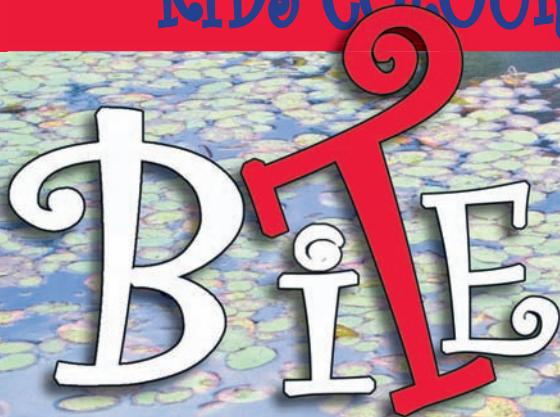


# KIDS COLOURING CONTEST



Bowen Island Times Editions

# \$1,460,148

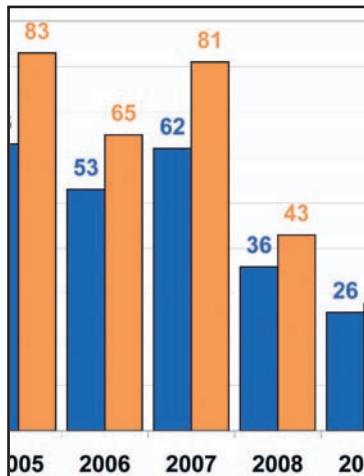
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## view from aBroad

Islander Andrea Bastion on her Ghana experience

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## the state of real estate on Bowen

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## faction friction

brings Bowen Island to the world stage

Pg. 2

# COMMUNITY LETTERS, NEWS & NOTICES

## I find it truly enigmatic

The Eco Alliance sends out a flyer requesting our new CAO to reject the proposal set forth by the owners of Cape Roger Curtis to develop their lands in accordance with present land use law.

Instead they want a park and trails—which presumably the Municipality would have to buy outright and pay to maintain. But listen, the owners of Cape Roger Curtis did just that—their proposal dedicated a major portion of the land for a park as well as trails—for free—as a gift to the Municipality. Plus clustered housing (very environmentally desirable); affordable housing; housing for the elderly and a host of other land use benefits, plus a very substantial cash donation to the Municipality. In all of this the developers were following Council's directives. And development was to come about over a number of years so it could be accommodated slowly into the Island.

Now why was this rejected by the Eco Alliance and the Cape Roger Curtis Society (those opposed to the proposal) when Bowen had so much to gain? Why did the Municipal Council turn it down? Now we can expect 58 or 60 ten acre lots instead, with no park or trails, scattered development of high cost homes (who can afford a ten acre lot and not build a mansion on it). So there goes the park, the trails, the affordable housing, the seniors housing and millions in cash to the Muni—let alone trying to maintain some balance in our population make-up. All turned down. So, with that rejection, the developers ask for nothing more than their rights. But now the Alliance wants a park!

I have a suggestion. If the Alliance wants it so badly, why don't they go out and get the money and pay for it? I don't want it on my tax bill—not when Bowen has square miles of a major Metro Park (Crippen Park) abutting both sides of Snug Cove—which we get to use but do not pay for with Municipal taxes. We also have a Provincial Park, plus many square miles of Crown lands (with trails on them), plus a square mile ecological preserve, plus several scattered Municipal parks and trails. So if the Alliance wants a park at Cape Roger Curtis, then let them pay for it. Not just buy it, but pay the annual maintenance as well.

Bowen Island is extraordinarily blessed with publicly owned open space—most of which we don't have to pay for. I know of no other Metro jurisdiction with as much open space as we have that doesn't have to pay for it out of their own budget. We're lucky. And we could have had even more if the Cape Roger proposal had gone forward. Now we will be forced to buy it if we want CRC parkland—when we could have had it for free. It is indeed an enigma.

*Bruce Howlett*

## Outsmarting ourselves

At least one awakened-being purports that our human commonality is in the fact that we all want happiness and do not want suffering.

We all want to thrive and, given the material world we live in, there is an association with our financial income and our relative ease of survival. Within reason, it is evident that a sufficient income makes survival issues drop below the radar

and insufficient income makes survival issues uncomfortably dominant in our view. Beyond mere financial survival, but somewhat dependent on it, there is the sort of thriving that can occur when one has time for creativity and investing in worthwhile pursuits; even the pursuit of self-actualization.

Especially in a small community, we can easily see that we are all interconnected; that there is a strong connection between the health of the community and the health of the individual is self-evident. But because our default setting can be toward being fearful and self preoccupied, we often and shortsightedly sacrifice the community health upon which the individual health is dependent.

We all want to see our community thrive and we all want to do it without destroying our natural and rural environment, yet it would seem that in our limited perspective our legislative efforts to preserve a natural setting have limited our capability of nurturing a thriving community. A thriving community needs strong social, cultural, and economic diversity. Through our lack of allowing for even fostering social diversity, our current official community plan stands for yet another example of how we humans have managed to outsmart ourselves.

*Richard Best*

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## BICC golf tourney thank-you

The first annual Bowen Island Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament was a tremendous success! The weather was great and a good time was had by all.

We would like to thank the following people for their generous support.

Hole Sponsors: Superior Propane, The Ruddy Potato, The Snug Cove General Store, The Bowen Island Golf Club, Quickway Enterprises, and Matthews I.T. Consulting.

Prize Donors: Denis Lang of the Electric Car Company for the hole-in-one prize, AXA Pacific for the hole-in-one prize, Bottoms Up Clothing Co., Shaw Cablesystems, Bowen Island Fishing Charters, Mary McDonagh, James Goldfarb, The Ruddy Potato, The Gym on Bowen, Cocoa West, and Bowen Island Flower Shop.

Special Thanks to all of the players who joined us for such a fabulous day – we look forward to seeing you again next year!!

Thank you to the Spencer, William, and Frank at the Bowen Island Golf Club for making everything run so smoothly.



Jin Park of The General Store . . . at the beach



Chamber members outstanding in their field . . . rumour has it their golf game's not bad either!

**CORRECTION:** In the September 4, 2009 issue of BITE, we mistakenly suggested that the OCP Update Steering Committee was prepared to receive briefs from individuals and businesses for the October 22 Ideas Forum. BITE did not have updated information at press time and apologizes for any confusion. The committee is asking for briefs from charitable and not-for-profit organizations and volunteer groups whose work affects the entire island.

## NEW! Subscription rates offered

We have had many requests for a subscription rate. Some of our readers want postal delivery to an off-island residence and others want to retain their "no second class mail" restriction on Bowen Island and still receive BITE. As a result, we are offering a 26 issue subscription rate at \$39<sup>00</sup> (GST included, Canada only). Make cheques payable to StickyBee.

To subscribe to BITE, contact Darcie Buzzelle at 604-947-0750 or email her at [advertising@bowenistimes.com](mailto:advertising@bowenistimes.com) with 'Subscription' in the subject and include your name, address and postal code in the body of the text.

## COMMENTARY AND COMMUNITY ISSUES

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The views and opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily shared by the BITE.

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21	9 Oct 2009	16 Oct 2009
22	23 Oct 2009	30 Oct 2009
23	6 Nov 2009	13 Nov 2009
24	20 Nov 2009	27 Nov 2009
25	4 Dec 2009	11 Dec 2009
26	18 Dec 2009	25 Dec 2009
1	1 Jan 2010	8 Jan 2010
2	15 Jan 2010	22 Jan 2010
3	29 Jan 2010	5 Feb 2010
4	12 Feb 2010	19 Feb 2010
5	26 Feb 2010	5 Mar 2010
6	12 Mar 2010	19 Mar 2010
7	26 Mar 2010	1 Apr 2010

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# Faction friction

Brings Bowen to the world stage

by Tim Rhodes



Turf Field ALL LINED UP - the lines are actually permanent white turf and not chalked lines photo by Christine Walker

Had it not been for opposition to the installation of artificial turf, Bowen would perhaps not have what it now does: the safest and most environmentally responsible synthetic grass field available today. Both sides in the Turf Wars should have felt vindicated at the end of the public information meeting.

**Christine Walker, Community Services Manager**, provided a brief overview of the project which started in the autumn of 2007 and will be completed this week. All those presenting on behalf of the project praised the efforts of volunteers, whose contribution of labour and materials went a long way to keeping the project on budget. The labour and materials provided for supply and install of conduit (to provide for future lighting) significantly offset the cost of the artificial turf.

**Florrie Levine, Project Manager**, elaborated on the construction process, noting that in addition to building the field, most of the excavated material was disposed of on-site at snake field which was then leveled and re-seeded and lawn basins were added to the natural grass field to assist in drainage. Five turf products were considered and Limonta Sport "Geo Turf" was chosen. It fit the budget, met the civil engineering requirements, met Council's requirements for environmental stewardship, and is

designed to maximize performance for athletics and safety as a playground.

Walker introduced Domenic Carapella, Managing Director of Geo Turf USA. Carapella flew in from New York for the day to answer the public's questions and to mark "the first installation of its kind in Canada," Bowen's small field is equivalent to what is being used on the world stage and is FIFA 2 certified (the Federation Internationale de Football Association recommendation

*"When I first came [to the school], for the first three years [the playground] was sand, gravel—and the injuries were on a day-to-day basis. Some days I would see between 40 to 50 students. Since the installation of the Geo Safe Play turf, the incidence of children coming to nurse's office with injuries has decreased 70 percent."*

**Christine Mabardy-Higgins, School Nurse, International School of Boston**

for artificial turf designed specifically to mirror the playing characteristics of professional football.) Carapella told the audience that the Geo Turf product is the highest performing, safest, and most environmentally responsible product available, partly

because the company's roots are in Italy where soccer is a passion and where they must operate within strict environmental controls have been in force in Europe for years. The company has been producing artificial turf since 1981 and has 17,000 installations in 70 countries. Bowen's is first installation of this product in Canada;

Infill-Pro Geo, is a combination of fibre from the outside of the coconut and recycled cork material (left over after punching out wine bottle corks). The coconut fibre helps cool the turf with an evaporative effect and the high tannin content in cork naturally resists the growth of mold,

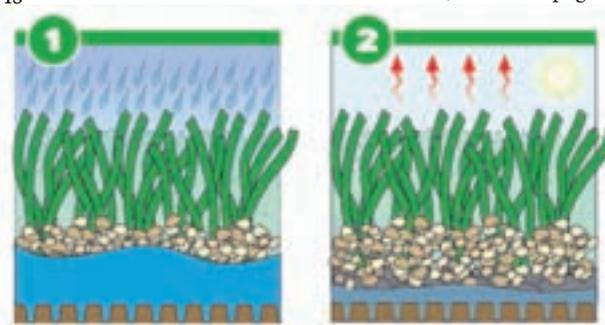
*"If Bowen Island has to have a plastic field inflicted upon us, then yours is probably the lesser evil."*

audience member

bacteria, and fungus. There is nothing in the infill or sub-base (essentially different grades of rock) that is harmful to the environment; in fact it acts as a natural filter and outflow is sometimes cleaner than the source and water can be returned directly back into environment. Geo Turf is 60 degrees cooler than traditional rubber crumb turf systems, contains no lead or hazardous materials, and all components are 100% recyclable. Bowen Council's strict requirements were challenging enough for Carapella to suggest that "if [an artificial turf supplier] can make it on Bowen Island, they can make it anywhere."

Carapella's answers to questions from the audience provided more detailed information:

- it is not necessary to water down Geo Turf to keep it cool because of evaporative effect of the coconut fibre in the infill which absorbs humidity that later evaporates out during the hottest part of the day;
- no chemicals are required to clean the turf: remove solids (animal droppings, refuse), hose off, sweep, and groom when necessary (sweeping reduces need for grooming);
- the turf drains vertically and can absorb up to 14" of rain per hour;
- the turf fibre is 100% polyethylene, primary backing is polyethylene; secondary backing is polyurethane, and 30% of the backing is manufactured from soybean.
- Geo Turf was not provided at a promotional price, the product was never beyond the budget; this is not a trial installation, and the product is under full warranty;
- the 8 year warranty is based on use as a professional practice field (50 hours per week). The Bowen installation should have at least a 10 year lifespan, at which time only the turf is replaced, not the sub-base. After about 3 years it may be necessary to top-up the infill with an amount usually equivalent to about 5% of original quantity;
- there is no firm data on off-gassing; however, Geo Turf has been certified by numerous European agencies, tested for heavy metals and volatiles by CDC (Centre for Disease Control), and exceeds all requirements for California (some of the most stringent environmental safeguards in the USA);
- Gmax is a measurement of impact absorption. Asphalt has a Gmax of 1000, 200 and above can cause head injury, natural grass has a Gmax of 60 – 100, the product used on Bowen has a Gmax of 83. The system is guaranteed never to exceed a Gmax of 145 during its lifetime and typically remains constant within 20% of the Gmax measured at installation;
- there is no need to clean or sterilize shoes. MRSA Staph is killed by heat and UV radiation and because grass is cooler than artificial turf, MRSA Staph tends to live an hour longer on grass. (continued page 17)



Evaporative Effect of the coconut fibre of the artificial turf

## Bowen Island Municipality

### Official Community Plan Update - IDEAS Forum

#### WHAT: IDEAS Forum

WHO: Bowen's Volunteer Groups and Organizations

WHEN: October 22 at 7:00 pm mingle 7:15 start to 9:30 pm

WHY: A chance for Bowen's volunteer groups to share their ideas about their needs and Bowen's future with other volunteer groups and community members.

Community members welcome.

981 Artisan Lane Bowen Island, B.C. V0N 1G0  
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# Turkey dance and social

by Sarah Haxby, Bowen Island Community School Coordinator

According to Wikipedia there is a peculiar use of "social" in some parts of the world. In the Canadian province of Manitoba, a "social" or 'Manitoba Social' is a fund raising party often for a wedding, small town hockey team, or some other worthy cause, and is usually held in a hall or community centre. Typically, they will include music, dancing, food, and raffles.

On Bowen Island we've always had our own way of doing things, and in the past socials were part of the Island's many traditions:

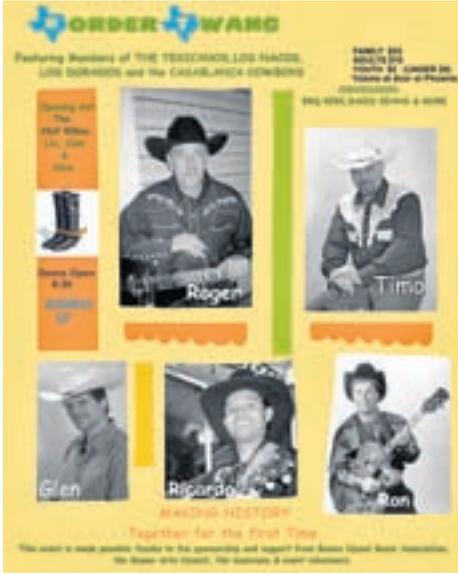
sometimes about fundraising and sometimes it is just about coming together as a community to celebrate. The Community School Association (CSA) and Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) have a lot to celebrate with the completion of the installation of the second phase of the community playground, the upcoming 24th Christmas Craft Fair, and 35 years as a community school—30 years at the current site—so we've decided to host

an old fashioned all-ages social at BICS, with support and sponsorship by the Bowen Island Music Arts (BIMA) and Bowen Island Arts Council (BIAC). We would like to invite the community

to come, gather, and enjoy some toe-tapping music and fine victuals, and to hang-out, dance, talk, and be merry. If you have visitors coming for the Thanksgiving weekend, well, they're welcome too!

The opening act is The Chill Billies: Bowen Island's own Liz Watson, Cam Hayduk, and 'Coco'

Lorraine Ashdown. The Chill Billies feature harmony vocals, bass, guitar, and mandolin. The main act, Border Twang, features Tex-Mex Y Mas music by islander Roger Arndt of the Texicanos, with members of Los Nacos, Los Dorados and the Casablanca Cowboys. A big thank-you to Roger for rounding up these professional musicians and bringing them to Bowen for the night—it's going to be a once-in-a-lifetime gathering of musical talent!



## **BITE** Around Bowen CONTEST WINNER



Carol Goldsmith, BITE Around Bowen Contest winner

Many thanks to all our readers who participated in the BITE Around Bowen Contest. Carol Goldsmith was the lucky winner in the draw for a \$100 Gift Certificate at the food establishment of her choice. Carol said, "This was a great promotion. Although we've been on the island for a couple of years, and have eaten at all the locations, it reminded us to revisit."

A special thanks to our advertisers Blue Eyed Marys, Artisan Eats, Alderwood Farm, Tuscany Restaurant, Nancy's Taco, Bowen Sushi, Mik•sa, The Ruddy Potato Store, Happy Isle Café, and The Ruddy Café & Garden for joining in our Summer Restaurant Guide promotion.

As we fall into the winter drudgery, take a night off from your in-house routine and enjoy the wonderful taste, flavours and foodie treats of Bowen's epicureans. A small indulgence or the full meal deal—treat yourself.



The Turkey Dance & Social is on Friday, October 9th at BICS. Doors at 6:30 pm. Bring the kids. The theme is cowboy and Tex-Mex and you're welcome to dress up if you feel like it—there will be decorations up and if you come hungry, the concession is featuring a menu that includes BBQ ribs, baked beans, and more offered by the fantastic kitchen crew. Everyone is invited to come, have fun, eat, and shake your tail feathers!

Tickets are available at the door, or buy your tickets today at Phoenix: \$25 Family, \$10 Adult, \$5 Youth (under 20). At those prices you know this is not another fundraiser—it's for just for fun!

## Bowen heritage

# APPLEFEST

**Saturday October 03**  
10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Davies Orchard and Bowen Island Heritage Preservation Association Community Garden & Orchard Tours

**Visit the Museum Cottage**  
Davies Orchard has an amazing heritage discover Bowen's history

**Taste a Bowen Grown Apple**  
Do you know the difference between an Alexander, Astrachan and Bell Flower? Learn from our Island Elders what makes the varieties special

**Fun for everyone**  
Kids come and Bob for Apples or Run a Three Legged Race

Learn how to make an Apple Doll or enter your Special Apple Pie into the Contest

**Community Health Fair at BICS**  
10:30am-3:30pm **Tables & demo time still available.** Information on local recreational, health and environmental opportunities will be represented. From inoculations to yoga, dance to sports to child care to a new eco-diaper alternative.

**Bowen Island Community Choir COFFEE HOUSE 7pm** Coffee House Cates Hill Chapel **TICKETS AT THE DOOR**

**The Fall Montessori Pre-School Kid and Kaboodle Sale.** Come and bag some great new to you deals in support of Bowen's Not-for-Profit Montessori Pre-School. Now Accepting gently used (with all their working pieces) clothes, shoes and toys from baby clothes & gear to 10 yr. old. For Info. call Sam at 2709.

**Remembrance Day Ceremonies**  
Cenotaph at 10:35 am.

**WVSS, Term Two Begins**

**The Island's Biggest Garage Sale,**  
PAC fundraiser in the BICS gym

<b>COMMUNITY CALENDER</b>		
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>SAT 03</b>	<b>Traditional Applefest in the Davies Heritage Orchard</b> Apple doll activities on the day as well as games, apple tastings, pie, and more! stay tuned!
	<b>FRI 09</b>	<b>BICS Parent Advisory Council and Community School Association : Turkey Dance &amp; Social</b> (PAC/CSA) are hosting a community social and family dance. This event is a fun, family friendly community dance that is affordable, all-ages, active and alcohol-free. Doors open at 6:30 Ticket prices: \$25 for a family, \$10 adult, \$5 under 18. Advance Tickets at Phoenix (thank you Phoenix!)
	<b>MON 12</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</b>
	<b>FRI 23</b>	<b>District &amp; Provincial Professional Development Day.</b> No school
	<b>SAT 31</b>	<b>Haunted House and Fireworks at the Causeway</b>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>SAT 07</b>	<b>Community Health Fair at BICS</b> 10:30am-3:30pm <b>Tables &amp; demo time still available.</b> Information on local recreational, health and environmental opportunities will be represented. From inoculations to yoga, dance to sports to child care to a new eco-diaper alternative.
	<b>SAT 07</b>	<b>Bowen Island Community Choir COFFEE HOUSE 7pm</b> Coffee House Cates Hill Chapel <b>TICKETS AT THE DOOR</b>
	<b>SAT 07 &amp; SUN 08</b>	<b>The Fall Montessori Pre-School Kid and Kaboodle Sale.</b> Come and bag some great new to you deals in support of Bowen's Not-for-Profit Montessori Pre-School. Now Accepting gently used (with all their working pieces) clothes, shoes and toys from baby clothes & gear to 10 yr. old. For Info. call Sam at 2709.
	<b>WED 11</b>	<b>Remembrance Day Ceremonies</b> Cenotaph at 10:35 am.
	<b>WED 25</b>	<b>WVSS, Term Two Begins</b>
	<b>SUN 29</b>	<b>The Island's Biggest Garage Sale,</b> PAC fundraiser in the BICS gym
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>SAT 05</b>	<b>Light Up the Cove,</b> Lantern Parade and Santa's Arrival on Bowen. Sponsored by the Bowen Island Chamber of Commerce
	<b>SUN 06</b>	<b>CSA Craft Fair at BICS</b> 10 am – 4 pm <b>Tables still available.</b> Unique and usual gifts crafted by island artisans.
	<b>SAT 12</b>	<b>Bowen Island Community Choir CHRISTMAS CONCERT</b> performances at 2pm and 7:30pm Cates Hill Chapel <b>TICKETS AT THE DOOR &amp; CATES HILL PHARMACY</b>
	<b>SUN 13</b>	<b>The music of the Nutcracker, West Coast Symphony,</b> BICS gym 1pm. Admission by donation at the door. Youth Q&A with symphony members after the show!*
	<b>FRI 18</b>	<b>WVSS last day of 2009 classes,</b> early dismissal Bowen student 11:15 am <b>Winter Vacation,</b> Students back to school on Monday, January 04, 2010

## Brian's Tech Tips: Buying a computer?

by Brian McCaig, Island Computers

So you've decided to get a new computer—or your first computer. How do you sort through the jumble of numbers that are thrown at you by advertisers and salespersons? Here are the most common measurements that you need to use in making an informed decision:

### Speed or Processor Speed

- Measured in megahertz (MHz) and gigahertz (GHz). One GHz = 1000 MHz.
- Defined as the speed of the central processing unit (CPU), the main chip in the computer.
- Important for the responsiveness of your computer. More GHz = faster response.
- Less important today as jumps in speed are smaller and less frequent than in previous years. Many of today's computers have multiple CPUs to compensate for this leveling off trend.
- For general use, anything with a speed of 2 GHz or greater will more than suffice. If you are doing a lot of movie or photo editing—or are an avid Gamer—then higher speeds are desirable.

### Random access memory (RAM) Size

- Measured in megabytes (MB) and gigabytes (GB). One GB = approx. 1000 MB.
- The amount of working space you have. They are chips that plug into your computer.
- Important for allowing more than one program to run at the same time, for allowing more of a large program to be all loaded at once, and, up to a point, speeding up the computer.
- RAM memory is much faster than hard drive memory so the more you have the faster programs will run.
- Today a minimum of 1 GB is a must. Most computers have between 2 & 4 GB and can be expanded.



### Hard Drive Size

- Measured in gigabytes (GB) or terabytes (TB). One TB = approx. 1000 GB.
- The amount of storage space you have. All programs, data files and

OS files are stored here. When you save something, this is where it goes.

- Important for being able to save thousands of pictures, mp3 songs, movies, TV shows, etc. If you only need a computer for Internet and email then hard drive size is not important.
- Most of today's computers ship with 250, 320 or 500 GB. More than enough to handle all but the most demanding requirements.

### Screen size and type

- Measured just like TVs: diagonally across 2 corners, on the screen portion only, and generally in inches.
- Also measured by the resolution, just like high definition (HD) TVs, in pixels per inch; but the units of measure are not as important since all manufacturers use the same units.
- If you're buying either a laptop, netbook (a small, light-weight, relatively inexpensive laptop), or an all-in-one desktop, then you get what the manufacturer has given you. In most cases, though, you can add a second external screen if you need it. Netbooks have screens that are 8 or 9 inches in size while laptops come in various sizes: usually 13, 15 or 17 inches. All-in ones usually have 17, 20 or 24 inch screens.
- If you are buying your screen as a separate unit, your choices are myriad.
- Generally, most desktop or tower computers have 17 or 19 inch screens which is best for most people.
- Nearly all computer screens today are liquid crystal display (LCD) or some variation. Older, cathode ray tube (CRT) screens are a thing of the past and should be avoided (unless they are free).

### Graphics cards

- More important than the screen is the graphics card (or chip) that takes the computer's video signal and sends it to the screen.
- Importance is dependent upon your use. A fast graphics card will actually speed up the response time of your computer—dramatically in the case of the high end (\$600+) cards. This speed boost comes from two things: a dedicated graphics CPU chip on the card to take over the video processing and extremely fast RAM memory

on the card. But the average user (Internet, email, some photos, some music) won't notice it much since they are probably not taxing their existing card.

- Measured in several ways, but for the average user it isn't too critical to pay that much attention. If you're a Gamer or graphic designer or videographer, then you already know about the benefits of graphics chips. If you're more of a lay-person then the biggest measurement you can use is price. The more sophisticated (read faster) a graphics card is, the more it will cost.
- Laptops and netbooks have graphics chips built-in, so you can't change them. With desktops and all-in-ones, you can often upgrade the graphics cards. If you are a moderate user however, whether you have your graphics "on board" (built into your computer's main board) or in a fancy card plugged into it, you will find they both produce very acceptable results on your screen.

### Other factors:

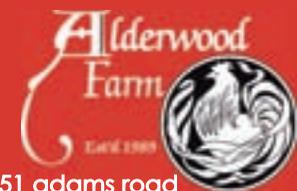
- There are many other options that can be used in making your computer choice. Some more significant ones: like Windows vs Macintosh, Windows XP vs Vista vs Windows 7, laptop vs netbook vs desktop, wireless vs wired, etc. We'll deal with all of this in future Tips.



## OCTOBER 03 LAST CHANCE TO ORDER YOUR THANKSGIVING TURKEY

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# The state of real estate on Bowen

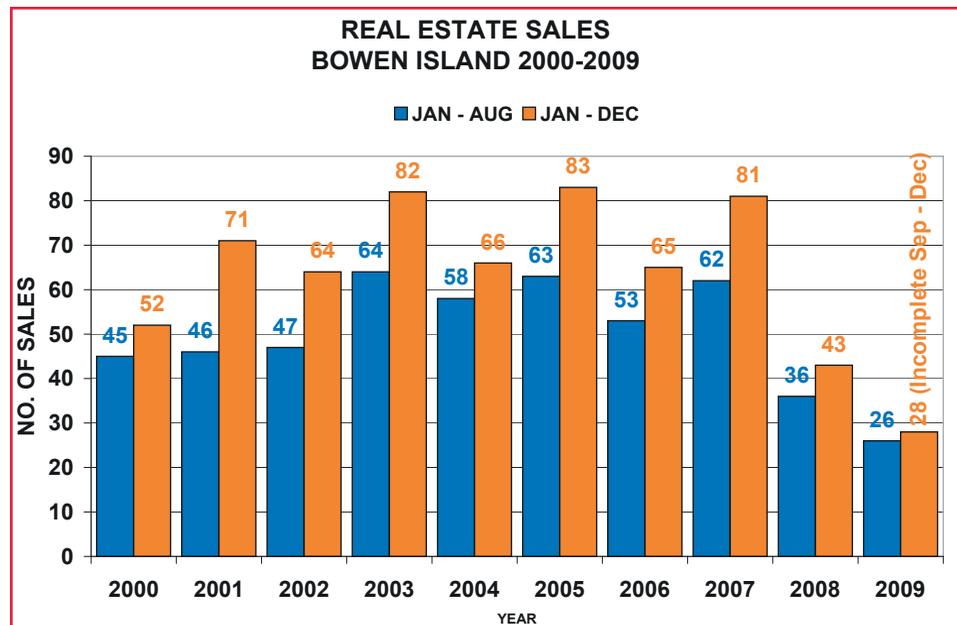
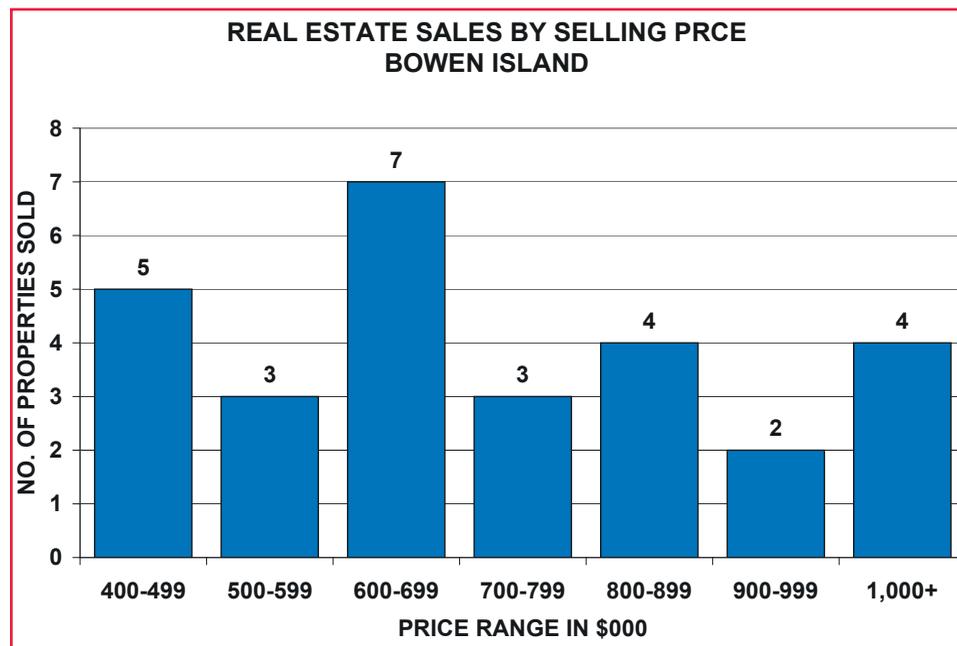
## Recession Receding more Slowly

by Tim Rhodes

The good news story on the front page of the August 6<sup>th</sup> Vancouver Sun—"Real Estate markets race to record July home sales: Metro Vancouver charts increase of 89 percent over same time last year"—prompted *BITE* to look into the state of real estate on Bowen. We found that Bowen's July sales were down 43% over July of 2008, just the opposite of Metro.

Local realtor Dee Elliott told us that there are presently "62 listings on Bowen Island ranging in price from \$389,000 to \$7.9 million" and that over the past year (September 2008 – August 2009) "Bowen has averaged 2.75 sales per month". This means that the average listing on Bowen could take 23 months to sell (62 divided by 2.75). According to MLS data (which does not include developer or private sales), 26 homes have been sold from January through August of this year: 72% of the number sold during the same period in 2008 and only 42% of sales in 2007. This year sales on Bowen are projected to be well below the average of 67 homes per year from 2000 – 2008. Unlike Metro, Bowen is experiencing a record low, underscoring the unique challenges of the Bowen market where the recession appears to be receding more slowly than in Metro.

The average selling price on Bowen is a staggering \$725,196 but the statistics seem to point to a buyers' market. We asked Elliott why we haven't seen downward price adjustments: "A number of houses have sold significantly below their asking price. The general public sees the listing price but often doesn't have a clue what the sale price was. List prices are advertised. Sale prices are not."



The figures represented in these graphs are from MLS data and do not include developer or private sales.

She adds that any improvements or renovations made over the past year have not been reflected in the assessed values.

There have been 7 waterfront homes

sold so far this year, averaging 15% below assessed value, and of the 7 MLS sales over \$1,000,000 in 2008, only one was non waterfront. The highest price paid for a non-waterfront home this year was \$995,000 and the most active markets on Bowen this year are, in descending order: \$600,000 – \$699,000 range, \$400,000 – \$499,000, and tied for third, \$800,000 – \$899,000 and over \$1 million. Who's buying these homes? Elliott only has anecdotal information but "three of my last four sales have been to weekenders."

For those considering putting their home on the market, we asked Elliott what most affect how quickly a property sells. "Absolutely it is price and value for the investment. We are well into a buyer's market. Generally speaking the houses that sell fastest will be those that are 'priced right' from the beginning of the listing."

And what are the three most effective things a homeowner can do to prepare their home for sale? According to Elliott:

1. Repair, declutter and stage the home
2. Be aware of and resolve any issues with defects or issues with the house or property such as septic, property lines, and the quality and capacity of wells. I just sold a house and the well inspection showed that the previous owner had been drinking and bathing in water with significantly high e-coli levels. They had no idea.
3. Price it right. Part of that process is interviewing two or three realtors to find which one works best for you.

The good news for those looking to sell or buy on Bowen: mortgage rates are low (Coast Capital Savings is advertising 3.85% on a 5 year fixed mortgage), and although Bowen house prices reflect the fact that Bowen is in the top 1/3 of median household incomes for Metro Vancouver, it remains an ideal place to raise children, to retire, or to enjoy a weekend or summer home.

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# The renting class Affordable Housing isn't just for those on welfare anymore, "average families" can't afford to own in the spiralling real-estate market

by Amanda Euringer

I've been feeling depressed about the "economic collapse" recently. It's not just that I lost most of my employment, or that I had to sell my cute little house on Miller Road (the one that was bought by someone who could afford to put the \$200,000 plus into it that it needed), it's not that work is still hard to find, it's the fact that the collapse just didn't happen as much as I needed it to.

We all knew that the market was too elevated. We knew that a "correction" was coming, and most of us braced for it accordingly. When I was forced to sell my house in January, I consoled myself with the thought that, while I couldn't afford this house, the correction was going to allow me to afford another in the near future. So in some ways, it must be said that I was almost gleeful about the collapse.

Except it didn't really happen.

The house I bought two years ago, at the height of the market, I couldn't buy back today. In fact there isn't a single house on Bowen in its price bracket. I bought my first house ten years ago. It was just off Commercial Drive: 3000 sq. ft., all mountain view, with a basement suite and an extra large lot for \$280,000. That house sold last year (for the fourth time in the past ten) for \$800,000. And no, they didn't put in a pool.

Considering that my wage hasn't tripled in the past ten years, I think we can all agree that—for whatever reasons (and there are varying theories)—housing prices are simply out of control.

Affordable housing has become a hotly debated issue on our little island. I posted the subject on my Facebook page and got comments like: "Of course there is a need for people to be able to buy affordable housing, but that shouldn't include penthouses or waterfront property." Or the one from my uncle, a retired economist for the Canadian government, who said, "The whole concept of 'affordable housing' to me implies there must be housing that is not affordable and thus must logically be standing empty. Wonder how much of that there is. Will look forward to debating the entitlement principal."

To me, both these comments subtly bring

up the capitalist concept of entitlement: who is actually entitled to buy and own their homes. For my parents: you worked hard, you bought a house, you paid it off over your lifetime. If you couldn't afford a home, you clearly weren't working hard enough. In the past ten years, this concept is going the way of the dinosaur (and coral reefs), in that, even if you have a two-parent working family, you might simply not be able to buy a home. Ever.

Let's put the concept of entitlement aside for a moment, and take a good hard look at the economic reality of the changing face of those who need affordable homes.

A quick conversation with Chuck Vanhusen (of "chuck your mortgage" fame) puts "affordable housing" into perspective.

"I've talked to lots of people who said they have to move off the island because they can't afford to live here—or their kids do," said Chuck from his office in Village Square. "The most recent statistic I've seen said that the average income for a family in Canada is \$45,000. Just as an example, let's say a couple wants to buy their first home, and has five percent down, and has a normal amount of other debts," and here Vanhusen begins to calculate, "then there is property tax, and hydro... they would qualify for a mortgage of around \$190,000."

So an average family, with one full-time working parent, couldn't buy their first home on Bowen. Neither could most of the single parent families I know. Neither could most of the kids that grew up here. In fact, disregarding the uninhabitable A-frame in Deep Bay, the cheapest house you could buy on Bowen would demand a mortgage of more than double that amount.

David Sorensen, of Sorensen Fine Homes and the King Edward Bay development, sat down with me over a delicious plate of prawns at Artisan Eats a few weeks ago to outline his proposal for addressing affordable housing.

The plan? Sorensen has 83 acres left that he wants to re-zone into smaller lots. If Council allowed him to apportion eight to ten one-acre parcels, then he would

give away thirty-three 0.7 acre lots, and build houses on them at cost for lower income residents. Sorensen would use the pre-fab housing approach he is using to construct sections of his high-end homes in King Edward Bay (you can see an example of this on his website

<http://www.sorensenfinehomes.com/>). Pre-fab construction cuts out an enormous amount of the costs associated with building new homes. Sorensen figures he could offer two to three-bedroom homes for just under \$200,000.

A prawn-dropping offer indeed. A brand new, two to three-bedroom home, for a price that sits along the benchmark of "affordable housing" which Sorensen figures is approximately 1/2 to 1/3 of market value.

Sorensen figures the housing would have to be regulated by a committee in order to insure that speculators looking for a "good deal" were kept out. Although they would be free-hold homes, they would have to be re-sold to qualified (low-income) buyers, at the same percentage below market value at the time of their first purchase.

So if Sorensen is offering the opportunity of a lifetime for those of us that can't afford to live here, why isn't it happening?

"There is a pretty firm resistance to increasing density anywhere on Bowen," says Tim Wake from his home in Miller's Landing. Wake is considered one of the foremost affordable housing gurus in Canada and had a hand in the much lauded housing community in Whistler. "It's a problem because there is a good chunk of people who maintain that this is a rural community, and that diversity is urban and has no place on Bowen. Bowen is not rural. It is a sprawling suburb masquerading as rural." Wake feels that council needs to encourage density, but in appropriate areas. He feels that Sorensen's suggestion is laudable, but feels that affordable housing would be better placed in Snug Cove where the residents—many of whom would be working on island—could walk to most of the amenities. This not only cuts out car traffic, it builds communities of people who are participating in their immediate surroundings.

"When we talk about affordable housing today, many of the recipients of that request see it as 'social housing.' They think, 'Why don't those kids just work hard like I did?'" Wake agrees that affordable housing in BC is now aimed at many in the middle class whose incomes simply cannot keep up with the double-digit growth in real estate prices. Ultimately he believes the council needs to encourage higher density so that the community continues to have diversity.

Councillor Doug Hooper, who has taken some flack for his flip response to the affordable housing debate in the Undercurrent, says that the issue resonates loudly on Bowen Island. I spoke with him over the phone; where he was amidst boxes and moving into the first home he has purchased on Bowen – despite living here for the past eight years.

(continued pg. 15)



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## WHO AM I? *A Sea Star*

I am a star shaped animal with five or more “arms” with tube feet which attach me firmly to rocks. I am usually brightly coloured—often bright red, orange, pink, blue or purple. The top side of my body is covered with bony plates that can make me feel stiff and hard. For the most part, I feed on animals that can not move away quickly such as clams, mussels, oysters and the occasional slow moving fish. I am a feared predator and if I am too close—most animals get out of my way!

### *A Clam*

I am a bivalve, a two shelled animal, like a mussel. I live in the mud in the intertidal area but sometimes half of me sticks out above the mud. I move about using a “foot” and have a type of siphon—sort of like a straw—that I use to eat with. At high tide, I open my shell a bit, take in water, and strain out oxygen and tiny plants and animals to eat. At low tide I close up tightly to hold moisture in my gills for breathing until the next high tide.

### *A Sea Cucumber*

Although I have a name that is like a vegetable—I am not one! I am a long animal with rows of tube feet running along the length of my body and a ring of mop-like tentacles around my mouth. I eat dead and decaying

## Eggsciting News Now Open for Brunch

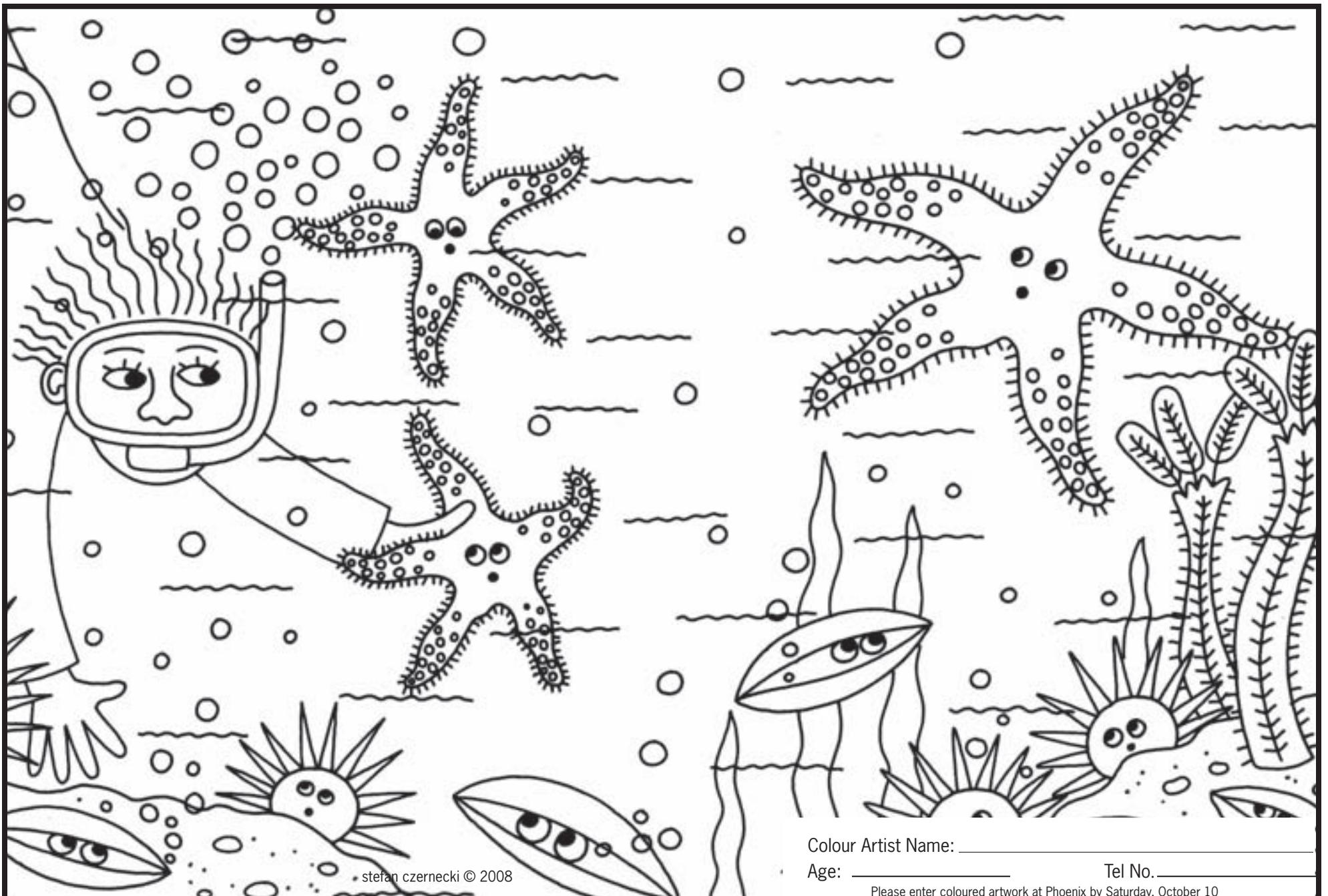
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# CONTEST ENTER TO WIN . . .OR JUST 4 FUN

organic material, algae, tiny plankton. If I get scared, I can throw out my internal organs to distract any predators. Then I can grow new innards!

### A Great Blue Heron

I am a large, beautiful bird that wades gracefully in the shallow water, hunting for food. With my long neck and long, pointed bill, I catch fish, crab, water insects, and even small mammals out of the water. At the beach, as the tide comes in I move to higher parts of the marsh to stay in shallow water. Sometimes though, I just fly away!

### A Trout

Here on Bowen, I could be a cut throat trout. They call me that because of the red just under my mouth that may look like I have a cut – but I don't! I live in our streams and lakes, feeding on insects that live in the water. Or, I could be a Kokanee salmon, a type of salmon that lives its entire life in freshwater.

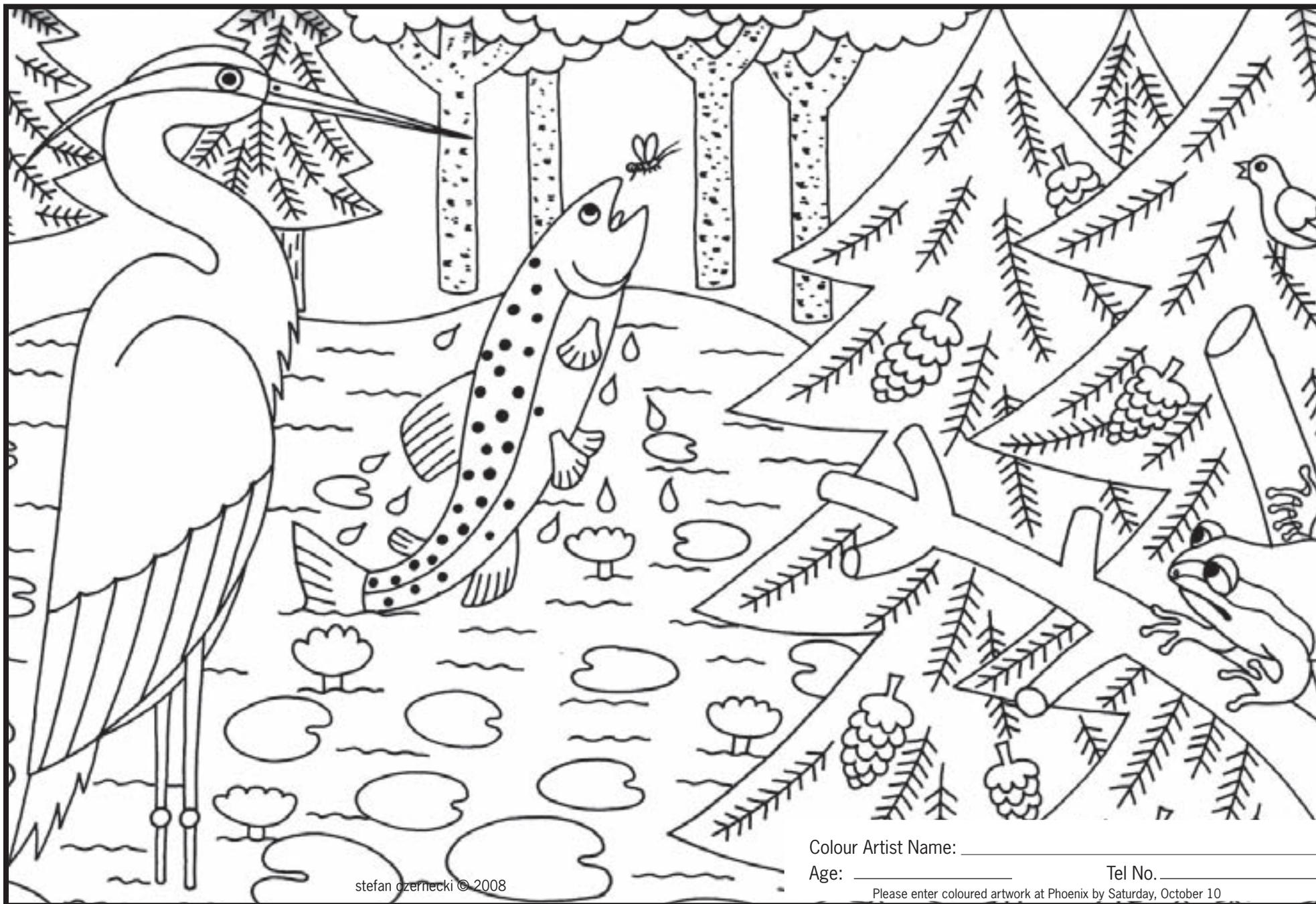
### A Pacific Tree Frog

I am a small, very appealing little frog and am quite common in B.C. I grow up to 5 cm long and may be any colour from pale grey to bright green. I can be found in woodlands, meadows, pastures or even city gardens. When it is time to mate, I head to the nearest wetland where there are lots of plants to shelter me from predators. I make a surprisingly loud sound like krek-ek or c-r-r-ick depending on the time of year.



**DG** Blair-Whitehead is a principal with Blair Whitehead & Associates. She has a B.Sc. degree in both Biological Sciences and Environmental Studies and a M.Sc. in Environmental Education. DG has over twenty years of experience in bringing environmental issues and knowledge to a broad audience in a way that they really understand and is active with projects aimed at increasing public and community awareness, understanding, and positive action for environmental stewardship. Visit DG's website at [www.blairwhitehead.com](http://www.blairwhitehead.com). DG can be reached at [dg@blairwhitehead.com](mailto:dg@blairwhitehead.com) or 604.947.0134.

**C**artoon images have been created by Stefan Czernecki, who is considered one of North America's leading children's book illustrators with over 30 books to his name. Visit his website at [www.stefanczernecki.com](http://www.stefanczernecki.com)



stefan czernecki © 2008

Colour Artist Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Please enter coloured artwork at Phoenix by Saturday, October 10

# View from aBroad

## Things are supposed to work here

by Andrea Bastion, Bowen Resident currently abroad in Ghana



Finn and his brothers Danaa and Dawin

We are here. Dreams realized: three boys in my nest! I have seen with my own eyes what the efforts Bowen Shares have amounted to. No time for pride, there is a lot of work to be done. I could bombard you with statistics of homeless children, Accra's street children, and probably show you a neat little chart reflecting the need. "No stories without numbers and no numbers without stories" is a philosophy often used in the world of philanthropy and fundraising; but I cannot imagine a million of anything, so perhaps numbers are not the key. I think that I will quote a wise philanthropist here and agree that it should be, "No stories without truth and no truth without stories."

For me, where does the truth begin? When Jennifer [Henrichsen] moved to Accra? No. Certainly long before then; long before I heard Stephen Lewis speak, or even knew who Stephen Lewis was; long before I knew where Ghana was on a map. During the 1980s, for sure: Ethiopia and drought, South Africa and apartheid, Rwanda and genocide, Uganda and child soldiers. The countries rolled off my tongue like painful poetry. I was determined not to paint all of Africa with this brush, and felt an increasing desperation to get to here and see for myself.

And now here I am, held hostage on the African continent by Canadian bureaucracy—of course, I came voluntarily—and I've had enough truth to tell stories for lifetimes.

I will start by recalling how hot the airplane became as we flew over the Sahara, relief at landing, anxious sleepless nights before the truth about poverty and orphans hit me in the face—well, the knee caps actually. Within seconds of walking through the metal gates of the Royal Seed Home, 140 children lunged towards my mother and I. I remember turning around hoping to give mom a look that said, well ... everything, but I couldn't see her. She was literally

surrounded by children hungry for affection, especially from a grandmother. Naomi is "mother" to all of the children living at her orphanage. Grandmother's are a rare breed and are revered.

In its truest, most powerful sense, joy and happiness was overflowing. With the backdrop an orphanage, with so many there, and with so

much need, I have to admit that it was somewhat confusing; and I haven't yet been able to sift through the various nuances of that emotion. For more intimate details, I may need to wait until I get home and have time to actually reflect on my joy, two boys removed from their "family" at the orphanage, 138 left behind, and how I actually feel about that.

I haven't had a moment to decipher my welcome, as I was whisked away from the orphanage very quickly. It was important to Naomi that her other 138 children were kept oblivious to the fact that the babies in my arms were leaving with me—for good. She is worried that some may be confused. What is adoption? Who are we? Will they never see the babies again? I can see her point.

Naomi is always on the phone, responding within hours to any call about abandoned children, terrified that if she does not get there "in time" the children could miss out on critical medical attention.

Naomi escorted me to my first meeting with social welfare in the city of Cape Coast. Mile after mile of mud houses, women with huge bowls carrying anything from water to sewing machines on their heads, and children toddling along the highway were just a few aspects of the vista. Naomi dropped me off at the office and said she had to leave me there as she had received several urgent calls during our journey. Okay. I'm a big girl. I can figure out how to get back to Kasoa—I think, but Naomi had already taken care of me before I could even figure out what was happening. A new taxi waited for me to finish my meeting, then whisked me off to a hospital in Cape Coast where Naomi sat in our original cab, with three babies: all three abandoned; one recently blinded by fever.

Back to Kasoa. I have yet to see Naomi stop moving, stop caring. She is a tsunami of activity led not by profession

(she has no training) but by heart. She cannot see children suffer. Period.

I left Kasoa shortly after as my own boys were showing signs of fever and illness Twenty-four hours in Accra and I found myself at the entrance of 37th, a military hospital.

For all of my life long desires to be in Africa, to live some kind of experience here, I can honestly say that I need to be much more careful about what I wish for. I don't want to wax on and on about how I feel about what I've seen here, because that would degrade the real grief I was witness to—two infant deaths. The response of the other mothers to those who had lost their infants was equally hard to bear—the grieving women had death spirits and no one wanted to get too close. Even I was eager to move away, which was impossible because one of the mothers was sitting, sobbing, not two feet from my chair. All I could think was, "Please, get me out of here." Thankfully, my own humanity started to creep back in and mobilize me. I could reach out, rub her back, offer her a fresh plastic bag to vomit into, offered her my cell phone (which was totally useless to her), offer her water. She couldn't speak English, and my Twi is limited to "ate sen" (How are you? A phrase obviously not appropriate at the moment); "medasse" (Thank you. Equally useless in this situation), and "dabi" (No. The word she was wailing while I sat with her).

I have realized that to live here, either working as part of a non-governmental organization (NGO) or just because fate saw fit to see you born on African soil, you cannot be weak. Africa is not for the faint of heart—and this is Ghana, the crown jewel of this continent. Things are supposed to work here. Lives are supposed to be saved.

Things are supposed to work here.

I guess that they do; but I am crying tears of happiness today that I am a Canadian, that I am lucky, and that all three of my boys are happy, healthy, and will grow to become wise.

For more info. [www.bowenshares.com](http://www.bowenshares.com)

*Andrea Bastin is in Ghana with her mother and her son, Finn, to bring home the twin boys, Danaa and Dawin, that she and Michael Segal have adopted. She has an Interim Adoption Order with permission to travel out of the jurisdiction (the adoption and citizenship process will take two years) but every indication is that the Canadian High Commission in Accra will take six weeks, if all goes well, to issue visas for the boys so that The Family of Segals will be together on Bowen for Christmas.*



Andrea with one of her Seagals



Naomi, the miracle worker with Andrea



Cape Coast, Ghana

# Invitation to Attend Public Meeting

Cates Hill Joint Venture and Seymour Landing Joint Venture will hold a public meeting on Saturday, October 17, 2009 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Cates Hill Chapel on Carter Road.

The purpose of the meeting will be to present our current conceptual planning for a proposed density transfer from the Parkview Slopes area on Cates Hill to the Seymour Landing area on Cowan Point, and the associated rezoning for both areas.

The new planning concepts will address the current shortage on Bowen Island of alternative housing forms, including affordable and special needs housing, as well as the provision of facilities for local employment. Special emphasis will be placed on providing opportunities for enterprises and facilities in the fields of health and wellness, culture and art, education/life-long learning/art of living, hospitality, and specialized Bowen Island retail.

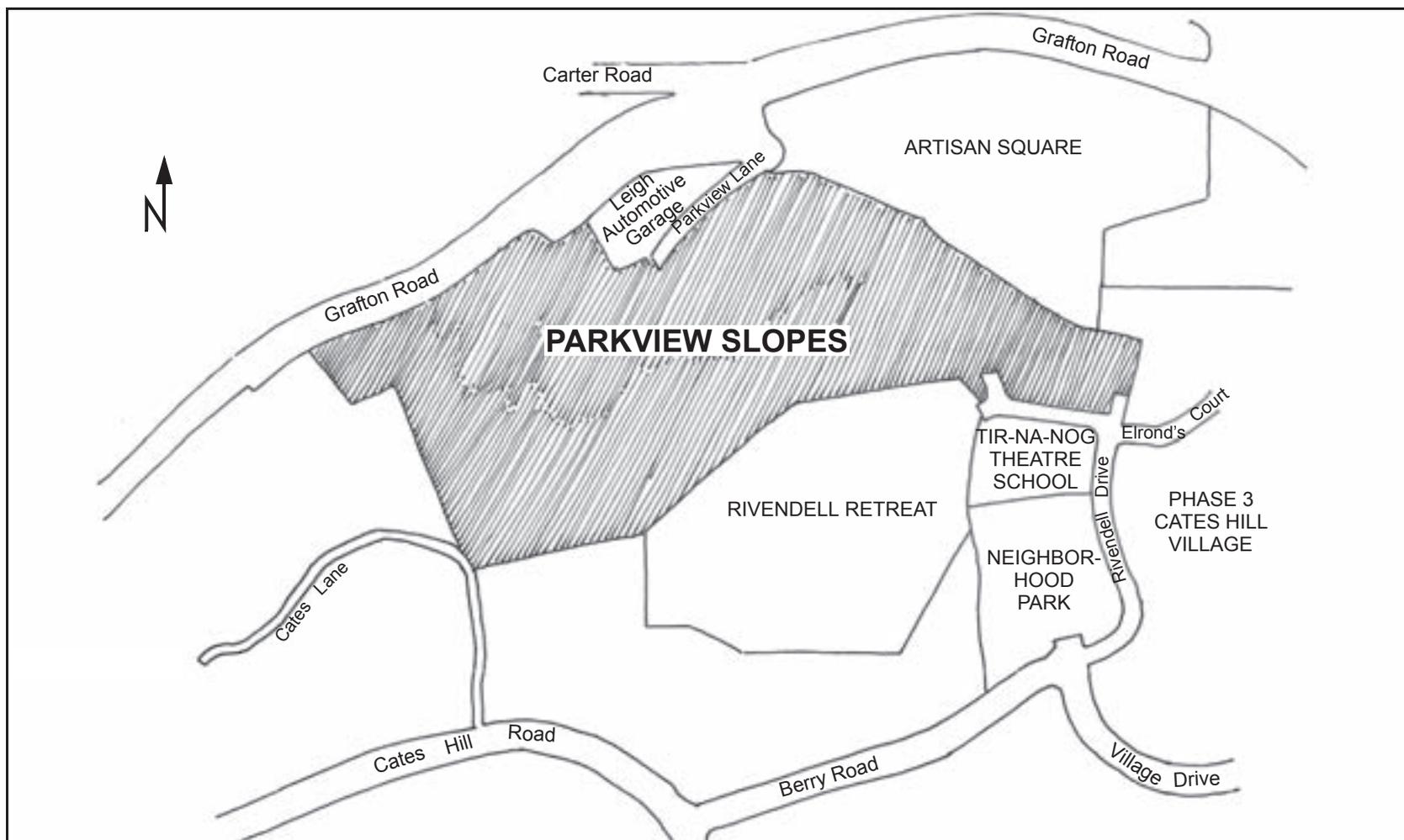
A new reality has emerged as many have become aware of the rapid and fundamental changes the world is currently undergoing, of which the current financial crisis is only one of many symptoms. This awareness is no longer just the domain of futurists, academics, and scientists. Now it includes anybody who is involved in long-term planning — not only local governments, planners, and civic leaders, but also developers who have a vital role to play in such enlightened development. The planning emphasis for the immediate to mid-term future has to take into account that the time

of unrestricted growth of consumption has come to an end, and that we who live in the so-called “developed world” have to re-learn how to live within sustainable means. That will require adjustments and changes to expectations and attitudes, which will lead us through a period of transition. In our proposed planning we have attempted to address both transition and long-term sustainability, and we look forward to a stimulating and productive dialogue with the community about our planning and ideas.

We are fully aware that proposed changes are not always well received, and that even to this day references to impending global changes run the risk of being perceived as needlessly stern or alarming — but that is not our intent. Quite to the contrary, we are very positive that the changes which will happen over the next few decades will, in the end, turn out to be major improvements to our collective quality of life. We believe that we as a community will get increasingly comfortable with such changes, knowing that they are necessary to give future generations also a chance to embrace and enjoy Bowen Island as much as we do today.

The major objective of our planning approach at this time is to provide a strong and positive impetus towards the goal of Bowen Island getting on a firm footing toward long-term sustainability.

We look forward to seeing you at the public meeting on October 17.



# Bridges not beachheads

## An interview with Michael Nicholl Yahgulanaas

by Tim Rhodes

**BITE:** *You have been a permanent resident on Bowen Island for 2 years. What brought you to Bowen and keeps you here?*

MNY: The relative size of the community and proximity to elderly family [brought me here]. I find that Bowen is similar in some geographical respects to my northern home. The notion of islandness creates a sometime useful idea of us. Unfortunately "us" usually creates a "them" and while that can be challenging and problematic, us and them can also lead to very creative and progressive communities.

After 25 years of working in public service on Haida Gwaii I felt that it was time for the graceful exit. My exit, somewhat less than graceful, was fortunately successful and I began a second career as a visual artist wallowing in the creative fecundity of ethnic hybridity: a salute to the half breed.

**BITE:** *You have somewhat of an 'activist' history. Who came first: the artist or the activist? How has the activist informed the artist and vice versa?*

MNY: Not to dummy down terms but I can't think of any human activity that doesn't demonstrate a degree of art. Activism, or more precisely the duty of citizenship, certainly needs a creative side. The greater the measure of distance between formal governance and individuals, the greater is the need for active citizens. The equation also states that the most effective citizens are the most creative.

**BITE:** *How did your connection to the Japanese manga art form come about?*

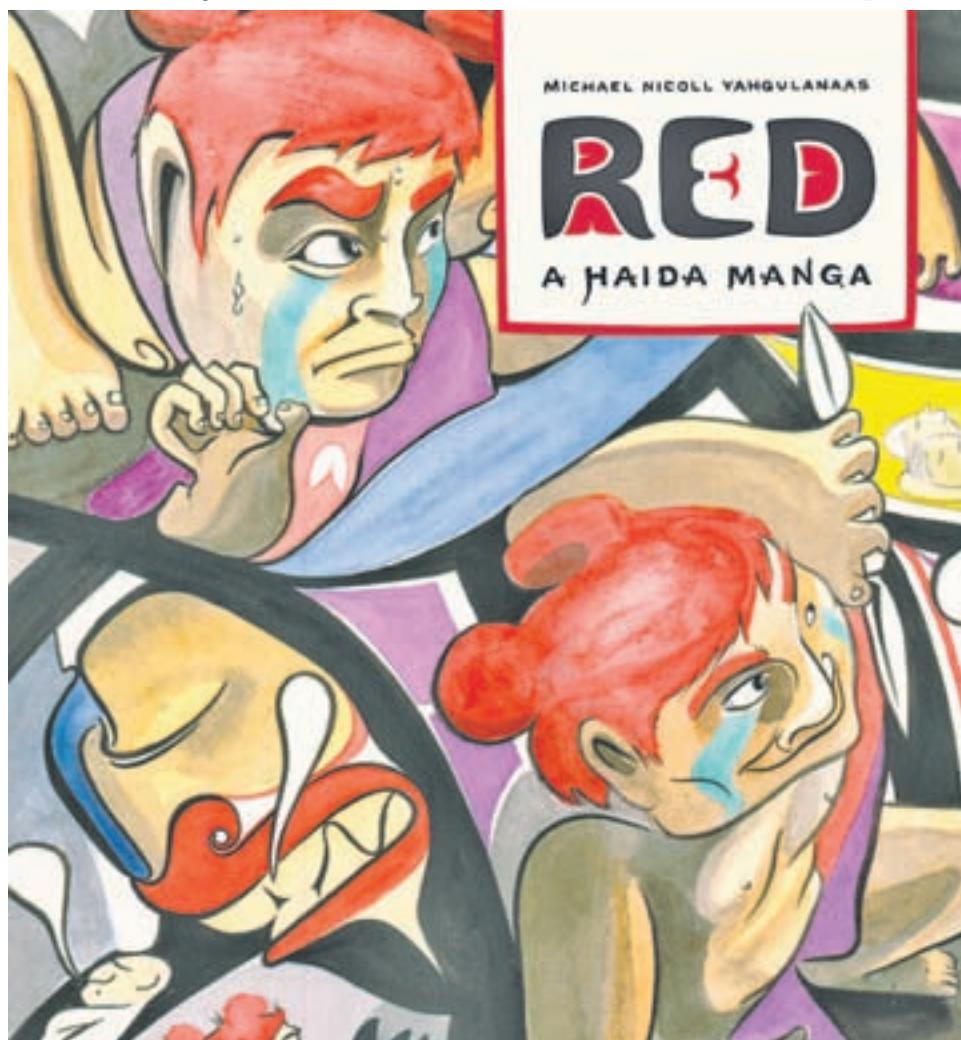
MNY: In the early 1900's Haida men from Massett hunted pelagic seals across the northern Pacific and found there a city where they could walk and live as full human beings. What a relief: Hakodate, Hokkaido, and Japan were a moment's rest from the steady assault they experienced [in Canada].

I see the Pacific Ocean as a connection, a shared experience that joins island peoples together. In many ways the Canadian challenges and

its euro-centric histories are oppositional to Indigenous Peoples. Haida manga started as a minor, and honestly, my personal inconsequential exploration of a time when men from my village enjoyed relief, hospitality, and sanctuary in northern Japan

**BITE:** *Your book, Flight of the Hummingbird, was published very shortly after you moved to Bowen. It has a forward by The Dalai Lama. What was the circumstance or relationship that connected you to the Dalai Lama?*

MNY: We just asked him, a simple letter without any special connections or efforts. It is precisely like the Hummingbird that works



**RED**, an innovative graphic novel, here is the epic tale of a Haida hero, his rage and his quest for retribution

without any special knowledge or guarantees. It does what it can. Nothing more is required.

**BITE:** *I understand your upcoming book, Red, is based on a true story. What is the background of this story?*

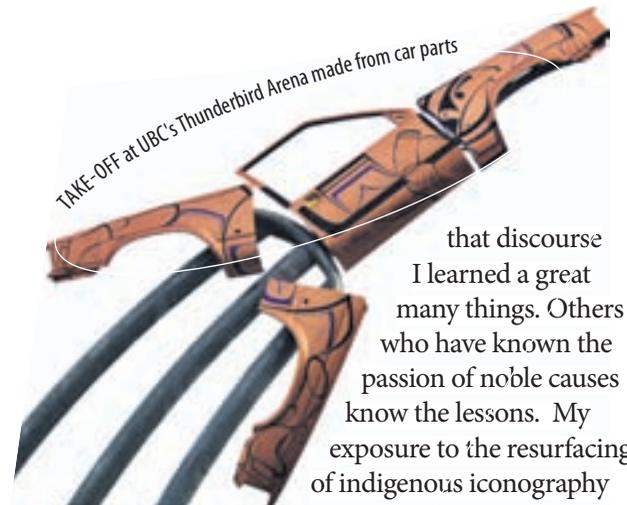
MNY: It is an oral narrative never before documented in print and known to most of my generation as a story that family historian Henry Geddes told: Red concerns the

**TAKE-OFF**  
Michael Nicholl  
Yahgulanaas worked with  
youth from the Urban  
Native Youth Association  
in partnership with the  
Museum of Anthropology

tragic life of a man who was caught in his own illusions. I have also added another story as related to me by Skidegate historian Jack Pollard. As I write: "this story once was true"

**BITE:** *You have a recent installation at UBC and an installation this fall at the Glenbow Museum in Calgary. Both of these works are very large. What is the reason for working at this kind of scale?*

MNY: An artistic voice sometimes sings solo, within a choir, and occasionally as a lead. What I enjoy about the physical scale is that in some respects it is the same as the size of a print



that discourse I learned a great many things. Others who have known the passion of noble causes know the lessons. My exposure to the resurfacing of indigenous iconography combined with the successes of the Haida assertion of the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples has married me to the idea that my art must speak to matters relevant to individuals and societies. Producing work that might be aesthetically appealing with a vitality that is primarily anchored to its romantic appeal is not the kind of work I will produce in my studio: That seems like admiring a song for the font used to print the lyrics.

When Haida citizens refused to accept the authority of strange governments that were also shareholders in license holding corporations, we were forced to defy Canadian law. Regular Canadians stood with us. There was a janitor in New Brunswick who sent us 20 dollar (before they became haidabucks) cheques on payday. Raindrops in their lunch box, loggers saluted us and so many people, without any apparent reason to, made us Haida criminals feel appreciated and respectable. I feel indebted. I feel privileged to have seen how good and decent people are. When in studio I want to create images and words that are fully accessible to as many of those people as I can imagine. There is no refuge or comfort or true reward for me to create works that are esoterically isolated or so distant from living experience as to be mythic. Haida manga is all about bridges not beachheads.

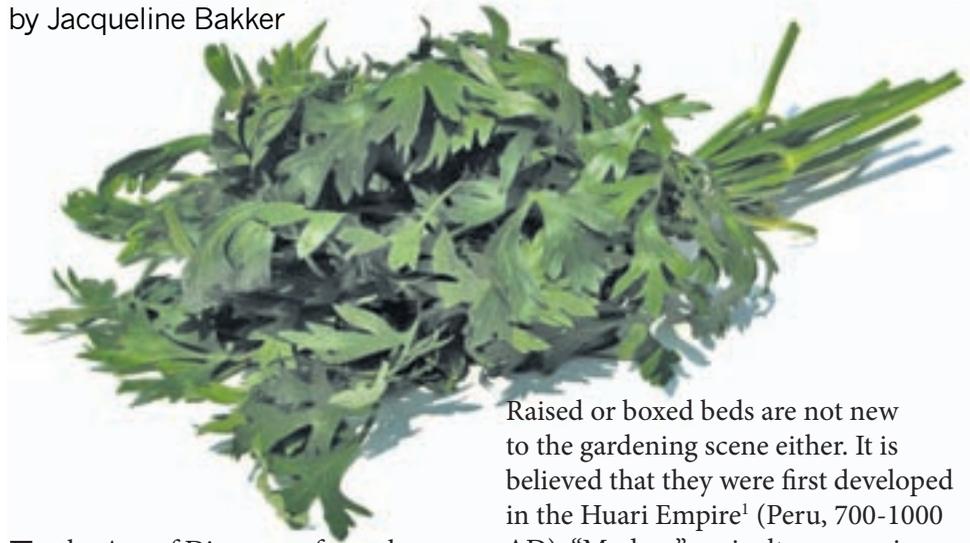
Once I joined in to build those bridges it was apparent that there many people wanting to cross those big chasms in Canadian mythology.



Michael on-site with his "Take-Off" installation

# The provenance of parsley

by Jacqueline Bakker



In the Age of Discovery, from the early 15th century and into the 19th century, maritime trade was transformed. In 1498 Vasco de Gama stepped ashore at Calicut, India, and Portuguese traders became instrumental in opening the route around Africa to Asia. Calicut was an important for the trade of precious stones, pearls, and spices. Maritime trade flourished and the balance of world power shifted to Europe (at least in the eyes of the Europeans).

The 15th century “discovery” that the world was not flat was not a new one (centuries earlier the Greeks had made the same determination); similarly herbs and spices had been enjoyed in the Near East and Asia for centuries. Records show that spice beer was brewed in the Bronze Age (3300-1200 BC in the Near East and South Asia) and Egyptians not only used spices to flavour their food, but used honey as part of the embalming process. Chives, onion, garlic, and leeks were considered divine delicacies by the ancient Egyptians and were found in the tomb of Tutankhamen, presumably as offerings to the gods. The Romans also introduced the plants throughout their empire: chives were very popular and generally cultivated during the Middle Ages in England. And Columbus is believed to have carried garlic to North America.

As travel for pleasure became more popular, the use of various herbs and spices spread. During the 18th and 19th centuries, it was the “in thing” to take one’s daughters and sons on “Le Grand Tour” when they were ready for entry into adult society. Touring Europe was not without its problems as each country had a different cuisine. Not only were the travelers’ palates not used to the local spices, the old saying, “see Naples and die,” arose because of poor hygiene standards and contaminated water. The locals didn’t drink the water—they drank wine and ate a lot of garlic.

Raised or boxed beds are not new to the gardening scene either. It is believed that they were first developed in the Huari Empire<sup>1</sup> (Peru, 700-1000 AD). “Modern” agriculture was given a terrific boost by their 6th Century discovery: terracing systems saved water and raised beds—13 to 33 feet wide and up to 660 ft long—lost nutrients more slowly than ordinary fields. Today gardeners prefer 4 foot wide raised beds so that they are easily tended from either side of the box.

If your own garden is too small or too big—or your back hurts—turn your verandah or patio into a box-garden for herbs and your favourite flowers. Many of our most common herbs have quite a provenance but today we can plant them without the age old superstitions or rituals:



**Mint (*Mentha Spicata*)** is a hardy perennial propagated by root division or by seeds and prefers a moist loam soil in full sun. The leaves are great for mint sauce with roast lamb, for flavouring iced tea, or cooking with peas—and beets. Mint roots spread quickly so pot them separately. Mint will not grow where the husband is henpecked.<sup>2</sup>

**Parsley (*Petroselinum Crispum*)** is a hardy biennial propagated by seed and prefers moist cool humus-rich soil in sun. Its dark green curly leaves can be used or dried. Parsley produces flowers are produced in the second year, sets seed, and then dies.

According to Plutarch, a Roman historian who lived during the first century AD (ca. 46-119), an ancient Celtic ruler with a pitifully under equipped militia exploited the Greeks’ fear of parsley by sending hundreds of asses blanketed with parsley to greet the advancing Greek troops. At the sight of the parsley, the superstitious Greeks turned and fled, and the Celtic kingdom was spared an invasion.

Wreaths of parsley were laid on Grecian tombs; the expression, De’eis thai

selinon, “to need only parsley,” was a euphemistic expression equivalent to “one foot in the grave.”

“Parsley’s long association with death led naturally to an association with evil, a fact that did not increase its popularity among medieval home gardeners. Dire consequences awaited those who were not fully aware of its powers. Virgins could not plant it without risking impregnation by Satan; a male head of household could plant it safely only on Good Friday, so that the Devil might have his share with impunity. Germination was slow because the seeds had to travel to hell and back two, three, seven, or nine times (depending on sources) before they could grow.”<sup>3</sup>

Chives, garlic, onions, and leeks are hardy perennials propagated by seed or dividing clumps. They need well-drained soil in full sun.

The bouquets carried by Roman brides contained garlic, chives, and other herbs. They symbolized fertility and also scared away evil spirits.<sup>4</sup>

European folklore gives garlic the ability to ward off the “evil eye”. Central European folk beliefs considered garlic a powerful ward against devils, werewolves, and vampires. To ward off vampires, garlic could be worn on one’s person, hung in windows, or rubbed on chimneys and keyholes. When diseases caused by mosquito bites were considered



“The touch of the vampire,” garlic came in handy as a mosquito repellent.

Roman soldiers ate garlic to inspire them and give them courage. Because the Roman generals believed that garlic gave their armies courage, they planted fields of garlic in the countries they conquered, believing that courage was transferred to the battlefield.

In Mohammed’s writings, he equates garlic with Satan when he describes the feet of the Devil as he was cast out of the Garden of Eden. Where his left foot touched the earth, garlic sprang up, while onion emerged from the footprint of his right foot.<sup>5</sup>

An onion placed under the pillow can produce prophetic dreams.

When you are in confusion what to decide then scratch your options on onions, each one on separate onion and keep them in dark. The first one that sprouts decides the answer.

If you throw away the onion peelings on the ground, your prosperity will go out. To retain the riches burn them in the fireplace.

Throw an onion after a bride to keep her happy.<sup>6</sup>



Phoenician traders introduced the leek to Wales, where it has been the national emblem since AD 640, when the Welsh scored a victory over the Saxons wearing leeks pinned to their hats for identification. It’s still traditional in Wales to wear a leek on March 1 to celebrate St. David’s Day - for the influential religious leader and patron saint of Wales - and serve leek broth (cawl cennin) and chicken and leek pie. (All 10 monasteries founded by St. David were vegetarian.)<sup>7</sup>

Today the use of herbs and spices has no boundaries. They are used to enhance and flavour food throughout the world; sugar and salt continue to be used as preservatives, and herbs and spices are being re-introduced and accepted as medicinal ingredients. What’s old is new again.

<sup>1</sup> There is evidence that much of the Inca culture came from the ideas of the Wari people. The Wari people had made up an extensive road system which is the basis for the Incan system of transportation. The Wari people also built strong, stone buildings that had a ventilation system and were earthquake resistant. Another interesting building excavated by National Geographic, was an underground tomb found near the ancient capital Wari that was dug out in the shape of a llama and lined with smooth rocks. <http://www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/cultural/southamerica/wari.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://63.249.123.11/neu/celt/ali/ali153.htm>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.wvu.edu/~Agexten/hortcult/herbs/parsley.htm>

<sup>4</sup> [books.google.ca](http://books.google.ca) The Encyclopedia of Superstitions

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.americanfolklore.net/food/garlic-folklore.html>

<sup>6</sup> <http://socyberty.com/folklore/10-strange-superstitions-about-onion/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.canadianliving.com/glossary/leek.php>

# Bowen gets \$1.46 million

## For sewage treatment facility expansion

by Tim Rhodes

On September 24th, Premier Gordon Campbell and Jay Hill, Member of Parliament for Prince George – Peace River and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, announced 174 new infrastructure projects valued at over \$719 million to help communities throughout British Columbia meet their pressing infrastructure needs, help stimulate the economy, create jobs, and support continued economic growth.

Bowen Island Municipality received \$1,460,148 for the Snug Cove Sewage Treatment Plant Expansion. Although typically the local share of these loans is 1/3, Bowen Island's share of the cost is only 20% or \$292,030, an amount Councillor Cro Lucas described as realistic for the municipality to handle. The provincial and federal governments will each contribute 40% or \$584,059.

Councillor Lucas and Councillor David Wrinch co-chaired the Infrastructure Committee, struck on February 23rd this year, specifically to address the opportunities provided by the federal government's Infrastructure Stimulus Fund (IFS) and the Communities Component of the Building Canada Fund and, with the assistance of municipal staff and volunteers, prepare grant applications. This grant is the second of two grants submitted; the first grant for sewer collection expansion was unsuccessful. Wrinch gives Lucas "ninety percent of the credit" for the work involved in the application. "Cro and I volunteered to get some shovel-in-the-ground projects together suitable for the grant applications, but Cro really took the reins. Dai Roberts assisted us in the first application—we only had two weeks notice—and Chris Buchanan at the municipality: his assistance with information gathering and the detail involved in completing both applications was invaluable, as was Wil Hilsen's input." Bowen's MP, John Weston also played a role, providing advice to Council and championing the grant as it moved through the system in Ottawa—a level of service Mayor Turner described as astonishing. Weston credits his team: "It's not about me but about the team. The staff and volunteers here and in Ottawa are fully committed to serving the community."

In August of 2008, the municipality was approved for a \$400,000 Towns for Tomorrow grant to cover 80% of the cost (Bowen's share would be \$100,000) of Snug Cove Sewage Plant – Environmental Enhancements to "modify and expand the existing sewage treatment plant to include: effluent quality enhancements, effluent reuse for fisheries enhancement, sludge processing on the island and capacity expansion to provide advanced secondary treatment for commercial and residential sewage." Because the Towns for Tomorrow grant appeared to overlap somewhat with the Snug Cove Sewage Treatment

**MP John Weston is becoming known as "the pesky MP" which perhaps explains why his electoral district, West Vancouver—Sunshine Coast—Sea-to-Sky Country, has received about 10% of all the federal grants given to BC in this last round of federal Economic Action Plan grants.**

Plant Expansion grant, it complicated the process. Lucas said the Towns for Tomorrow grant has been "parked" until the Spring to allow the Building Canada Fund grant to proceed—a "surprise move." He credits CAO Hendrik Slegtenhorst, who recently took over negotiations, with being a "very positive influence" on the process. Councillor Peter Frinton hopes that ultimately something can be worked out to incorporate the Towns for Tomorrow grant into the expansion project saying, "It's a shame to give money away"; however Wrinch is concerned that the maintenance required for effluent reuse system could be in the range of \$20,000 - \$30,000 per year.

Lucas is enthusiastic about the opportunities an expanded treatment plant could provide, especially the capability for "sludge thickening." This capacity creates the potential for on-island septage (septic tank contents) collection to be delivered to the treatment plant and ultimately the sludge would be combined with organic waste, "cooked" somewhere on the island, and produce topsoil. This process could create on-island employment, reduce GHGs (all septage is currently trucked off-

island and topsoil trucked on), and perhaps even create a revenue stream for the municipality.

Lucas views the expansion of the treatment plant as a giant step forward. "[This expansion] removes one of the substantial stumbling blocks facing of any other development coming down the pipe," and enhances the opportunity to deal with the surplus lands and Abbeyfield. Wolfgang [Dunst] confirmed that as part of his development for Parkview Slopes, he has agreed to provide the sewer from the four corners up Mt. Gardner. This would not only service his development, but also the community centre site and surplus lands, and make it more realistic for Roger McGillvary's Belterra to connect to the system.

What really enthralls Lucas is providing the sewer extension to Abbeyfield. "It's no longer so farfetched. It's a case of timing, but hopefully within two years we might be able to provide [the sewer to Abbeyfield]." He even goes so far as to suggest Abbeyfield might want to start the work necessary to put its street-front lots on the market.

Wolfgang Dunst of Bowen Island Properties Ltd. was equally pleased with the news of the grant, not only for his own purposes but for what he called "a very important need that Abbeyfield will answer for this community." Roger McGillvary of Belterra Cohousing saw the announcement as "very good



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news, not just for us but for the whole community." Mayor Turner had not responded at press time.

The sewer treatment plant expansion will allow some long anticipated plans in Snug Cove to move another step forward, not only those of private enterprise, but the community centre and Abbeyfield, and the disposition of the community (surplus) lands. Reason for celebration.

### Bowen Island Municipality

#### COMMUNITY BARBECUE INVITATION

MP John Weston and Mayor Turner, on behalf of Bowen Island Municipality, invite you to a community barbecue in celebration of the Federal, Provincial, and Municipal Governments' investments in the health, safety and community of Bowen Island as part of the Building Canada Fund Grant - Communities Component.

**Friday, October 2nd, 2009 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm, Doc Morgan's Lawn**  
**COME HELP US CELEBRATE!**

On September 24, 2009, these three governments announced that they would together accomplish the priority expansion of the Snug Cove Sewer Treatment Facility.



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# The Renting Class cont'd from pg. 7

“People have engaged the concept and started the dialogue. I think the conversation has really been taken to the level where people really have the vocabulary, and we really know what we are talking about when we discuss the different options,” says Hooper over the phone. He says that there are technical issues around septic and water supply, particularly in the Cove. “You can’t really be dismissive about technical issues like septic or water because our engineering reports say we are at capacity. Council can’t just give another unit of density away if the municipal services aren’t there.”

Hooper says the council has been dealing with those specific problems and hopes to see affordable housing within a few years.

He says that during the last OCP meeting it was decided that the island would only have one centre (Snug Cove), and thereby keep density to a minimum elsewhere.

This would by its nature mean that Sorensen’s proposal will be stalemated, as it would be for land use on the other side of the island.

So, there is the land, there is the means, there is the need, but is there the likelihood? Hard to say. Hooper says that he is not sure what is blocking any particular proposal, and that he would be interested to look over any proposal from Sorensen. He wouldn’t tell me the price of his newly acquired house.

Interestingly enough, Sorensen’s proposal mirrors almost exactly the development I saw on my trip to New Zealand this year for Enterprise Magazine. I was there to write a story on the AWHI Credit Union, a Maori-run CU who transformed one of their poorest villages through a housing development similar to the one Sorensen is proposing.



Million Dollar View in Maori Housing Project, North Island, Torrerre, New Zealand

The Maori had—through their credit union—organized 22 interest-free homes for one of their poorest villages on the North Island, Torrerre. The residents had to qualify for the homes through a committee who based their choices on

income and need. All those who qualified were on benefits (welfare).

Kitta Mio, the powerhouse Maori grandmother who was pivotal in organizing both the build and

the mortgages, pointed out that while most “banks” would never loan people on assistance money for housing, their default rate had been nil. People on benefits might not have a lot of money, but the money they make is consistent. As long as they are taught to budget, and given a budget they can meet, they are keen to meet their payments.

In fact, affordable housing changed the face of the town in more ways than physically. Because they had a reason to earn money, most of the housing recipients have found employment since buying their homes. One of the requirements to getting the homes was

that qualified buyers had to donate 500 hours to the build. Mio stated that for many of the young men and women, the building hours not only developed a sense of community, it gave them valuable skills

that they could use to upkeep their new investments.

As I drove into Torrerre my jaw dropped. I was expecting North America’s version of affordable housing: ugly project-style bunkers or the shantytowns I had seen in Africa. What I saw instead were lovely little cottages, with their own solar panels and water tanks, on stunning ocean view properties.

“These are the homes?” I asked Mio with astonishment as I took in the 360 degree, million-dollar view looking out at the Bay of Plenty. “I want one of these homes!”

The retired grandmother-of-three, whose house we were visiting just smiled.

Which gets us back to the issue of entitlement. Who is entitled to own a home, and—if they are going to get “a deal”—what kind of home

should that be? Chuck Vanhuesen showed me that the face of those needing affordable housing has changed. Business owners, schoolteachers, nurses, single working mothers are all people who might need homes that are subsidized in some way.

The Maori showed me that anyone should be entitled to own a home, as long as they can meet the basic payments, and that even those who normally wouldn’t qualify for mortgages can be a good investment. Ninety percent of AWHI CU members are on benefits, yet while the rest of the world’s banks were struggling, AWHI’s assets actually grew.

They also taught me that creating community starts in the home. They showed me that home ownership wasn’t about capital or economy; it was about security, and providing for all members of the community. And that by providing for all levels of income, including the lowest, they improved the community as a whole.

*Amanda Euringer is a freelance writer living on Bowen, and a recipient of the Tyee Fellowship for Investigative Journalism.*



Affordable Housing Cottages, North Island, Torrerre, New Zealand

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# At the table

## Report on municipal affairs

by Tim Rhodes

**Monday, 21 September 2009 – Committee of the Whole:**

Prior to calling the meeting to order, Councillor Morse presented a framed copy of the Object of the Islands Trust and framed prints of the three visitors' posters the Trust produced over the summer.

**M**emorandum of Understanding (MOU) with School District #45 for use of the synthetic grass field. Councillor Hooper expressed concern that a clause in the MOU allowed the school to claim precedence for use of the field at anytime. CAO Slegtenhorst responded with some concern that the MOU might take longer to complete than building the field. The Councillors proceeded to discuss the MOU in some detail. Slegtenhorst recommended they take out the offending clause(s), initial the document, sign it, and return it. Councillor Frinton expressed some concern over washroom access and Councillor Wrinch raised the concern over wording that suggests the municipality can only use the field until dark, when at some point there will be lights to accommodate night play. Slegtenhorst recommended that Council revisit the lighting issue once lights were installed. Councillor Poole reminded Council that a Night Sky Bylaw had to be enacted prior to lights being installed and Slegtenhorst remarked that the bylaw was some ways off.

**B**owen Island Municipality 2008 Annual Report. The document contained no comments from the CAO so Slegtenhorst took the opportunity to make some observations parallel to those in the Message from the Mayor.

- Staffing remains an issue. Due to vacancies and vacations, the

municipality operated without four major positions during August. By Christmas, he hopes to have filled the position of Director of Planning and Director of Engineering and Operations;

- The OCP Update is necessary and he is looking forward to it;
- The municipality has a grant application pending for a sewage plant expansion [news that the grant was successful was received Thursday, September 24th] but he is concerned about the lack of project planning and fiscal planning related to all projects;
- The Fire Hall is not as pressing an issue as it is perceived to be and it will be expensive;
- The Community Centre needs to be carried forward more aggressively than it has in the last 17 years;
- The Snug Cove and ferry marshalling plans he has seen are "really awfully good;"
- Roads in general need more funding. Work this year started too late to get the best deals. In the future, budgets need to be "tied up" by Christmas;
- Cape Roger Curtis requires a decision relatively soon;
- Islands Trust is an interesting alignment with the municipality—it is not as simple as people think;
- Being the 4th most artistic community in Canada is "something to build on."
- The local economy is an issue and the CAO will be working with the Chamber of Commerce. "We remain a green community in spite of our disproportionate carbon footprint."
- It will be an uphill battle, but he is hopeful the something can be done

with respect to affordable housing.

- With respect to the Progress Report, there is a lot in progress but not much completed.

Councillor Poole questioned Slegtenhorst about his use of the word "interesting" in his comments on the Islands Trust. He responded that he meant it was open to some interesting interpretations. Poole continued to press. Slegtenhorst did not elaborate further his use of the word. Councillor Hooper suggested the municipality engage capital thinking around borrowing or public-private partnerships. Slegtenhorst observed that the number of projects on-the-go is greater than the capacity of the municipality to respond. Councillor Frinton suggested the municipality needed a waste management plan and that business licensing had dropped off the radar. Mayor Turner expressed his thanks to the CAO and, echoing statements by Slegtenhorst and the Councillors, expressed thanks to staff for the excellent report and particularly to Kathy Lalonde, Corporate Officer, for her "candid telling of the tale." The formal meeting was adjourned.

On the issue of approaching the minister about Crown Lands protection, Slegtenhorst advised that it was important to ask for action or money. "I like the money part."

Councillor Wrinch attended the Future of the Region Waste Management discussions and reported that waste-to-energy incineration seemed to be the only option open to Metro Vancouver when land fills reach capacity (which they are rapidly approaching). There are concerns over pollutants caused by incineration, although it is a solution popular in Europe. Wrinch summed up the dilemma with, "We may not be buried in waste, we

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may just choke on it."

Councillors Poole and Hooper, who continue to search for funding to buy parkland at CRC, reported that they met with the Superintendent of Parks for the Gulf Island National Park (currently its boundaries are prescribed and do not include Bowen). They suggested there needed to be more momentum in building dialogue and requested that staff be asked to seek out further contact information.

## Off the cuff: preserve and protect?

### A bi-weekly editorial

by Tim Rhodes

**M**artin Stefani built a fence on his property to prevent people (sometimes as many as 100 a day) from shortcutting through his property, 15 feet from his front door. The trespass had been ongoing for years, but as it escalated, he tired of stepping in dog feces and children looking in his windows. The municipality granted Chris Poole (a non-resident landowner) a permit to build a stair and platform on municipal property so that he and others could continue to short-cut to the beach. The structure would span

a rock outcropping about 35 feet long and 15 feet high and would further encroach on Stefani's privacy (and no doubt lower the resale value of his property) as well as expose the private deck of his neighbour above to all travelling the shortcut.

The municipality issued the permit without consulting Stefani or his neighbour, but to their credit is now looking for other solutions. There is some preliminary talk about blasting away the face of the outcropping to create an "alley" on the other side of

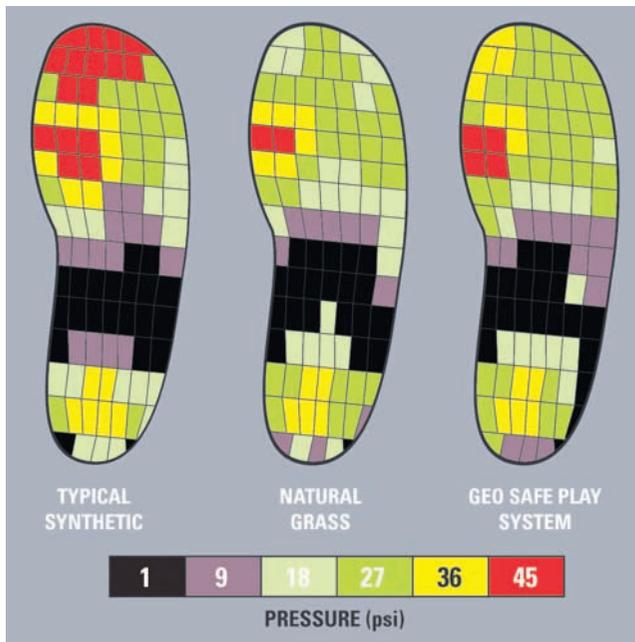
Stefani's fence. The cost of blowing three thousand cubic feet of rock to smithereens would be borne by private individuals, presumably Poole and those who want the shortcut. Add a fence. Problem solved.

There will be a lot of discussion about "preserve and protect" during the OCP Update process. In Stefani's case, nothing would be preserved or protected, neither nature nor the rights of property owners. It seems to be a recurring theme on Bowen: a few individuals who feel some sense

of entitlement trespass for years, and when a change in circumstances threatens what they consider their "right," they attempt (often successfully) to use the instruments of the municipality to undermine the rights of the individual property owner. Should years of trespass give the transgressor(s) rights to property? Should the path of trespass be deemed a greenway? We need to be careful that our OCP Update does not further entrench us in this kind of oligarchy.

## Faction friction Brings Bowen to the world stage

cont'd from pg. 3



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- most athletic footwear is appropriate except metal cleats which tear up any surface, including asphalt;
- the surface is designed to perform more like natural turf and all but eliminates "Turf Toe," a common injury on artificial playing fields, caused by uneven distribution of pressure on the front toe instead of solely (no pun intended) on the plantar (see image above);
- sunflower seeds and chewing gum should be banned from the field;
- white lines on field are permanent white synthetic grass.

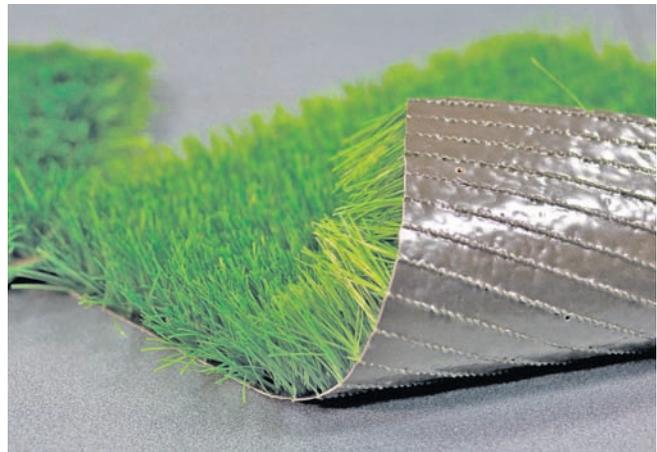
CAO Slegtenhorst thanked Carapella for coming from the big island to the small island. (There is only 2 square miles difference in area between Manhattan Island and Bowen Island, although Manhattan has a somewhat higher density.)

Mayor Turner expressed his appreciation to Carapella for the personal touch. "The field is about creating joy" and the opportunity to

have the product's attributes explained was a service to Bowen."

Additional information: the municipality has applied for a RINC (Recreation Infrastructure Canada) grant; if successful, the \$250,000 grant could perhaps provide some funding for fencing and/or lighting. Fencing is needed only to control the ball and it is anticipated that it will be no more than 4 feet tall. The project is on budget, but at this time there are no funds to replace basketball court surface.

There is a grand opening planned for October 23rd, but work on the field will be finished this week and public will have free access (when it is not booked) starting this weekend.



A section of the Geo Turf showing the backing

This field demonstrates that the frictions that so often arise between factions in our community can result in an outcome not only acceptable to most, but perhaps better than originally envisioned. This is what happened here. Now if we could just tone down the rhetoric the next time ...

**"The field is about creating joy"**

Mayor Bob Turner