

BALACIWA!

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– unceded Coast Salish Territory

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The Delicate Politics of Food

by Isaac Oommen

A venue that has had to struggle to survive, UBC Farm is a ten-year-old project that was until recently at the epicentre of the university's plan to create more condos on the endowment lands.

"There's more to growing food than the idea of eating locally-grown fruits and vegetables," said Andrea Morgan, a farm staff member and former UBC student. "A lot of folks come to the farm thinking just about eating locally, but end up learning about sustainable growth, as well as how food relates to things like the oil industry, pharmaceuticals, indigenous food sovereignty and so on."

According to Morgan, the educational and community value of

the UBC Farm's programming is one of the main reasons the farm needs to stay where it is. Even with constant pressure to turn it into condos, groups like Friends of the Farm rallied support from the student body and the municipal government to preserve the land as is.

"The idea of supporting the farm is something a lot of the student body got behind," said Morgan, "especially since food is something everyone can relate to."

Struggles such as that of UBC Farm are at the centre of the ongoing We Ate the G8 counter-summit, being organized by students and educators against the G8 University summit in Vancouver, the latter of which encourages the ongoing commercialization of education.



DRAWINGS OF MAPLE AND CHESTNUT SAPPLINGS BY FREEXERO.COM

Toronto Cops Kill, Media Complicit

by Steve DaSilva, BASICS Free Community Newsletter

Running from the police is not a crime punishable by death in Canada. Yet this is the sentence 18-year-old Junior Alexander Manon received on the evening of May 5, 2010 when he ran from the police near York University in Toronto. And by the looks of what became of the young Dominican teenager, it's no surprise that youth like him run when confronted by Toronto police.

Toronto's corporate-monopoly media has been widely circulating the story that Manon dropped dead of a heart attack, whitewashing and overshadowing the details provided by direct

witnesses (see CityNews and Global Toronto). Perhaps worst of all was the Toronto Star's reporting, which said today that "Paramedics arrived at the scene to find the man with no visible injuries...". In what should constitute criminal complicity, the mainstream media is de facto providing cover for the cops until the public forgets this outrageous but not so surprising act of police terror.

There's no doubt that the Jane-Finch community, where Junior was from and was widely known, will mobilize against this outrageous killing of one of their youth.

Read the full article: <http://www.basicsnews.ca/>

Sutikalh Celebrates 10 Years of Land Defense

by Zig Zag

On Sunday May 2, 2010, Sutikalh celebrated its ten year anniversary. Located halfway between Mt. Currie and Lillooet in southern BC, Sutikalh was at first a camp set up to stop a proposed \$530-million ski resort which threatened one of the last remaining untouched alpine mountain areas in the St'at'imc territory (the Cayoosh mountain range).

Approximately 75 people attended the anniversary gathering, which began with a spiritual ceremony conducted by Mayan supporters. After speeches by some who participated in establishing the camp, as well as supporters, a feast was served with traditional food, including salmon and deer meat.

Over the past decade, Sutikalh has been the site for many St'at'imc community gatherings, field trips by youth, berry-picking, etc. It is one of the most under-reported victories of grassroots Indigenous peoples, who succeeded in stopping the ski resort and defending their traditional territory.

For more info, check out sutikalh.blogspot.com.

False Promises at False Creek

by Nathan Crompton

Gregor Robertson's campaign promise was to End Homelessness. Without any clarification of a plan, or even a definition of what "End" means as a political terminology, what results is a deferral to the barbaric strategies of imprisonment and displacement that are already systematic in the city's rapidly gentrifying downtown eastside. As his Olympic housing legacy, the mayor is eliminating social housing from the Olympic Village and handing those units over to those tasked with enforcing the gentrification laws themselves: the VPD and their legacy of Project Civil City. A partnership is at play, since while Gregor facilitates gentrification through zoning policies like the recent Height Review process, the police act on the ground as the literal foot soldiers of gentrification, driving the poor into the

institutions and prisons, or – though harassment and impoverishment – out of the city altogether.

In each case the way is paved for the settlement of the property-owning classes who would rather suffer themselves than recognize equality as an active concept for our time.

A rally is planned for May 15 at the Grand Opening of the Olympic Village.

For more information, visit: falsecreekpromises.wordpress.com



By 2010, approximately ZERO PER CENT of units at False Creek are "deep" social housing. Cops and other public servants are being given priority for remaining "shallow" units

FBI loses Marshall Case

by Oshipeya

An all-White jury in Rapid City, South Dakota, took less than two hours on April 22 to return a not-guilty verdict in the trial of former American Indian Movement (AIM) member Richard Marshall (of the Lakota Nation) in connection to the murder of fellow AIM member Anna Mae Pictou Aquash. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) claimed Marshall supplied the gun used to kill Aquash.

Vancouver resident John Graham, a Southern Tutchone Nation member originally from the Yukon, is facing trial in July over the Aquash murder. He was formerly Richard Marshall's co-accused but had his case separated and moved to South Dakota State court because the US federal government was shown by his lawyer to not have jurisdiction over him regarding a crime allegedly committed on the reservation. Graham's new co-accused is fellow former AIM member, Thelma Rios, and the trial is scheduled to start July 6.

The validity of Graham's extradition from Vancouver to a South Dakota prison was recently called into question by his lawyer when a government document was newly revealed advising prosecutors that in this case they did not have federal jurisdiction, which they willfully ignored and concealed from the defense.

For more information see the following websites <http://ourfreedom.wordpress.com> <http://www.grahamdefense.org>

No more Nakba!

Support Palestinians' Right of Return

by FreeXero

On May 15, many Israelis will celebrate the 62th anniversary of Israel's 1948 "War of Independence". Palestinians and people of conscience worldwide remember May 15 as Al-Nakba ("the Catastrophe" in Arabic) – recognising the violent expulsion in 1948 of over 800,000 Palestinian refugees from their homes (75% of the population), and the destruction of 418 Palestinian villages. Annual Nakba commemorations are important events in Israel, where 20% of the citizens are Palestinian who experience the "ongoing Nakba" of apartheid-style policies including: land confiscation, discriminatory development planning, segregation and underfunding of Palestinian communities, home demolitions and forced evictions.

But now even that solemn remembrance is being targeted by the openly racist policies of the government of Israel. The Knesset's Law Committee recently approved a proposed law ("Nakba bill") that, if passed, would impose economic sanctions on the organizers of Nakba commemorations in Israel (the initial draft included criminal sanctions as well). In effect, the bill requires that Palestinian citizens of Israel deny their history and identity, and accept their current status as second-class citizens in a "Jewish state."

There are now more than 6 million Palestinian refugees whose right of return to their homes is denied by the state of Israel. UN General Assembly Resolution 194 states that "the [Palestinian] refugees wishing to return to their

homes and live at peace with their neighbours should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return and for loss of or damage to property." This resolution has been affirmed by the UN over 130 times since its introduction in 1948 with universal consensus except for Israel and the U.S.

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AL NAKBA



**1948 62 YEARS 2010
OF ISRAELI ETHNIC CLEANSING
AND PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE**

**NO MORE NAKBA!
SUPPORT PALESTINIANS'
RIGHT OF RETURN**

Walk and Rally for Salmon Survival

by Zig Zag

On Saturday, May 8, 2010, the largest public rally to date against fish farms occurred in Victoria, BC, following a 500 km trek by Alexandra Morton, a well known biologist who has campaigned for many years against the industry. The walk began on Earth Day, April 22, from Morton's home on Sointula, located off of North Vancouver Island.

The rally in downtown Victoria saw several thousand people gather, including many from First Nations heavily impacted by fish farms on west and north Vancouver Island,

including the Kwakwaka'wakw and Nuuchah-nulth. Traditional drummers and dancers shared the stage at Centennial Square with environmentalists and entertainers.

After speeches and music, the rally made its way down to the BC Legislature to deliver its message to the government, along with petitions signed by citizens opposed to the fish farms. Despite the legislature being closed for the weekend, organizers were confident that those in government heard their message.

The walk and rally is part of a larger campaign demanding government and industry action

over the fish farms, which opponents claim is contributing to the ongoing depletion of salmon stocks. This includes infestations of sea lice, toxic chemicals, antibiotics and growth hormones associated with fish farms.

In mid-April, six First Nations launched a class-action lawsuit against the provincial and federal governments. In August 2009, an expected 10 million sockeye salmon in the Fraser River turned out to be less than 1 million, with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, biologists, and government officials unable to account for the extraordinary depletion of the run.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday May 21, 3:00pm The People's Street Summit! Vancouver Art Gallery, March to Canada Place. Bringing their Summit to the Ground! Join us for a rally to oppose the G8 University Summit.

Tuesday May 25, 9:00am Court Support Requested for Cheam Fishers, Chilliwack Court House. For transportation, email supportcheam@gmail.com Stand in Solidarity with Cheam Fishers!

Do you make media? Join the Vancouver Media Co-op's collective to learn and trade skills, or post your news to our website.

Info: VMC@mediacoop.ca or call 604-619-1127.

Check out VMC online!

New VMC audio and video in May

- We ate the G8 takes Robson Square
- Losing Ground? The Struggle for Teztan Biny
- Emergency Protest to Save DTES Health Centre
- Migrant workers demand to get paid for their work
- Websites for Democracy
- Vancouver Adds Cycletrack to Burrard Bridge
- Death Does Not Become Her: The Final Event
- Youth Against School Cuts
- And many m