



HAVE YOUR SAY ON KINDER MORGAN

It's crunch time in this long fight. The federal Cabinet will make a final decision on Kinder Morgan later this year, so you are needed now more than ever.

The government is holding public meetings in communities across BC, and we need you to be there! This is our last, best chance to stop Kinder Morgan.

Georgia Strait Alliance is coordinating with groups across the region to ensure that every single meeting is filled to the rafters, and the online comments are flooded with concerned residents speaking up for the coast, climate and our communities.

more on page 3



photo: Alexandra Woodsworth

FIND OUT EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO TAKE PART AND MAKE YOUR VOICE COUNT!

www.georgiastrait.org/StopKinderMorgan



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STRAIT THOUGHTS

BRIDGING BOUNDARIES

by Christianne Wilhelmson, Executive Director

From Pender to Quadra islands, with stops on Mayne Island, Salt Spring and in Campbell River, I've had the pleasure of spending time in communities along the Georgia Strait over the last few months. I've met with supporters in coffee shops, schools, and church basements, and been warmly welcomed into people's homes; like yours. It's been wonderful to listen to what you have to say about what is on your mind and what concerns you most.

The issues vary from community to community—from tankers to Styrofoam pollution, from abandoned vessels to contaminants in ground fish. Your concerns are broad ranging and yet each one is vital to the health and longevity of our waters and our communities.

These conversations have spurred many thoughts and ideas, making me realize that Georgia Strait Alliance is doing work that you believe in, but yet there is so much more we need to do. They've also brought home how passionate you are and how much you're doing in your local community to keep your part of the Strait healthy.

It's also highlighted to me the way boundaries seem to separate us in so many ways. Islands not far from one another are tackling issues on their own, with our cherished water seeming to sometimes create more than distance in nautical miles.

The issue of boundaries was also central to my experience at the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference, which was held this past spring in Vancouver. The growing threats of noise and pollution from shipping, a reduction in salmon stocks, and the increased

threats to orcas aren't confined by nautical miles or borders. And yet the international border that separates BC and Washington State creates immense obstacles to protecting the Salish Sea, despite that being something you and I both want.



Never before had I seen this reality so boldly stated and been part of such tremendous efforts to gather leaders to figure out what we can do together—by combining our ideas—to bridge this boundary that inhibits our ability to create the healthy ocean that we need, and so very much want.

It's together that we'll continue to address our coastal challenges.

I've realized these past few months that in addition to the programs, campaigns and initiatives that address the threats to our region at a systemic level, another role Georgia Strait Alliance plays is being a connector. We share community stories so we can learn about what our Salish Sea neighbours are doing, and we find ways that you can help to make a difference.

Georgia Strait Alliance works across boundaries and borders—whether local or international—to create solutions to challenges, and we're able to accomplish that because of your support.

It's cliché to say “we're stronger together” but when it comes to you, our work, and Salish Sea communities, it is true ... as long as we don't let boundaries get in the way.

If you'd like Christianne to meet with your community, please contact Cheryl Onciul | cheryl@georgiastrait.org



YOU CAN STOP KINDER MORGAN

by Alexandra Woodsworth

Thanks to you, and thousands of others who demanded a better review for Kinder Morgan, this summer we face our last—and our best—chance to tell the government that this project is the wrong choice for our region.

The federal Cabinet will make its final decision on [the Kinder Morgan project](#) later this year, so it's crunch time in the battle to protect our coast and the climate from this pipeline.

The government is planning public meetings along the pipeline and tanker route this summer, and we need you to be there!

Following the federal election, Georgia Strait Alliance worked with groups across the country to make sure the Prime Minister kept his election promise to 'redo' the Kinder Morgan hearings, and over 100 of you sent him emails. Georgia Strait Alliance [released a poll](#) showing that 68 per cent of British Columbians expected the Prime Minister to follow through on his commitment. The pressure worked, and in February the federal government announced additional public and First Nations consultation on Kinder Morgan, as well as an assessment of the project's upstream climate impacts.

In May, following a widely discredited review process, the National Energy Board (NEB) recommended the Kinder Morgan project be approved. It was a galvanizing moment, as people across the region reacted, and pledged to flood the government's public meetings over the summer and fall.

The previous NEB process excluded thousands of people, like you, from having your say about Kinder Morgan.

While the change in tone from our federal government on climate change, Indigenous rights, and public accountability is refreshing, make no mistake: our work is cut out for us if we're going to stop Kinder Morgan. The Prime Minister is under huge pressure from the oil industry and the Alberta government to get a pipeline to tidewater. We've heard repeated statements from Ottawa about the need to get Canadian resources to mar-

ket. The provincial government officially doesn't support the Kinder Morgan project in its current form, but talks optimistically about 'getting to yes.'

This is a high stakes political chess game—and it's our job, together, to show that the cost of making our coast a pawn to the pipeline pushers is simply too great.

We have fought too long, and come too far together, to stop now. We have a government that takes climate change seriously, and a Prime Minister who says that "governments grant permits, but communities grant permission." Let's hold him to it.

***Pledge to speak up this summer:
[www.georgiastrait.org/
StopKinderMorgan](http://www.georgiastrait.org/StopKinderMorgan)***

Speaking for the whales at the NEB hearings

In the final stage of the National Energy Board hearings in January, Georgia Strait Alliance asked the panel to reject the project based on two key points:

1. Failures in oil spill response planning put communities and the environment at unacceptable risk from an oil spill.
2. Kinder Morgan's admission that the project will have serious negative impacts on our endangered killer whales.

Leaving a legacy

by Rachel Forbes, Board President

Leaving a legacy to Georgia Strait Alliance is one of the easiest ways you can pledge your long term support of the work we do. It's a quick step you can take that will have a lasting impact on the people and ecosystems of our region many years from now.

There are several ways to leave a legacy, including through your will, through designating beneficiaries and through gifts in memory of loved ones, animals or places.

Why make a will?

Making a will is an important part of planning for the future. If you pass away without a will, your property will be divided according to BC law, and the costs to administer your estate will likely increase. You'll also be giving up the right to appoint the guardian of your choice for any children in your care, to make charitable contributions of your choice, and divisions of property that you own. You can change your will at any time, and it has no legal effect until you pass away.

It's important to keep your will up to date and especially to re-examine it

any time that circumstances in your life change (marriage, divorce, children, etc.). The Wills, Estates and Succession Act came into force in March 2014 so if you made your will prior to that date it may need to be revised.

How else can you leave a legacy, beyond a will?

Wills don't cover everything. You can also leave a legacy to a charity outside of your will through instruments such as a life insurance policy or a retirement benefit plan.

Clarity is critical

When leaving a legacy, clarity is critical. Whether it is in a will or a beneficiary designation, the full name of Georgia Strait Alliance and our charitable registration number needs to be used. It is of greatest benefit to make an unrestricted gift to a charity, so that the gift isn't directed at a program or initiative that is no longer relevant after you pass away. As sample text for a will, you could state: "I give all or (enter a percentage or fixed amount) of the residue of my estate, a

specific cash legacy, or a specific asset, to Georgia Strait Alliance charitable registration number 13994 2254 R0001. I request that funds be used for the highest priority need as determined by the Society at the time of receipt of funds."

Meeting with a professional

If your estate is not straightforward, or if you seek personalized tax planning advice, we recommend you consult a professional to draft your estate plan and will. It's ideal to gather some information in advance of your meeting:

- Make a detailed list of your assets (financial, real estate, vehicles, jewellery, collectibles, etc.)
- Brainstorm to whom you may want to give gifts or bequests, including charities.
- Once you have decided to make a gift to Georgia Strait Alliance, please let us know that we are named in your will (no details required!) so we have a better sense of how to plan.



Get in touch and resources

Our website and legacy giving brochure give you more detailed information on options and how to pursue them. Please contact us if you would like a brochure mailed to you or would like to set up a phone call or meeting with us.

For more information, please contact:
Cathy Booler
Administrative Director
250-753-3459 cathy@georgiastrait.org

Disclaimer: The above information is general in nature and is not legal or tax advice.



For more resources and advice, search: “Wills and Estate Planning” on the Government of BC website.

A Lasting Environmental Legacy by Allison Murray

Joseph Jacobus Burgerjon—or Joop as he was known to family and friends—had a successful career as an engineer at Triumph, the nuclear physics laboratory at UBC. However, his adult daughter Paula Burgerjon thinks “if he had been able to choose what he wanted to do, rather than what was practical to make a living and what he was good at, he would have definitely become a biologist.”

When Joop retired in the ‘70s, he and his wife moved from Vancouver to the water’s edge in Sechelt on the Sunshine Coast. Due to his proximity to the water, Joop was the first resident in the area to notice permitting signs from a developer who was planning a development that threatened the wetlands. Being a passionate and enthusiastic man, Joop was fired up by this potential infringement on the wetlands, and he formed the non-profit Sargeant Bay Society in 1978 to oppose it.



Money was raised, the development application was opposed, and the wetlands were saved. But that’s not all. The organization went on to obtain provincial park status in 1990, and it expanded to include Triangle Lake in 1996. Today, the Sargeant Bay Society works with BC Parks to create and maintain trails, manage an invasive plant control program, and create platforms for bird watching on the 142-hectare site.

“He felt very strongly that the ocean, as a whole, sustained the planet and that’s why it’s so important to keep them clean and to look after them.”

Joop passed away last year at the age of 91, but his legacy and his commitment to the environment continues. There’s a new trail at the Sargeant Bay Provincial Park, named Joop’s Triangle Lake Trail, and Joop’s will contained a generous bequest to Georgia Strait Alliance, as well as to four other environmental groups. We thank Joop and his family for their generosity.

DOWN AT THE DOCK

story and photos by Michelle Young

HOPE ON ABANDONED AND DERELICT VESSELS

Abandoned and [derelict vessels](#) are littered along our province's extensive coastline, negatively impacting many of your treasured retreats. Commercial and recreational boats in various states of disrepair, or decay, threaten our waters and wildlife, as well as the safety of mariners and shoreline users, like you and me. If you've been following the problem closely, as I have, you're likely also feeling frustrated.

We push for something to be done. We worry about the numerous ticking time bombs ... and we watch vessels sink.

Jurisdictional complexities and inadequate funding are at the root. It's nearly impossible to determine the responsible agency and, even were these to be established, there aren't sufficient resources to deal with these boats.

The situation is so complex that the Province's [guide](#) to "Dealing with Problem Vessels and Structures in BC Wa-

ters" includes a list of contacts. It directs you to five possible points of contact, depending on the location, safety concerns, types of toxins being leaked, and a number of other factors.

Coastal communities have been dealing with derelict and abandoned vessels on a piecemeal basis because leadership is lacking at the federal and provincial levels. You and your community aren't alone in being tired of the status quo, but now there's hope.

Saanich Council passed a [resolution](#) to establish an abandoned and derelict vessel program, as well as an end of life vessel disposal program, and it was endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities at its convention in April.

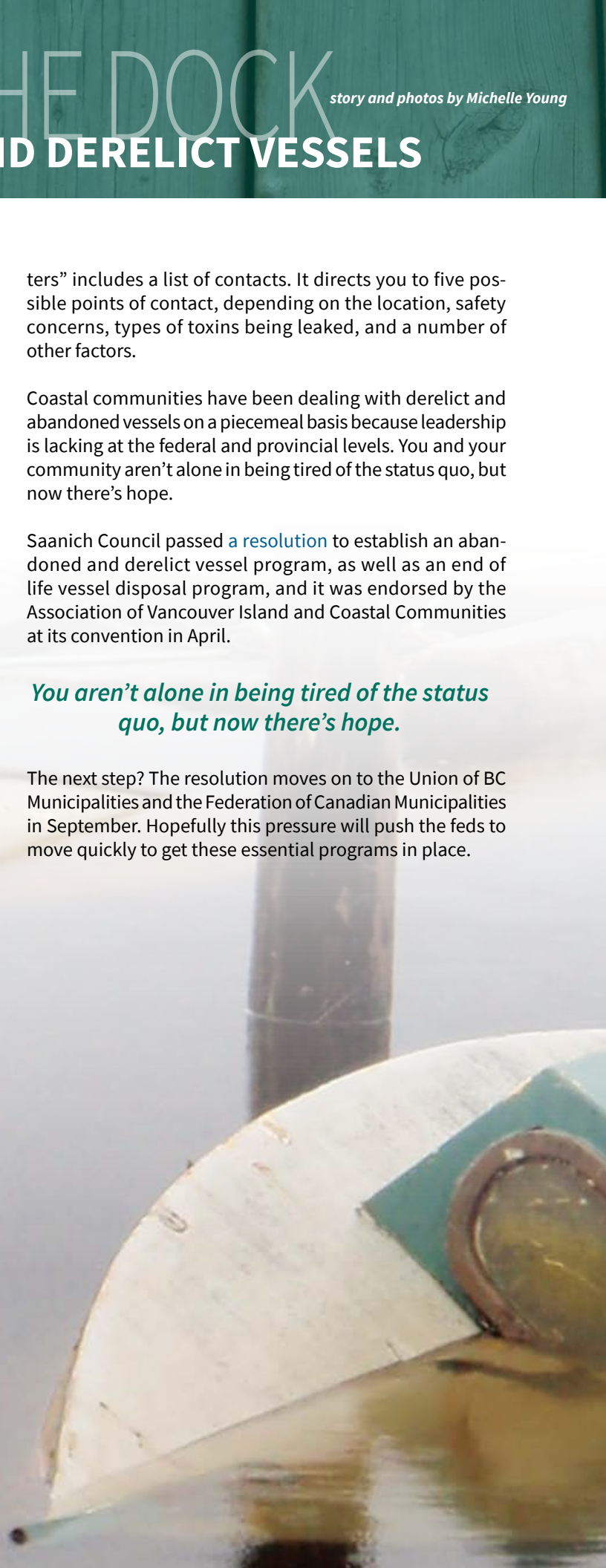
You aren't alone in being tired of the status quo, but now there's hope.

The next step? The resolution moves on to the Union of BC Municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in September. Hopefully this pressure will push the feds to move quickly to get these essential programs in place.

Derelict vessel to be removed!

The federal government has promised to remove the Viki Lyne II from Ladysmith Harbour by the end of the summer. The ship is at imminent risk of sinking with 13,000 litres of oil and toxins on board, and we will hold them to their promise.

Last summer we rallied with you in Ladysmith to have the Viki Lyne II removed.



MORE HOPE AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL

Members of Parliament of various political stripes are also rallying for a [solution to derelict vessels](#), and the federal government seems to be making progress on the file:

- A private member's bill, defeated by the previous federal government, has been re-introduced. It aims to "reduce the environmental, economic and navigational hazards to Canadian waterways and coastlines posed by abandoned vessels."
- Originating on the East Coast, there's a new private member's motion to "take meaningful steps to address the issue of abandoned and derelict vessels."
- MP Kate Young, parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Transport, went on record recently stating in the House that "the cost of removing these vessels can be high and often beyond the capacity of local communities and marinas. We realize that this is an issue, and we are making sure that we address it as quickly as possible."

It's the squeaky wheel that gets the grease! Continue to raise this issue with your local, provincial and federal representatives. Let's hope that "quickly" happens in time to prevent the next disaster ... down at the dock.



Eric van Soeren of Saltspring Island Sailing Club.

In other Clean Marine BC news...

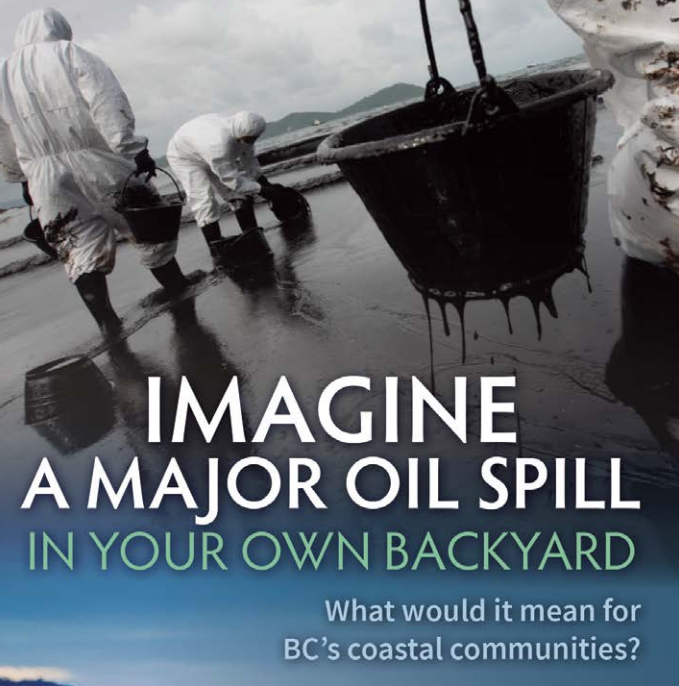
Congratulations to **Saltspring Island Sailing Club** for being the first boating facility in the Southern Gulf Islands to achieve certification in Clean Marine BC, which recognizes its commitment to environmentally sustainable operations.

Welcome aboard to **Granville Island Boatyard** and **Granville Island Maritime Market & Marina**, which have recently enrolled for Clean Marine BC certification. We wish you luck.

With the enrollment of its remaining seven outstations, **Royal Vancouver Yacht Club** now has all of its nine facilities participating in Clean Marine BC, with the Jericho facility already certified.

Congratulations also go to the **False Creek Harbour Authority** for receiving the National Clean Marine 20th Anniversary Award at the Boating Ontario Conference.

Clean Marine BC has certified 22 marinas, yacht and sailing clubs, and wharves for environmental best practices. Another 22 facilities are enrolled and working towards certification.



IMAGINE A MAJOR OIL SPILL IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

What would it mean for
BC's coastal communities?



With over a dozen new export projects currently proposed in the Salish Sea, the threat of a catastrophic oil spill looms larger every day.

What if a major oil spill happened in your own backyard? What would it mean to you and your family?

Georgia Strait Alliance's new report reveals the predicted impacts of a major spill in the Salish Sea, and tells the stories of people and places that have suffered devastating spills in the past.

Get the facts about how an oil spill could impact your health, your community, the local environment, and the provincial economy.

Take action to protect your coast and your community

[www.georgiastrait.org/
OilSpillsInYourBackyard](http://www.georgiastrait.org/OilSpillsInYourBackyard)

Will the province get it right on spill response? by Alexandra Woodsworth

After years of warnings that BC is not ready to deal with an oil spill, the Province is finally shoring up its spill planning and response framework. A new law was passed in the spring, and the Ministry of Environment is now consulting on the regulations that will implement the proposed new system.

With your support, we've worked hard to ensure the Province recognizes that transparency, accountability and community input must have a place in this new regime.

Having started from such a low bar, it's undeniable that the new framework would be a big step forward. It's encouraging to see that many of the changes we have been calling for are on the table. Spillers would be responsible for paying for preparedness as well as response (for example, maintaining equipment and testing emergency plans). There are new coordinated planning requirements that could help to clarify the roles and responsibilities among the many players involved in spill response.

Perhaps most importantly, there is a recognition that municipalities, First Nations and citizens must be more involved under the new rules. This could strengthen the whole system by integrating critical local



photo: NOAA



photo: Jeremy Board, flickr

There are two big problems with the proposed framework:

1. The Province is poised to hand over control of the new regime to industry.
2. It is part of a ‘get to yes’ strategy on the province’s five conditions for approving heavy oil pipelines.

perspectives and resources, and will hopefully pave the way towards a more collaborative approach to spill management.

However, there are two big problems with BC’s proposed new spill response framework.

Firstly, the government is proposing the formation of a province-wide response organization as the backbone of this new framework, and it’s suggesting that it be led by industry. The province’s good intentions to create a hub for coordination and planning, and make potential polluters pay for preparedness through membership in this new organization could be undermined without genuine public oversight as the entire regime would be a case of ‘the fox in charge of the henhouse.’

Secondly, the Environment Minister has explicitly stated that the new regime will meet the third of five provincial conditions to approve heavy oil pipelines: a world-leading land based spill preparedness and response regime.

It is deeply unfortunate that much needed improvements are being driven by pipeline politics.

We need to ensure that the new regime serves the public interest rather than industry’s bottom line and, at the same time, make it clear that the framework will never buy social license for new pipelines.

Track our progress and get involved at www.georgiastrait.org/BCSpillResponse

However, it is difficult to see how the third condition can ever be met. The new regime will take many years to implement—far beyond the window for approval of current pipeline projects. Although ‘world-leading’ is a tough target to pin down, there are many aspects of spill preparedness in other jurisdictions that have been identified as world-leading (some by the province’s own consultants) that are not included in the proposed new regime.

The only measure that counts is whether the new regime is effective at preventing and cleaning up spills. We know that effective clean-up of sunken bitumen is all but impossible.

Nonetheless, with the transport of hazardous goods of all kinds (not just oil) on the rise, we need better spill response—and this is an opportunity to get better protection for our land and water.



photo: Denis Sinyakov, Greenpeace



photo: Evan Lesson, flickr

What is the Waterfront Initiative?

by Dan Straker

Sometimes urban waterfronts are taken for granted.

They are spectacular places to live and visit, alone or with friends. They give you a place to connect with nature whether you're belly up at the beach, cycling along the seawall, or launching a boat into the water. They serve as cheap and efficient transportation networks for people, and also for goods from around the world. They can be homes to some of the richest and most diverse and abundant ecosystems, where all types of life mix and mingle at the confluence of freshwater, saltwater, and land.

Waterfronts can also be none of these things. If we take them for granted, they can become something different entirely. Desolate, exclusive, uninspiring, polluted and disintegrated—void of life both human and non-human. This very real risk is often hard to perceive because declines are gradual, and fragmented jurisdictions, overlapping authorities, and lack of clear vision and planning leads, little

by little, to vulnerable waterfronts. We don't want a vulnerable waterfront that's desolate, exclusive, polluted and disintegrated. Thanks to your support, we can make something special and plan how the waterfront will evolve.

The Waterfront Initiative provides a forward-looking, proactive and collaborative approach to developing Vancouver's waterfront as a first step that will later bring the planning process to other coastal regions. It brings together stakeholders from diverse sectors and walks of life to plan and coordinate a waterfront that you, and future generations, will benefit from. Georgia Strait Alliance is currently focusing its work on connecting stakeholders and hosting dialogues that envision the future of the Vancouver waterfront.

What's your feedback on Vancouver's waterfront?

Contact Dan Straker, Waterfront Initiative Lead, dan@georgiastrait.org, and become part of the conversation.

STATE OF THE WATERFRONT

In March, Georgia Strait Alliance held its fifth stakeholder dialogue, drawing participants from government, First Nations, business, civil society, and academia. These conversations bring us one step closer to creating a "State of the Waterfront" report for Vancouver—a tool that will provide an analysis of our waterfront's health from social, economic, and ecological perspectives.

Slated for spring 2017, this tool will guide the creation of an action plan that outlines priority measures and recommendations to further the objective of an integrated, diverse, thriving and resilient waterfront for you and me.



SAVE THE DATE

You're Invited to Water's Edge Day on October 1

Bring your friends and family to the Vancouver Maritime Museum for all sorts of fun!

www.GeorgiaStrait.org/WatersEdgeDay

COMINGS & GOINGS

We're happy to introduce you to our newest Board member

We are thrilled to have **Paula Brent** as our newest Board member, and welcome her to the Communications & Volunteer Committee. Paula is helping to develop a more robust youth engagement strategy that connects young people with Georgia Strait Alliance. By connecting with younger generations, we'll welcome new environmental advocates who want to protect the Strait. Paula is Finance Coordinator at Mountain Equipment Co-op, and holds a BA from Western University.



We bid farewell to others

Georgia Strait Alliance thanks former Board member **Susan Miller** for the dedication and skills she provided to the organization's governance. We know that Susan is likely sailing right now or spreading the word about her passion for preserving our gorgeous shorelines.

Michelle Gaudry left GSA and her role as our Waterfront Initiative Lead to focus on her new family following the birth of her first child. Thank you Michelle for your part in moving this important initiative forward.



Thank You!

An enormous amount of gratitude goes out to the co-founder of Georgia Strait Alliance, **Laurie McBride**, and her husband **Alan Wilson**, for . . . well, helping to start this organization in 1990! Laurie and a small group of active citizens had the foresight to recognize what would be needed in the future, and the desire and drive to do something concrete about it.

Laurie and Alan were also the brains and creative forces behind these very newsletters, starting them in 1992. Laurie did the writing and editing, and Alan was in charge of the design. "Alan wasn't my husband at the time so there was no conflict of interest there," Laurie says with a laugh. The pair did go on to marry in 1999, and passed the newsletter baton along last year. Today, they live surrounded by their beautiful garden on Gabriola Island. Laurie and Alan have done so much for GSA and the Strait—we can't thank you enough!

THANKS TO SOME OF OUR RECENT FUNDERS AND PARTNERS...



The Boag Foundation



We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia and would also like to thank - BC Coast Pilots Ltd., Boldt Communications Inc., Deep Cove Canoe and Kayak, Ken Coach, Macgregor Yacht Club, Mike Grace Mortgage Professional, New Society Publishers, Patagonia Vancouver, Protection Island Neighbourhood Association, Riki Ott, Robert Bateman, Shelter Island Marina, Vancity (Downtown Branch), TAG Whistler, Tavola Restaurant, Werner Paddles Inc., West Coast Expeditions and White Rock Harbour Board.

YOU MAKE IT ALL POSSIBLE! GSA is proud of the accomplishments we have shared with you in these pages and we know that none of them would have been possible without your support. We are so grateful for each dollar you donate and each action you take. A big THANK YOU to all our members and donors, including special people like philanthropist Leonard Schein.

“When I moved to Vancouver in 1973, I spent a lot of time walking along the Sea Wall, fishing for cod, renting kayaks, walking in the local parks, and taking in the views of the ocean. It didn’t take me long to realize that I was living in a very special place. Later on, I began to learn about the various things that might be ruining the Georgia Strait, and that’s when I heard about Georgia Strait Alliance, and all the things they do to protect the sea.

It’s nice to support a really local group, a grassroots organization with a small, lean and effective staff. I support Georgia Strait Alliance because the work they do is making a difference; it’s making it better for everybody. Together, we are protecting this incredible place that continues to fascinate me.

I recently saw a humpback whale on the ferry ride to Bowen Island, and it reminded me how lucky I am to witness marine life in my everyday life. We have something special here, let’s protect it.”



-Leonard Schein, founder of the Vancouver International Film Festival

BECOME A CHANGE MAKER...

Your tax deductible donation to Georgia Strait Alliance is an investment in our shared vision for our local waters, for today and future generations. Become a **Change Maker** and we can achieve real protection for all who call our waters home.

TO DONATE TODAY, call 250-753-3459 or email gsa@GeorgiaStrait.org or donate through the secure online form at www.GeorgiaStrait.org/donate