

Pipeline review under way

by Alexandra Woodsworth

GSA has been granted intervenor status in the review process, now officially underway, for Kinder Morgan's application to expand its TransMountain pipeline. This means we can put forward evidence, ask questions of the company and speak at the oral hearings.

Although we're pleased to have this opportunity to tell the National Energy Board (NEB) why the project isn't worth the risk, it's a mixed blessing when so many others were denied the chance to participate and when so many more flaws in the review process have come to light.

Over 2,000 people applied to the NEB to take part. However, close to half (920) were either rejected outright or "downgraded" from intervenor to commenter status. It's a sad comment on Canadian democracy when nearly a thousand people who stepped up to have their say in a complex regulatory process about a project of national significance are shut out of the hearings or denied their chosen level of participation.

Lawyers, elected officials and citizens have heaped criticism on the NEB for other reasons as well:

- *the short timeline (11 months compared to 27 for the Enbridge review on the North Coast);*
- *the perceived bias of the three panel members (two have long careers in the oil and gas industry, and none has experience in environmental or marine issues); and especially,*
- *the lack of oral cross-examination: intervenors won't have the chance to ask Kinder Morgan questions in person, under oath—reducing the process to little more than a paperwork exercise.*

The National Energy Board plans to make its final recommendation within a year. However, two lawsuits have already been filed to challenge the review which, if successful, could result in the process being restarted or



Photo: Sarana (www.livingsalishsea.ca)

A tanker full of tar sands "dilbit" squeezes under the two Second Narrows bridges after filling up at KinderMorgan's Burnaby terminal.

significantly delayed. As we all know, delays can ultimately mean that shovels never break ground on resource projects like this.

In our collective combing through the details of Kinder Morgan's 15,000-page application, we have also started to discover some troubling facts. For example:

- *The company admits that even in the absence of any accident, routine traffic associated with the project would have 'high magnitude, high probability and significant' impacts on our Southern Resident killer whales.*
- *Kinder Morgan's 'worst case scenario' oil spill model assumes calm water, no complications and a spill of less than one fifth of a tanker's capacity—a scenario that simply can't be described as 'worst case'.*
- *Most shocking of all, Kinder Morgan claims that oil spills can be good for the economy by generating clean-up jobs—a statement that generated blanket media coverage and a PR nightmare for the company.*

Clearly, intervenors have a lot of work to do to hold Kinder Morgan's feet to the fire. GSA has hired a lawyer to represent us during the hearings, and we will be gathering information from experts on the lack of capacity for spill preparedness and response in communities along the tanker route. We will be working to represent our region's residents and businesses who can't directly participate in the process, and making it clear that we want *healthy orca pods, not dead whales; green jobs, not clean-up jobs; and clean beaches, not climate change.*

We want to hear from you!
What do you think about Kinder Morgan's pipeline plan? How would your family, business or community be affected by an oil spill? Are you an intervenor or commenter and need a little advice? Get in touch: alexandra@georgiastrait.org

Strait Thoughts: Time to see the bigger picture

by Christianne Wilhelmson, Executive Director



Being able to take the time to step back from our day-to-day tasks is a rare gift. We're all very busy, but lifting our heads from our long "to do" lists can have hugely positive impacts on our work and our lives.

I was extremely fortunate this spring to have two opportunities to step away from the work at hand. These have given me a deeper sense of my own place—and Georgia Strait Alliance's place—in the bigger picture of creating social change and protecting our part of the Salish Sea.

In March, thanks to the generous support of one of our long time funders, I travelled to Seattle to attend a week-long workshop on non-profit leadership. The academic understanding of how non-profits work is deep and rich, and the course itself was amazing. I came back with information and learning that I continue to process and apply to GSA, to strengthen our organization.

A revelation has stayed with me from spending that week with 29 other non-profit executives: regardless of what side of the border you're on or what social issues you tackle, the challenges of running a non-profit are the same—while non-profits all have slight differences that make us unique, overall we're more alike than not.

This insight may seem obvious, but too often in our work, we silo ourselves off in separate sectors (or even separate organizations within a sector), meaning opportunities to share our knowledge and mutual support are all too rare. Understanding our organizations' similarities can help us understand how the ebbs and flows we each experience are normal—and that realization is very freeing! I've come back from the workshop

committed to seeing our work as part of a greater network, and making better use of the strength and knowledge within that network and our wider non-profit world.

In late April I was back in Seattle, this time with three other GSA staff members, at the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference. This bi-annual conference is one I keenly anticipate and as I expected, it didn't disappoint. Nearly 1300 scientists, policy makers, government officials and civil society leaders, all with an interest in the Salish Sea, gathered to learn and share their work. This is my sixth such conference, and I always leave filled with information and a sense of reconnection to a greater community that is, like GSA, working to protect these waters.

Perhaps it's the recent addition of the name "Salish Sea" to the conference title, perhaps it's simply the increase in shared threats, but I really felt a tangible shift at this year's conference. There was a palpable desire to work across borders and it wasn't just expressed in words. Transboundary initiatives on many fronts were begun or renewed at this gathering, and it's clear to me that our cross-border efforts to protect the Salish Sea are truly gaining momentum. Despite the international boundary, this is a single region ecologically, and going forward, I see strong action coming from these partnerships, which can have only a positive impact on the region.

I'm deeply thankful for what I've learned this spring. We don't have to re-invent the wheel and we don't have to do the work alone. There is knowledge and there is help—and we can find them, when we take the time to look.

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"At Boldt Communications, we try to live our values in how we do business, and the work of the Georgia Strait Alliance aligns perfectly with those values: a local organization that's doing important, science-based work to protect the waters and region we love so much. We're proud to support GSA again this year."

—Lesli Boldt, Boldt Communications

Strait Talk

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Drift cards show oil spill risk is far-reaching

by Alexandra Woodsworth

One of the small plywood drift cards that we dropped in waters off the Saanich Peninsula last October has been found, very far away—on a remote beach in Haida Gwaii. Carrying the message, “This Could be Oil”, the card travelled over 1,000 km from its drop point along the Kinder Morgan tanker route, out through the Strait of Juan de Fuca and past the pristine shores of Vancouver Island and the Central Coast. Its epic journey shows that most of BC’s treasured coast is potentially at risk from a spill here in the Salish Sea.

In March of this year we began another chapter in the project, this time looking south. Working with our partners at Friends of the San Juans, we launched a new series of drift card drops to study the potential cross-border risks of an oil spill along the tanker route. These cards will provide us with important scientific data on seasonal differences in potential oil spill scenarios. They’re also helping to raise awareness south of the border about the risks of the Kinder Morgan project, and the need for US and Canadian citizens to work together to protect our shared waters.



Photo: Kate Pepler

A drift card found on a Henry Island beach in the San Juan Islands. Above, one card travelled as far north as Haida Gwaii.

Main photo: Molly Elder

Pledge to prevent fossil fuel superhighway



We are launching a cross-border pledge this summer.

Last summer we held a unique cross-border town hall meeting, linking up concerned citizens in Washington state and BC to talk about the combined impacts of the juggernaut of oil, coal and LNG projects currently being proposed on both sides of the border.

Any of these projects would have significant impacts on our air, ocean and wildlife, and taken together, they are even more dangerous, putting community health and safety, our economy and our climate all at risk. Right now, the relevant regulatory agencies are considering each of these export

projects in isolation—ignoring the potential for cumulative impacts—and most citizens aren’t paying enough attention to what’s happening on the other side of the border.

To counter this problem, we are launching a cross-border pledge this summer, to Save the Salish Sea from the threats of fossil fuel expansion. The pledge asks US and Canadian citizens to work together to press decision makers to reject new fossil fuel export projects, and prevent the Salish Sea from becoming a global carbon corridor.

Find out more and sign the pledge here:
www.georgiastrait.org/SalishSeaPledge



GSA’s Energy and Shipping Campaigner Alexandra Woodsworth was one of a panel of speakers at “Tankers, Toxins and Climate Change”, a community forum held in Nanaimo in April. The event focused on Kinder Morgan’s proposed pipeline and oil tanker expansion project and the campaign to stop Metro Vancouver’s plan to build a municipal waste incinerator at Duke Point, just south of Nanaimo.

Photo: Michelle Young

Partial program support provided by



A common thread for our community

By Sebastian Merz

As I was collecting my thoughts for this article, I overhear someone say that Vancouver has never been more divided than it is today. I have not lived here long enough to dispute the argument, but still, I would at least question it. Of course Vancouver deals with issues that cause controversy and debate, but Vancouverites seem to agree on many of the things they value in their city: they want a liveable, safe and healthy place, one that is affordable and offers jobs and economic opportunities for all of us.

Like any other city in the world, Vancouver also has its divides. Between East and West, rich and poor, cycling enthusiasts and motorists, different cultures and sub-cultures, ages or political strands. Stories that pitch one group of people against another usually grab more attention in the public arena. GSA, however, has started writing a different story.

Our **Waterfront Initiative** is bringing a new kind of collaboration to our community, one which will help us create a resilient and prosperous shoreline that benefits people as well as ecosystems.

In early April we hosted the first Waterfront Network Forum, a day-long dialogue that brought together representatives from different levels of government, industries related to the waterfront, civil society groups and individual experts. We asked them to imagine what a positive future for our waterfront might look like and what challenges and opportunities we will likely encounter on the way there. (Read more about the forum and its outcomes at www.GeorgiaStrait.org/waterfrontinitiative).



Ideas flowed freely at our first Waterfront Forum

Photo: Christianne Wilhelmsen

As varied as participants' perspectives and interests were, the conversation at the Forum revealed more common ground than disagreement. Many of the people in the room had a personal connection to the waterfront, having grown up fishing, paddling, or sailing along Vancouver's shoreline. The future they imagined was one of diversity and integration, with many different kinds of waterfront uses and spaces for nature,



The waterfront can become a public 'square' that wraps around the city.

Photo: Sebastian Merz

homes, recreation, work and transportation. But it was also a future in which the diverse parts of our shoreline were well connected and integrated.

One of the most powerful ideas that emerged from the day is that the waterfront has the potential to become a new common thread for our community, economy, and ecosystems. The waterfront already connects the city as it wraps around it almost completely, and it could link us in many more ways:

- by integrating commercial, residential and recreational activities,
- by increasing connectivity between ecosystems, which is very important for the plant and animal species that inhabit them,
- by helping us move people and goods from place to place, and not least
- as a public square that brings together people from different parts of the city, from different backgrounds or different cultures.

To make the waterfront the link that connects our city, we need a collective vision for its future, and a plan that includes concrete tools and resources to get us there. GSA's Waterfront Initiative will help fill this void. The first Waterfront Forum has started the conversation and we are committed to carrying it forward. Over the coming months, we will continue to grow our network, and we will engage citizens in the process.

We want to hear from the city's people about their connection to the waterfront and what they want the future of our shoreline to look like. The conversation will happen both online (where citizens will create a community map of the waterfront) and in person, at our first **Water's Edge Day** celebration in early October.

That event will be a day of fun and exciting activities around the waterfront. Make sure to be part of it, and keep up to date on the Waterfront Initiative through Twitter @GeorgiaStraitBC, Facebook and our website: www.GeorgiaStrait.org/waterfrontinitiative.

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Leaving a legacy for animal habitat

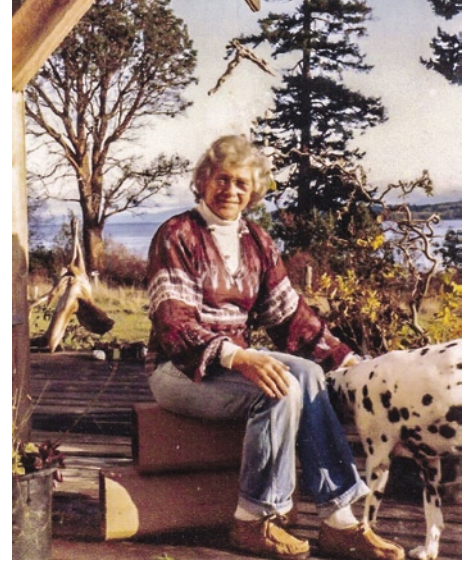
For almost 15 years, Georgia Strait Alliance was honoured to receive financial support from long time Denman Island resident, **Margaret Sizmann**, who passed away in 2012. But even after her death, Margaret has gone on helping GSA thanks to a decision she made shortly before her death.

Born in Riga, Latvia, in 1920, Margaret and her husband came to Canada by ocean liner in 1953. When the marriage ended, Margaret—always fiercely independent—went to work first as a seamstress, then found long-term employment with an engineering firm in West Vancouver, where she became a draftsman and designer of pipes for pulp mills.

In 1980 Margaret moved to Denman Island, where she enjoyed gardening and participated in one of the Denman Conservancy Association's earliest Home and Garden Tours, which became very popular. She enjoyed traveling on her own in her camper van, usually taking along a dog or two, going as far south as the Baja peninsula.

A few years ago, Margaret knew that she had only a short time left to live and needed to write her will. She had no family heirs, so decided to leave her estate to six of her favorite charities. She had always been concerned about the welfare of animals, so she included two that focus on animal welfare and rescue, along with three that work on the protection of wildlife habitat (Georgia Strait Alliance, Denman Island Conservancy and the Canadian Wildlife Federation).

It's hard for most of us to imagine how our own estate might benefit our communities long after we're gone. Margaret set a wonderful example, in thinking ahead and taking action to ensure that her legacy could help the animals she loved and the environment upon which they depend. We're grateful for her decision to support GSA and other worthy charities in this way, and we will be putting her final gift to the most effective use possible.



Margaret Sizmann was concerned about animal welfare and the protection of wildlife habitat.

If you would like to consider making a bequest to GSA in your own will, please contact Cathy Booter at 250-753-3459 or cathy@georgiastrait.org.

Thanks to members of the Denman Island Conservancy for the photo of Margaret and the information in this article.

Famed orca expert visits Vancouver



In May we were thrilled to welcome renowned Orca researcher, author and conservationist Erich Hoyt to Vancouver as the last stop on his Orca Tour 2014. The event was a great success, with more than 180 people turning out to hear about Erich's adventures with Orcas in the North Pacific. The Tour's

goals were to promote awareness of the Southern Resident Killer Whales along the Pacific Coast from Vancouver Island to Monterey, California, and to inspire stewardship of the marine environment. The Vancouver stop was presented by GSA along with the Vancouver Public Library and The Whale Trail, and the evening was in part sponsored by Prince of Whales Whale Watching.



Erich Hoyt spoke in Vancouver in May as part of his Orca Tour 2014.

Photos: Ken Weiner

Comings and Goings



In late May GSA welcomed two summer students to our staff team.

Ryan Butler is focusing on the recreational boating community—a natural fit for someone who's been boating all his life. He's spending the summer

“dock walking”, connecting with boaters about our Clean Marine BC program and distributing educational materials to help more people adopt green boating practices. Ryan, who has a Diploma in Cinematography, just completed his BA in Sociology and Political Science at VIU and plans to attend Uvic this fall to begin studies for his MA.

Natalie Drope is focusing on promoting GSA's overall mission to protect the Strait, reaching out to the public at special events in various communities and providing ways for people to participate in our work. Natalie, an excellent researcher, has an Event Planning Certificate and is currently working to earn a BA in Tourism Management at VIU.

We're delighted to have these outgoing and energetic young staff members with us for the summer!

In late April GSA welcomed **Rachel S. Forbes** to our Board of Directors. She is the principal of Sharp Six Services, which provides capacity building services to community-based businesses and non-profits. Raised in a small community on the Sunshine Coast where her family has its roots in commercial fishing, Rachel went on to earn a BA in Geography and Communications, a Certificate in Urban Studies and a law degree. She has worked in aboriginal and environmental law with NGOs, a law firm, and several local governments, as well as land use, First Nations relations and sustainable community planning. She has over 15 years of experience volunteering in a variety of organizations, including serving as a board and committee member for charities, non-profits and corporations, and is currently a non-corporate member of the Planning Institute of British Columbia and a director of the Whistler Centre for Sustainability. We're very pleased to have her aboard!



Watch for us this summer and fall...

Keep an eye out for GSA staff and volunteers over the summer as we find our way to events throughout the region. If you're in Greater Victoria, you might see our summer students walking the docks, talking Green Boating. If you're in the Lower Mainland, you might see us at local events or along the shoreline talking tankers and waterfronts. We'll also be at public events in many of the smaller communities around the Strait. Watch for dates and details at www.GeorgiaStrait.org/events, and wherever you see us, please come by and say hello! We have some other exciting events brewing for this summer and fall, here's a sneak peek:

- In **early October** we'll be hosting a **WATER'S EDGE DAY** celebration in Vancouver, a day of fun and exciting activities around the waterfront. Plan on taking part!
- If you're a film lover and couldn't get enough of (or worse, missed!) the Vancouver Festival of Ocean Films in early June, we'll be brushing off our 'film festival' duds and hosting the **PATAGONIA WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL** in Victoria this **October**. At the Festival we'll be highlighting local and international films, and we're hoping some of the film makers will be joining us for a special event prior to the screening. All net proceeds will go to Georgia Strait Alliance. Thanks to Patagonia for their support and this great opportunity!
We hope to see you there!



Lisa Campardo (Branch Manager) and Ferdinand Lagadi (Manager Client Care) of RBC Royal Bank recently presented GSA's Christianne Wilhelmson with a donation of \$4000 on behalf of RBC's Blue Water Project.

Photo: courtesy RBC

Down at the Dock

Bringing the message to you!

by Michelle Young

This season GSA's summer students are dock walking at marinas around Georgia Strait—bringing the green boating message directly to you! Our popular *Guide to Green Boating* is a valuable resource, full of useful tips on pump-out station locations, ways to save fuel and prevent small spills, alternatives to toxic cleaners and bottom paints, and much, much more. Grab a copy if we bump into you, and we'll be happy to answer any green boating questions you may have.

CMBC Marinas continue to shine

Our *Clean Marine BC* eco-rated marinas are certified with a 1 to 5-Anchor rating for environmental best practices, with 5 Anchors being the top possible rating. This spring, for the first time ever, we've had a marina leap ahead by two full Anchor ratings! **Shelter Island Marina** has made great strides forward during its three-year certification period, achieving a 4-Anchor rating thanks partly to improvements in boatyard operations, dust control, and monitoring of boatyard users.

"We're excited to have been awarded a 4-Anchor rating from GSA's Clean Marine BC program", says Shelter Island Marina President, Terry McPhail. "Our staff has worked hard to ensure the environmental best practices we've put in place are adhered to, and increasing our rating by two Anchors is a real testament to our commitment to protect the environment. We're looking forward to working with GSA to attain a 5-Anchor rating in the near future." Being located right on the Fraser River, Shelter Island Marina's dedication to improving marina practices will have real benefits for the health of the River and the Strait of Georgia.

Maple Bay Marina has now been recertified, and has maintained its 4-Anchor rating. It is rewarding to see the eel grass beds naturally returning right next to the marina, along with the wildlife. David Messier, General Manager of Maple Bay Marina, says, "We are proud to be awarded our second 4-Anchor rating by Georgia Strait Alliance's Clean Marine BC Program and to be in the fine company of other industry leading marinas in the spectacular Salish Sea that we all share."

MGA | MICHAEL GREEN ARCHITECTURE is a proud member of One Percent of the Planet and a supporter of Georgia Strait Alliance.

MGA
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Our work focuses on designing happy, healthy and environmentally sensitive buildings throughout BC, and we support GSA because they too are working to promote sustainable communities which are in balance with our natural environment. Our projects range from private houses to universities, from cultural buildings to public art and landscapes and from social projects to community centres and schools. Together with our school DBR | DESIGN BUILD RESEARCH we help nurture a new generation of designers that care about the planet and our collective well-being as a growing community.



Fisherman's Wharf in False Creek coated creosote pilings with a protective liner which boosted the herring egg hatch rate.

Photo: courtesy Squamish Streamkeepers

Our first (and so far, only) 5-Anchor Clean Marine BC marina is **False Creek Harbour Authority's Fisherman's Wharf**, which recently participated in Squamish Streamkeepers' herring recovery program. Creosote pilings in False Creek were coated in a protective EnviroLiner, which resulted in a 50% successful hatch rate—a vast improvement over eggs laid directly on the pilings, virtually none of which hatched. These herring have become an integral part of the food web, from False Creek out into the Strait of Georgia and beyond, nourishing birds, salmon, marine mammals, and even people and our coastal forests.

We are honoured to be able to recognize the great efforts and achievements of our Clean Marine BC marinas, harbour authorities, yacht clubs and boat yards, and to support them in attaining the highest of environmental standards. Together we strive for continual improvement, and we look forward to sharing more success stories with you as Clean Marine BC participants continue to shine, down at the dock!

For up-to-date news and information
www.GeorgiaStrait.org

GSA's Partners in Protection

Thank you to the following businesses, organizations and foundations that have committed or renewed their support for GSA since our last newsletter...

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Denman Island Chocolate Ltd.

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Hornby Island Residents & Ratepayers' Association

The McLean Foundation

Michael Green Architecture Inc.

RBC Foundation - RBC Blue Water Project

Salish Sea Pilot

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General funding for GSA has recently been provided by:



We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia.

And we thank all the many **INDIVIDUAL DONORS** and **GSA MEMBERS** too numerous to list, whose support ensures this important work continues.

Be our Partner in Protection

Help us say **NO** to 400 more tankers per year carrying tar sands oil through Southern Resident Killer Whale habitat and **YES** to healthy Killer Whale pods, green jobs and clean beaches.

Your tax deductible donation to Georgia Strait Alliance helps us to challenge the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion proposal on behalf of our 1200+ members and the hundreds of others who were denied the chance to participate in the National Energy Board hearing process. Help us tell the NEB that Kinder Morgan's proposal is **not worth the risk** to our coastal waters, our communities, and our way of life.



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