto:bobbi@keithcase.com)

To Schedule interviews with any members of Marc Atkinson Trio:

Marc Atkinson's # is 250 335 1593

[marc@marcatkinson.com](mailto:marc@marcatkinson.com)

To Schedule interviews with Zubot & Dawson:

Kathy Campbell

Pooka Print

Tel: 604-732-6071

Email: [pooka47@shaw.ca](mailto:pooka47@shaw.ca)

Websites: <http://www.peterrowan.com>

<http://www.marcatkinson.com>

<http://www.zubotanddawson.com>

Upcoming High Tide Entertainment Shows:

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Jesse Winchester

with opening guests... Allen Dobb

Friday, August 12th, 2005

Gibson Auditorium - Camosun College - Landsdown, 1300 Foul Bay Rd.

Showtime 8:00pm, Doors 7:30pm, Open seating

Tickets: \$25 Advance / \$28 Door (Tickets on sale June 1st)

Tickets available at: Lyles Place (cash only) 250-382-8422 & McPherson Box Office (service charge) 250-386-6121

To Schedule interviews with?Jesse contact:

Keith Case and Associates

1025 17th Ave. South, 2nd Floor

Nashville, TN 37204

Phone (615) 327-4646

Fax (615) 327-4949

Website: <http://www.jessewinchester.com>

Trio!

Bela Fleck - Stanley Clarke - Jean-Luc Ponty

Thursday, August 25th, 2005

Royal Theatre, Victoria

Showtime 8:00pm

Tickets: \$45-\$55 Advance

Tickets available at: McPherson Box Office 250-386-6121

To Schedule interviews with Bela Fleck, Stanley Clarke and/or Jean-Luc Ponty:

Diane Hadley

310.273.2060

310.276.4037 (fax)

[DHadley552@aol.com](mailto:DHadley552@aol.com)

Website: <http://www.ponty.com>

<http://www.belafleck.com>

<http://www.stanleyclarke.com>

Acousticfest 2005

Peter Rowan's New Acoustic Trio (8:30pm-10pm)

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[bobbi@keithcase.com](mailto:bobbi@keithcase.com)

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Marc Atkinson's # is 250 335 1593

[marc@marcatkinson.com](mailto:marc@marcatkinson.com)

To Schedule interviews with Zubot & Dawson:

Kathy Campbell

Pooka Print

Tel: 604-732-6071

Email: [pooka47@shaw.ca](mailto:pooka47@shaw.ca)

Websites: <http://www.peterrowan.com>

<http://www.marcatkinson.com>

<http://www.zubotanddawson.com>

Leon Russell and Band

Tuesday, September 13th, 2005

Yale Pub, Vancouver

Showtime 8pm "Early Show"

Leon Russell and Band

Wednesday, September 14th, 2005

Legends Nightclub, Victoria

Showtime 8pm "Early Show"

Cabaret Style - seating for 250 (first come, first serve)

<http://www.leonrussellrecords.com>

The Unknown Soldiers - Doors Tribute

Friday, September 16th, 2005

Central Bar & Grill, 708 View St.

Showtime 9:30pm, Doors 7pm

<http://www.theunknownsoldiers.net>

Ashley MacIsaac & Band

Saturday, September 17th 2005



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Central Bar & Grill, 708 View St.  
Showtime 9:30pm, Doors 7pm  
<http://www.ashley-macisaac.com>

"The Ultimate AC/DC Tribute Band!"  
Thunderstruck  
Friday, Sept. 23 and Sat. Sept. 24th, 2005  
Central Bar & Grill, 708 View St.  
Showtime 9:30pm, Doors 7pm  
<http://www.exposureentertainment.com/Thunderstruck.html>

Hootenanny Tour 2005 with:  
Jenny Whiteley, Carolyn Mark, Luther Wright and other guest TBA  
Thursday, Oct. 20th  
Central Bar & Grill, 708 View St.  
Showtime 9:30pm, Doors 7pm

David Francey  
Tuesday, Oct. 25th, 2005  
Gibson Auditorium (Young Bldg), Camosun College 1300 Foul Bay Rd.  
Showtime 7:30pm  
<http://www.davidfrancey.com>

Tri-Continental  
with Lester Quitzau, Bill Bourne & Madagascar Slim  
Saturday, Nov. 19th, 2005  
Gibson Auditorium (Young Bldg), Camosun College 1300 Foul Bay Rd.  
<http://www.festival.bc.ca/index.php?target=/top30/tricontinental.html>  
<http://www.lesterq.com>  
<http://www.billbourne.com>  
<http://www.amokmusic.ca/slim.html>

Jane Siberry  
Wednesday, Nov. 23rd - Centennial Theatre, North Vancouver, Showtime 8pm  
Thursday, Nov. 24th - Gibson Auditorium, 2 Shows! "early show" 7pm & "late show" 9pm, 2005  
<http://www.sheeba.ca>

Vienna Boys Choir  
Friday, March 24th, 2006 (Tickets not on sale until 2006)  
Alix Goolen Performance Hall

From: "High Tide Entertainment" <[high-tide@telus.net](mailto:high-tide@telus.net)>

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### 4. ISLAND BLUEGRASS NEWSLETTER (IBN)

Victoria

Erynn Marshall and Chris Coole

Where: The Orange Hall 1620 Fernwood Rd in Victoria, British Columbia  
Time: Friday August 19th/2005. 8pm sharp. Doors 7:30. Tix: at the door only. No advance reservations. \$10 or free admission with CD purchase (\$20)

Peter Rowan

Saturday afternoon, August 27th (2:00 pm) at the Orange Hall (1620 Fernwood Road, Victoria)

Tickets \$15, phone Ray France at (250) 598-6677... cell 888-6654 <http://www.peter-rowan.com>

The Foggy Hogtown Boys

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Tuesday, September 6 ? 1620 Fernwood Road, Victoria

<http://www.victoriabluegrass.ca>

Vancouver

The Mountain Bluebirds

Hello Friends,

Actually you have a choice, we have two shows on Saturday August 20th so if you're a daytime kinda person you could check us out at Cates Park on the North Shore Saturday afternoon at 4pm or if you're more a night time kinda person you might want to come see us at The Main on Main street later that night. For more detailed information check out the schedule at our fabulous web site <http://www.mountainbluebirds.com/html/schedule.html>

Come on out and see how our summer's been so far, we'd love to see you!

From: "IBNtown" <[IBNtown@telus.net](mailto:IBNtown@telus.net)>

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## 5. Employment Options for Persons with Disabilities

Are you a person with a disability?

Are you interested in working from your own home to earn more income?

Would you like to learn how online?

Would you like to meet other entrepreneurs with disabilities with similar interests?

Then you might be a good candidate for two online entrepreneurial programs offered by the Canadian Society for Social Development (CSSD) for persons with disabilities.

The Canadian Society for Social Development is a federally incorporated, non-profit society with charitable status. CSSD is part of the Community Futures Network of British Columbia. Their mandate is to provide online employment and skills training to persons with disabilities across Canada.

CSSD is looking for students?

Who have an interest in becoming self-employed  
Who already have some basic computer skills

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Who find it difficult to work outside of home

Who are unable to attend regular in-house training programs

Who have a desire to learn and strive for independence

For more information on CSSD click here: <http://www.cssd-web.org>

The two programs they offer are:

The Business Abilities Program - (Enrolment is ongoing)

The Business Abilities Program provides a two phase approach to starting your business. In Phase One they offer a free 12 week online 'Preparing for Business' course that you work through at your own pace and in the comfort of your own home. It teaches you how to assess your entrepreneurial skills, research your business idea and prepare your business plan.

Business coaches will be available to answer your questions and to brainstorm ideas with you through instant text messaging and email. They will review your completed business plan and provide free advice throughout Phase One. You can also chat with other entrepreneurs with disabilities in the 'Conversation Caf' on a number of business related subjects.

In Phase Two you will be able to attend virtual classroom sessions with online business experts discussing a variety of business topics. Advanced Business Management modules are also available free of charge for entrepreneurs wanting to learn how to grow their business. Business coaches are still available to ask advice from.

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Social Development Canada has provided the funding to offer this service for Canadian?s with disabilities. To be eligible for this program you must:

- have a permanent disability or chronic health problem
- be unemployed (working less than an average of 20 hours per week)
- Not collecting employment insurance benefits (EI) or have been in the last 3-5 years (some exceptions can be made ...please inquire)
- be legally entitled to work in Canada
- be in need of coaching assistance to prepare for self employment

Click here to go to: <http://www.businessabilities.ca>

The Internet Business Development for Entrepreneurs with Disabilities - (Classes start each autumn)

The IBDE program teaches new marketable skills to adults with physical disabilities, in a self-paced and supported work and learning environment. (This program can be taken before or after the Business Abilities Program or on its own)

The IBDE program is a three month on-line, web design course followed by a three-month segment where you build a website for your own business or earn income by designing websites for other small businesses. Websites are then showcased at: <http://www.virtualmall.ca>. Throughout the six months you have access to the online instructors through instant text messaging and email. The course is accredited by Selkirk College and funded by Human Resources Skills Development Canada, the Vancouver Foundation and Western Economic Diversification. To be eligible you must:

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have a permanent disability or chronic health problem  
be unemployed (working less than an average 20 hours per week)  
be legally entitled to work in Canada  
have some computer skills (questionnaire is given to assess skills)  
have a computer that meets the requirements for web design work  
have an Internet connection

Click here to go to: <http://www.ibde.ca>

This information has been provided by the Canadian Society for Social Development. To contact them for more information go to <http://www.cssd-web.org> .

Funded by:

Thanks for you help in getting the word out.

Kay Ryan  
Executive Director  
Canadian Society for Social Development  
Direct Ph: 250-825-9433  
[kryan@cssd-web.org](mailto:kryan@cssd-web.org)

Check out:

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<http://www.businessabilities.ca>

<http://www.ibde.ca>

<http://www.virtualmall.ca>

<http://www.cssd-web.org>

From: "BC Rural Women" <[bcruralwomen@junction.net](mailto:bcruralwomen@junction.net)>

<http://www.bcruralwomen.ca>

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## 6. Logging Propaganda at new BC Ferry Terminal

Remove Logging Industry Propaganda Displays from the new Tsawwassen BC Ferry Terminal, Wilderness Committee tells BC Liberal government

?I almost gagged on my gelato cone when I noticed the government-sponsored logging propaganda displays in the new Tsawwassen Quay ferry terminal yesterday?, states a flabbergasted Ken Wu, campaign director of the WCWC in Victoria. ?Taxpayer-funded greenwashing of the logging industry?s destruction of old-growth forests is totally inappropriate at the new ferry terminal. The major logging corporations who funded the BC Liberal Party?s election must be beaming with joy at this slick manoeuvre.?

Three new, large displays, with highly misleading factoids and photos about the state of BC?s forests are mounted on large wooden structures (cross sections of giant old-growth trees) in a prominent location in the new Tsawwassen Quay, which has replaced the former publicly-owned



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ferry terminal. The gist of the text and photos conveys the message that ?all is well in BC?s forests? and that BC?s forests, wildlife, and endangered species are being managed sustainably - so keep buying ancient forest wood products from BC.

The Lonsdale Quay Marketing Corporation owns and operates the new Tsawwassen Quay after signing a contract with the newly privatized BC Ferry Corporation. According to Lonsdale staff, the company then signed a ?long-term contract? with the BC government who paid them to set-up the logging displays under the auspices of the BC Market Outreach Network, a BC government initiative to promote BC old-growth wood products around the world. Its website, <http://www.bcforestinformation.com> , is heavily featured on the new logging displays at the Tsawwassen Quay.

Some of the key misleading ?Facts? promoted on the displays, and a Reality Check, are as follows:

Logging Spin: ?We log a fraction of one per cent of our forests each year.?

Reality Check: We log far more than ?a fraction of one percent? when you look at productive forests (ie. the big treed, biologically diverse forests where logging occurs and where the greatest conservation values also occur). About half of BC?s forests are productive ? the rest are non-commercial, marginal subalpine, bog, rocky, and northern forests. In addition, a good deal of BC?s productive forests have already been logged. When marginal and logged forests are taken out of the equation, companies log over one percent of BC?s productive forests every year. That means the rotation age in BC as a whole is lower than 100 years in BC (ie. in 100 years, we cut 100% of our productive forests), in a province naturally covered over vast regions with 500 to 1500 year old trees. ie. we are greatly overcutting our forests and converting them into younger age classes that never acquire old-growth characteristics before being relogged.

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Logging Spin: ?More than half of BC?s forests is protected or will likely never be logged for economic or environmental reasons.?

Reality Check: This statement is carefully crafted to join ?economic? and ?environmental reasons? together. Again, about half of BC?s forests are economically unproductive (ie. bogs, rocky, subalpine, northern) ? that?s the ?economic? reason, while only a tiny fraction of BC?s productive forests (8%) is in our parks system. The vast majority of BC?s productive forests are slated for logging.

Logging Spin: ?BC has 12 million hectares of protected lands where no forestry, mining, or industrial development is allowed.?

Reality Check: Most of those 12 million hectares consist of alpine tundra, subalpine marginal forests, and bogs. About 3 million hectares of our parks consists of productive forests. The ?12 million hectare? figure misleads readers into thinking that 12 million hectares of productive forests are saved, since the ferry displays focus on the forest industry which only operates in productive forests.

Logging Spin: ?Research proves wood is the best building choice for the environment.?

Reality Check: The question is not whether wood per se should be used for building, but rather wood from 500 year old ancient trees cut down in endangered forest ecosystems should be used. True, wood per se is renewable, but NOT old-growth forests at the rate of logging in BC. Old-growth forests account for almost 90% of the harvest in BC. It?s dishonest to conflate the two and fail to make the necessary distinction between old-growth and tree plantation-produced wood.

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Logging Spin: ?When a forest is logged, it is returned to forest. Just two percent of BC?s land has been converted to other uses.?

Reality Check: When an old-growth forest is logged in BC, it is converted into a biologically impoverished tree plantation that lacks the old-growth characteristics and species of the original forest. The question is not whether trees grow back ? generally, they do - but rather whether or not the same type of forest ecosystem grows back after logging. Under BC?s system of forestry, it does not. ie. it?s not a ?tree? issue, but rather an ?ecosystem? or ?habitat? issue. In addition, the BC Liberal government has doubled the rate of the sell-off of BC?s public forest lands to private real estate developers for golf courses, suburban sprawl, etc., from about \$40 million/year during the NDP?s reign to \$74 million/year now. They are the leaders in converting our forest lands into ?other uses?.

Logging Spin: ?One in every five jobs in BC is linked to the forestry industry. Forestry revenues build schools, hospitals, and highways in every corner of BC.?

Reality Check: The BC Liberal government are experts at eliminating the jobs of forestry workers - by expanding raw log exports, eliminating the local milling requirements (appurtenancy) that once existed for companies that cut on public lands, and by revising legislation to undermine the forestry unions.

Yes, forestry revenues do fund schools, hospitals, and highways - as do tourism revenues, fishing revenues, and other industries that are often threatened by unsustainable forestry activities in BC.

Other examples of the logging spin on the displays, (which would require a much longer press release to debunk!) include:

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?Forest activities on BC?s public land must follow strict laws with measures to protect fisheries, wildlife, biodiversity, old growth, soil, and water. Long before a tree is cut, resource professionals must know how this will affect the forest today and decades into the future.?

?Resource managers must accommodate habitat needs to support healthy wildlife populations with special consideration for species at risk.?

?What is the greenest building material? Wood ? it?s renewable, recyclable, and grows with solar energy.?

The Wilderness Committee is calling on the Gordon Campbell government to immediately remove the blatant logging industry propaganda displays from the ferry terminal or else face a growing public campaign.

Some of the campaigns that the Wilderness Committee is working on, which the new ferry display runs counter to, include:

- Expanding our protected areas system throughout BC, for example, on Vancouver Island to include ancient forests in the Upper Walbran Valley, pristine valleys and islands in Clayoquot Sound, East Creek Rainforest, and Nahmint Valley.
- Protecting endangered species such as the spotted owl, mountain caribou, and marbled murrelet which all need old-growth forests to survive.
- Reducing the unsustainable rate of logging, where over 80 million cubic metres of wood is logged each year in BC, while the long-term sustainable rate of cutting is less than half that.
- Stopping the sell-off or privatization of public (Crown) lands throughout BC.
- Banning the export of raw logs.

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?I know I?m not the only one disgusted by the anti-forest protection display funded with taxpayers? money at our ferry terminal. Everyone who sees this anti-environmental garbage should let their BC Liberal MLA?s know in no uncertain terms what they think about it ? as well as the owners of the Tsawwassen Quay,? states Wu.

?We need to protect more ancient forests in BC, not slickly rationalize their liquidation and conversion into tree plantations.?

For more info contact:

Ken Wu, WCWC Victoria  
(250) 388-9292

From: "WCWC Vic" <[wc2vic@island.net](mailto:wc2vic@island.net)>

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### 7. MEDIA TIPS AND LEADS

**UVIC AIMS TO TAME TRAFFIC WITH NEW PASSES:** The University of Victoria is offering its staff two new transportation options this fall, part of the university's continuing commitment to reduce motor vehicle traffic to campus. To encourage the use of public transit, staff will be able to purchase a monthly employee bus pass for \$38 beginning Aug. 15. The passes will not be available to those purchasing annual UVic parking passes. The university is making a contribution to the cost of the passes from funds allocated for transportation demand management (TDM) initiatives. BC Transit is also providing financial support-the first partnership of its kind in Western Canada.

Staff also have the option of purchasing a flexible monthly parking pass. The \$100 annual

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Flexi-pass permits drivers to park on campus up to 12 days a month, encouraging cycling, walking or taking transit the remaining days. This pilot project is also being offered for one year. "These new passes are part of a series of initiatives to encourage positive changes in travel behaviour," says UVic's TDM co-ordinator Allan Dunlop. "They reflect the university's commitment to its campus plan goal of reducing the amount of motor vehicle traffic coming to campus." UVic has also allocated funds to improve bike storage facilities and other amenities for cyclists and created a Rideshare program, providing designated parking spots during peak times for vehicles with three or more program participants. Details on these programs are available at <http://web.uvic.ca/fmgt/TDM-main.html>

Media contacts:

Allan Dunlop (TDM coordinator) at (250) 472-5646 or [adunlop@fmgt.uvic.ca](mailto:adunlop@fmgt.uvic.ca)

Patty Pitts (UVic Communications) at (250) 721-7656 or [ppitts@uvic.ca](mailto:ppitts@uvic.ca)

UVic media releases and other resources for journalists are available at [communications.uvic.ca/media](http://communications.uvic.ca/media)

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### 8. Revisiting Hiroshima - By Norm Chomsky

Revisiting Hiroshima  
By Noam Chomsky

## LEFT COAST EVENTS (pt ii) - Victoria & Islands - Aug 15th, 2005

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08/02/05 "ICH" -- -- THIS month's anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki prompts only the most sombre reflection and most fervent hope that the horror may never be repeated.

In the subsequent 60 years, those bombings have haunted the world's imagination but not so much as to curb the development and spread of infinitely more lethal weapons of mass destruction.

A related concern, discussed in technical literature well before 9-11, is that nuclear weapons may sooner or later fall into the hands of terrorist groups.

The recent explosions and casualties in London are yet another reminder of how the cycle of attack and response could escalate, unpredictably, even to a point horrifically worse than Hiroshima or Nagasaki.

The world's reigning power accords itself the right to wage war at will, under a doctrine of "anticipatory self-defence" that covers any contingency it chooses. The means of destruction are to be unlimited.

US military expenditures approximate those of the rest of the world combined, while arms sales by 38 North American companies (one in Canada) account for over 60 per cent of the world total (which rose 25 per cent since 2002).

There have been efforts to strengthen the thin thread on which survival hangs. The most important is the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which came into force in 1970. The regular five-year review conference of the NPT took place at the United Nations in May.

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The NPT has been facing collapse, primarily because of the failure of the nuclear states to live up their obligation under Article VI to pursue "good faith" efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons. The United States has led the way in refusal to abide by the Article VI obligations. Mohamed El-Baradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, emphasizes that "reluctance by one party to fulfil its obligations breeds reluctance in others."

President Jimmy Carter blasted the United States as "the major culprit in this erosion of the NPT. While claiming to be protecting the world from proliferation threats in Iraq, Libya, Iran and North Korea, American leaders not only have abandoned existing treaty restraints but also have asserted plans to test and develop new weapons, including antiballistic missiles, the earth-penetrating 'bunker buster' and perhaps some new 'small' bombs. They also have abandoned past pledges and now threaten first use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states."

The thread has almost snapped in the years since Hiroshima, repeatedly. The best known case was the Cuban missile crisis of October 1962, "the most dangerous moment in human history," as Arthur Schlesinger, historian and former adviser to President John F. Kennedy, observed in October 2002 at a retrospective conference in Havana.

The world "came within a hair's breadth of nuclear disaster," recalls Robert McNamara, Kennedy's defence secretary, who also attended the retrospective. In the May-June issue of Foreign Policy, he accompanies this reminder with a renewed warning of "apocalypse soon."

McNamara regards "current US nuclear weapons policy as immoral, illegal, militarily unnecessary and dreadfully dangerous," creating "unacceptable risks to other nations and to our own," both the risk of "accidental or inadvertent nuclear launch," which is "unacceptably high," and of nuclear attack by terrorists. McNamara endorses the judgment of William Perry, President Bill Clinton's defence secretary, that "there is a greater than 50 per cent probability of a nuclear strike on US targets within a decade."



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Similar judgments are commonly expressed by prominent strategic analysts. In his book Nuclear Terrorism, Harvard international relations specialist Graham Allison reports the "consensus in the national security community" (of which he has been a part) that a "dirty bomb" attack is "inevitable," and an attack with a nuclear weapon highly likely, if fissionable materials - the essential ingredient - are not retrieved and secured.

Allison reviews the partial success of efforts to do so since the early 1990s, under the initiatives of Sen. Sam Nunn and Sen. Richard Lugar, and the setback to these programmes from the first days of the Bush administration, paralysed by what Sen. Joseph Biden called "ideological idiocy."

The Washington leadership has put aside nonproliferation programmes and devoted its energies and resources to driving the country to war by extraordinary deceit, then trying to manage the catastrophe it created in Iraq. The threat and use of violence is stimulating nuclear proliferation along with jihadi terrorism.

A high-level review of the "war on terror" two years after the invasion "focused on how to deal with the rise of a new generation of terrorists, schooled in Iraq over the past couple years," Susan B. Glasser reports in The Washington Post. "Top government officials are increasingly turning their attention to anticipate what one called 'the bleed out' of hundreds or thousands of Iraq-trained jihadists back to their home countries throughout the Middle East and Western Europe. 'It's a new piece of a new equation,' a former senior Bush administration official said. 'If you don't know who they are in Iraq, how are you going to locate them in Istanbul or London?'"

US terrorism specialist Peter Bergen says in The Boston Globe that "the president is right that Iraq is a main front in the war on terrorism, but this is a front we created."

Shortly after the London bombing, Chatham House, Britain's premier foreign affairs institution, released a study drawing the obvious conclusion - denied with outrage by the government - that "the UK is at particular risk because it is the closest ally of the

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United States, has deployed armed forces in the military campaigns to topple the Taleban regime in Afghanistan and in Iraq ... (and is) a pillion passenger" of American policy, sitting behind the driver of the motorcycle. The probability of apocalypse soon cannot be realistically estimated, but it is surely too high for any sane person to contemplate with equanimity. While speculation is pointless, reaction to the threat of another Hiroshima is definitely not.

On the contrary, it is urgent, particularly in the United States, because of Washington's primary role in accelerating the race to destruction by extending its historically unique military dominance.

Noam Chomsky is a professor of linguistics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the author, most recently, of Hegemony or Survival: America's Quest for Global Dominance. ?2005 by Noam Chomsky

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From: Gary McNutt <[g\\_mcnutt@yahoo.com](mailto:g_mcnutt@yahoo.com)>

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Victoria Street Newz - <http://streetnewz.communitypipe.org>

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"Loyalty to petrified opinion never yet broke a chain or freed a human soul."

Mark Twain

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Janine Bandcroft, B.A., B.Ed.  
1027 Pandora St.

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