

# THE SOUNDER

WINTER 2004



CLAYOQUOT WILDERNESS RESORTS & SPA NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 5

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## Creating a Legacy



In the last issue of the Sounder we introduced readers to Mike Wright, BSb, independent fisheries biologist contracted by Clayoquot Wilderness Resorts & Spa to develop and oversee the Salmon Habitat Restoration Project, one of five environmental stewardships that make up the resorts' five-year, \$3 million dollar Environmental Legacy Program. *If you missed the last issue, visit wil-*

**Newly-created salmon rearing habitat, stage one of a five-year, \$3 million initiative celebrated by environmentalists and locals alike.**

*dretreat.com and click on NEWS on the "About the Resorts" page.*

In this issue, we check-in again with Mike to see what headway has been made and learn of future plans. "We are proceeding according to schedule," says Mike, "having excavated and restored about 20,000 cubic metres of over-burden (gravel and

debris jams left behind by a century of logging and mining activity) from what we are calling the pond channel, or "P" channel. In May of this year, work began about 2km up-river from the Outpost. We now have some viable new off-channel spawning and rearing habitat for salmon, and we were thrilled to see chum digging redds

*continued on page 4*

## Do the Clayoquot Shuffle

Contrary to what you might think, the *Clayoquot shuffle* isn't an environmental line-dance; rather an invitation to Quait Bay loyalists, to give the Outpost a try.

The timely increase in capacity by 45%, of the outpost this past season has paved the way for the resorts to undertake some past-due below-waterline maintenance on the floating resort at Quait Bay. That's the *good* news. The *bad* news is that such requires an extended stretch of fair-weather during the 2005 season.

It makes sense then, for the resorts to transfer all resort guests to the Outpost for almost all of the upcoming season. That season, which normally



**Outpost expansion features gorgeous new cookhouse, five new suite tents and new spa compound.**

runs from April through November at Quait Bay and from the May long weekend through the end of September at the Outpost, will blend

temporarily to a single season running from May 12 through October 3, 2005. "Be assured that I will do everything in my power to satisfy the needs of guests,

*continued on page 4*

## Cast of Characters



"Cosy" Lawson at the helm of the *Whale's Tail*. Cosy, daughter Laterra, and Courtney Caton.

## A Closer Look at a Favourite Staffer

It is remarkable how certain words resonate with us throughout our lives; words that, through some landmark incident, shed conventional definition and re-dress in special meaning. It is the sum of such uniquely personal word-cues and memory-triggers that define us; they illustrate our biographies and weave the very fabric of our lives.

For Clayoquot Wilderness Resorts guests, one such redefinition is the word "Cozy". For the masses, cozy is something warm and fuzzy, but to us, and most likely to you - Cozy is the assumed nickname for Quoashinis (Cosy) Lawson, the resorts legendary lead whalewatching guide.

Cosy, a striking 24 year-old outdoorswoman of mixed heritage, is often seen, on land and at sea, in the company of her precocious (a trait she comes by naturally) six year-old daughter Laterra (def: earth). Cozy's parents are the stuff of legend in Clayoquot Sound. Mother Suzanne is a celebrated artist-entrepreneur and passive-activist from whom Cozy inherited her finely-tuned intuition and firecracker spirit. Father Steve is an Ojibwan indian with dual voca-

tions - boatbuilding and tour operating. From him, Cozy inherited a love of the sea, an easy way with people, and enduring patience. For their middle daughter, the Lawson's wisely chose the name Quoashinis, which means "raven", a powerful, mysterious creature.

Most days, barring unforgiving seas, Cozy skippers a handful of resort guests out to Cow Bay aboard the resorts' *Whale's Tail*, dual-Merc-powered pontoon boat. En-route, the super-oxygenated breath of 1000 year-old cedars sweeps across the sound, sharpening senses and clearing minds to the point that, by the time guests arrive and the engines are cut, every detail is committed to memory.

Meanwhile, below sea-level, three species of whale become aware of Cozy's presence. The lot have been friends since the time of Cozy's birth on Wickanninish Island. They know Cozy by the distinct vibration of her boat's hull and they love her for the respectful way she interacts with them and the seals and sea lions. They skim the surface alongside the boat, looking right into her eyes, and down they go again in a game of hide and

seek that lasts until each has had their fill. God alone knows what the whales call Cozy, but resort guests quickly learn what Cozy calls them. "Here comes Three Dot Star", or "This lady here is Lucky (to be alive)". Among the coast's First Nations peoples, and often in marine science circles, whales are named for their distinct markings and/or the character of their fins.

In May of this past 2004 season, Cozy worked together with Dr. Lance Barrett-Leonard, research scientist at the Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre, and Dr. Volker Deecke,

post-doctoral Fellow at the University of British Columbia - to anchor and install underwater hydrophones as part of a research project monitoring potential impacts of marine traffic on whale migration and feeding patterns. The project involved resort guests visiting from Europe, and represented the first of five environmental stewardships the resorts undertook this year as part of a five-year, \$3 million dollar Environmental Legacy Program.

Soon after, the resorts purchased a portable hydrophone so that Cozy's charges can listen more closely to the whales, and perhaps, over time, come to recognize and respond to the calls of the wild. One thing we know for certain — our Cozy will listen closely and patiently to the ancient language of the sea, until one day, she hears it call her by name.

**Footnote:** Predictably, Cozy's connection to the resorts runs thicker than water; she is also the life partner of soft-spoken Courtney Caton, son of Adele and John Caton, and de-facto manager of Quait Bay operations. She is, most definitely, the yin to his yang, the fire in his belly.

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## Rainbow Seeds



It seems that someone planted rainbow seeds in Little Pearl Lake. For the first time in recent memory, Little Pearl, one of two of the resorts' private lakes at Quait Bay is growing rainbow trout. The lake has always been a source of fun and adventure for anglers after cutthroat, so it came as a great surprise to see guests arrive back at the resort with creels full of rainbow. Such is the power of the rainforest. . . .

## Bear Necessities



**"I'll be off then...oh, and thanks for breakfast!"**

If we lived in China, we might attribute the recent surge in bear visits to the animal zodiac; but we don't, we live smack in the middle of an *upside-down temperate rainforest* (National Geographic, February 2002), where hyper-concentrated flora and fauna co-exist in a virtual zoo at ground-level. Well this year (the year of the monkey, *not* the bear), extraordinary

weather conditions sent summer surging through the biosphere much earlier than usual and did so in such an exaggerated fashion that the native black bears' favourite food source (berries) depleted early. So it came to pass that, one early summer morning, just before sunrise, Executive Chef Tim May breezed out the rear lobby doors of the floating resort at Quait Bay, en-

route to his walk-in cooler. Almost immediately he found himself hot-footing it through a collateral field of pierced containers, half-eaten house-smoked sausage and macerated rounds of Ucluelet goat cheese. And there, perched just outside the cooler door was a tidy mound of bear scat - placed, as if precisely, in mocking thanks for Chef's modern-natural feast. Wanting not to be taken for a fool, Chef set off in search of the furry robber. But, no sooner had he made the 90-degree turn onto the starboard deck, did he very nearly walk right into old smokey, fast asleep, snuggled-up against the steaming hot tub.

***Epilogue:** With the rising of the sun, the dizzying affects of the rum-soaked croissant pudding wore-off. Soon after, our sated friend stood up, stretched, and lumbered down the ramp, across the docks and back up into the rainforest. But not before leaving behind yet another little present for Chef.*

## Tyee Club Membership Grows



**Susan Lyle and Linda Norberg kiss catch before heading off to the spa.**

"It was a banner year for fishing here in the sound," says Courtney Caton, who, together with legendary fishing guide Chuck Eldred, oversees much of the resorts' ocean fishing program and administers the *Tyee Club*. The Tyee Club recruits guests who land (keep, or catch & release) tyee salmon - also known as king salmon or chinook - over 30 lbs in weight. *Tyee* is a native indian word meaning "big". "Some of our most active and highest-ranking members are women," adds Courtney's dad John Caton, "which makes for lively debate in the boats." The resorts credits the multitude of *other* activities available to women - ie: spa, hiking, horseback riding, etc - with a renewed interest in fishing. "At risk of sounding sexist, I think that women - multi-taskers by nature - prefer the efficiency of the half-day fishing excursions we offer. They get out there, catch really big fish, then hightail it back here for a massage." Sounds reasonable.

## Mother Nature Has Last Laugh—Always!

The grand old mother of the order of things had a great big belly laugh just before opening this past season when a modest chunk of the hill came sliding down in a mini-torrent of mud, trees and boulders. Seems Mother didn't much like the new gravel service lane that was put in behind a stand of cedars up above the

longhouse. The road was needed to access service buildings and to transport goods to and from the observation platform overlooking Quait Bay. In all fairness, road excavation was conservative, and, in an attempt to minimize environmental impact, devoid of ditches or extensive grading. But *no*, that wasn't good enough for

Mother Nature. So when spring rains set in, down washed the road and everything in its path. Curiously, the slide ran a very particular course - sparing the longhouse, the A-frame cabin, resort vehicles and GM John Caton (ever see a cowboy run?). All she really wanted, was to make her point. Point taken!



**Mudslide was a gentle reminder not to shake things up in the rainforest.**

# —BEDWELL RIVER VALLEY—

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## **Creating a Legacy** *continued from page 1*



### **Newly-excavated off-channel part of 6 km-long undertaking.**

(egg nests) in the new habitat already this fall."

The off-channel is akin to a collector-lane running parallel to a freeway; a safe, protected area for salmon to spawn, for eggs to hatch, and for fry to mature. It is protected geographically from torrential river activity, and the newly created undercut banks are

attracting spawning salmon. The new off-channel feeds into a groundwater pond at the edge of the new meadow, then continues on down to the opposite side of the outpost where the estuary wraps around and under the old bridge. "At high-tide, there is a unique 'reverse falls' thing happening at sea level - when the water starts percolating back upstream," adds GM John Caton, "guests marvel at our own little miracle of nature."

"Work on the final 200 metres can resume during the next fisheries window (early summer through mid-October when it is safest to work around fish habitat) sometime mid June of 2005," says Wright, "at that time crews will start 'complexing' the stream with large stumps and logs to

provide shade and predator cover for juvenile salmon." While "P" channel is being completed, Wright and consulting hydrologists will continue testing and formulating a plan for "H" (hydro) creek, which the Genovese Family Trust hopes will lead to the installation of a small 250-kilowatt hydro-electric facility. The facility is part of a longer-term plan to restore historic flow patterns to "H" creek, and "L" creek, which will, ultimately create a six kilometre long network of habitats capable of returning salmon and steelhead populations to pre-industrialized levels.

The proposed facility would draw limited amounts of water (strictly governed to maintain support of eco-systems; maintain insect drift, algae, leaf

decay, etc) from a high-level non-fish area, and return it just above the upper limit of fish habitat.

This first phase of the Environmental Legacy Program ("P" Creek) will support some 700-800 spawning pairs of Coho, and 11,000-12,000 Coho fry. Not a bad start for one little 16-tent eco-resort.

*The Trust is currently in consultation with local First Nations Groups to determine the historic references for creeks "P", "H" and "L", and name them accordingly. The \$3 million Environmental Legacy Program is funded entirely by resort revenues, in cooperation with the Federal Department of Fisheries & Oceans and local First Nations.*

**BOOK YOUR 2005 OUTPOST ADVENTURE BEFORE JANUARY 15, 2005 AND SAVE 25%—RETURNING GUESTS ONLY\***

## **Do the Clayoquot Shuffle** *continued from page 1*



### **At dusk, guests retreat to new 3,000 sq ft. cookhouse.**

and I invite anyone with particular concerns about accommodations or amenities, or rates for that matter, to be in-touch with me directly," says general manager John Caton. *Note that his un-published direct tel number is 250-726.8556.*

"We will decide, as the maintenance schedule progresses, whether or not to book guests into Quait Bay toward the end of the season. I prefer to play it by ear though, rather than invite disappointment. Floating resorts are like old houses - you never know what lies below the surface."

Corporate bookings will not be adversely affected, as the Outpost meeting facilities—one large meeting tent and five break-out spaces, all a/v equipped including wireless inter-

net—more than facilitate small and medium-size groups. The new cookhouse, with its wrap-around windows and inspiring views can seat up to 75, theatre style, or accommodate 100+ for receptions. The Outpost's new spa facilities too can manage all but the most complicated wet treatments like those involving Vichy or Swiss showers, so Healing Grounds Spa aficionados should welcome a chance to experiment a bit.

The Outpost has expanded considerably and now comprises 11 luxury queen or double twin bed guest tents, five luxury suite tents, two spa tents with riverfront massage decks and wood-fired hot tubs and saunas, a games tent, a library lounge tent, a huge ranch-style cookhouse with cov-

ered outdoor fireplace-lounge, acres of hay meadow, horse barns, and an organic garden. Off-site generators power hot water, modern comforts and wireless internet. Activities are equestrian-based, but other favourites include kayaking, hiking, mountain

biking, canoeing, salt and freshwater fishing, and whale and bear watching. A new Environmental Legacy Program invites guest participation in salmon-habitat restoration, bear mapping and raptor rehabilitation.

\*couples or single family bookings only

## **"Eat Your Veggies"**

With yet another nod to Mother Nature, *and* to bears, a wilderness outpost tale unfolds in good taste. In spite of the resorts' best-laid plans to bring newly-planted hay to maturity, river valley bears have decided that this tender young crop makes an excellent

first-course. And so it is that daily, with clock-like accuracy, a bevy of black bear arrives to the sprawling meadow in front of the horse barn, to pull-up and consume a tasty salad course en-route to their entrée - wild salmon, spawning in the Bedwell River.



**Tender young hay shoots make for good eatin'.**

## Outpost Style @ Home



**The Bedwell Collection of Adirondack beds, daybeds, bedside tables, clothes racks and dining chairs now available by mail-order.**

In response to repeated requests by Outpost guests for information on the Adirondack furnishings used in the new suite tents, and for the unique antique grain scoops used by Chef May to serve up everything

from shoestring fries to house-made bread, we have created a mail-order section on our website. Currently in the works, it should be up and running before the holidays, and will feature handmade alder twin,

queen and king-size beds, daybeds, bedside tables, dining tables and chairs, and assorted accessories. All furniture is made nearby in Whippetree Junction, and shipped to anywhere in North America. A

**Chef Tim's popular antique grain scoops available-on-line.**

wide selection of outerwear, sportswear and accessories for adults and children will come on-line this winter as well, so visit [wildretreat.com](http://wildretreat.com) often, and watch for an email advisory from John and Adele.

## Bigger Better Spa



The Outpost spa tents have a new home. Displaced by the new ranch-style cookhouse, the spa tents moved slightly up and dare we say *over* river. A series of sprawling sun and massage decks, an outdoor shower, two new wood-fired hot tubs, a bigger wood-fired sauna, and two beautiful treatment tents with views comprise the new spa compound. Lead therapist Kyla Neufeld is thrilled with her new territory but found herself busier than ever

this past season. "The new set-up is more comprehensive and much more removed from the rest of the camp," says Kyla, "It is very private and serene." Guests move lazily from amenity to amenity, or while-away an entire afternoon dozing on one of dozens of new loungers. Resort staff check-in regularly to stock towels, stoke fires, top-off herbal ice tea, or pour another glass of something more adventurous.

## Bandit Guilty as Charged



Lead bear-dog Bandit Caton was released on his own recognizance after being found guilty of sleeping on the furniture. A jury of his peers offered leniency as they too had been out all night keeping bears at bay.



## Hot Off The Grill

A posse of us stood with Executive Chef Tim May this past February, watching jack-of-all-trades John (Cowboy) Caton wrangle wet concrete from the resorts' huge cement truck, down into floor-forms laid in preparation for the new ranch-style Cookhouse. As we celebrated the pour, Chef told us of his plans for the massive new kitchen, and that, after six years at Quait Bay, he had assigned himself full-time to the Outpost. For the next four months, Chef designed new menus, experimented with marinades and reinterpreted his trademark *modern natu-*

*ral cuisine* to suit the Outpost's emphasis on grilling and slow-roasting. Over the course of the season, he revelled in his new open-kitchen space - more than ten times the size of Quait Bay - and perfected many favourites. "Grilling meats and produce presents unique challenges," says May "forcing me to explore non-traditional methods and flavour combinations that were not second nature." The results, guests agree, are spectacular. Here Tim offers some advice to amateur chefs in search of winter grill recipes that taste anything but *backyard barbeque*.



**Chef Tim shows off a few "choose your own protein" options. Guest participation in menu-planning proves popular.**



### *Grilled Maple Balsamic Salmon Brochettes with Oranges*

#### For The Marinade:

- 1 small onion, quartered
- 2 cloves garlic, peeled
- 2 T dijon mustard
- 1 C maple syrup
- 1 C balsamic vinegar
- 2 C x-virgin olive oil
- sea salt (to taste)
- fresh cracked black peppercorns (to taste)

#### For The Brochettes:

- 32 oz. salmon, cut into 2 oz chunks
  - 4 small oranges, peeled and cut into 24 wedges
  - 24 green onions (white ends only)
  - fresh tarragon (to taste)
  - 8 10-inch metal skewers
1. In food processor, combine onion, garlic, dijon, syrup, vinegar, s&p. Puree until smooth.
  2. To prevent separation, "slowly" add oil. Adjust s&p to taste.

4. Starting and ending with salmon chunks (4), alternately spear fish (3), orange (3), and green onion (3) pieces.
5. In non-reactive shallow pan, pour marinade over skewers, cover and refrigerate 4 hours or overnight.
6. Pre-heat BBQ. To prevent sticking, ensure grill is VERY HOT! Grill until medium rare. Serve with a fresh spinach salad or mushroom risotto. Makes 8 brochettes.

## OYSTERS TO GO



**Gift-boxed smoked oysters now available.**

If you were lucky enough to be at the resorts on a day when John or Adele offered guests samplings of their giant Mosquito Bay alder-smoked and secret-recipe-marinated pacific oysters, you have a sensory memory of heaven. Very soon you will be able to order these gorgeous morsels on-line, through the mail-order pages of [wildretreat.com](http://wildretreat.com). The oysters are available in gift packages of 12 large, easy-open cans, each labelled with a different colour image of the resorts. Wood boxes packed with cedar shavings protect contents during shipping. Clayoquot Sound oysters make a welcome gift, especially when accompanied by tall tales of adventure.

*"We have traveled the world — nothing compares to this wilderness experience ... brings us to a place where fun and adventure replace all worry ... we are leaving feeling years younger."*

— Bob & Beatrice Schaeberle,  
New Hampshire, USA

## Family Album

While the Outpost camp grew exponentially this year, the resorts family itself grew by just one little man. Master Evan Timothy May was born July 7, 2004 to Executive Chef Tim and wife Sandy. He looks exactly like dad and exactly like mom, but pouts exactly like big sister Maddelyn Ann - whom, by the way, grew like a hemlock last year, and turned two in May.

Young Riley "Cougar" Caton turned two in May also. Not surprisingly, he is sweet on Maddelyn, and the pair spend much of their time together, supervising things at the Outpost. Riley doesn't say much yet - taking after his soft-spoken parents Chad and Shari Caton - but he can expertly mimic sounds made by most wild and domestic animals, as well as perform brilliant imitations of bulldozers, dumptrucks and diggers.



More surprising still is the fact that, when Riley does attempt Queen's English, Maddelyn understands him completely. She nods in agreement, winds her tiny little fingers around his, and together, they gallop off in the direction of the barns - Wellies a'flying.

## We Mean Business

The newly-expanded Outpost is better-equipped than ever to handle small and medium-sized corporate retreats. The new ranch-style cook-house can accommodate up to 75 theatre-style, and more than 100 for cocktail-style receptions. The new suite tents can be called into service with existing guest tents, to sleep up to 36 guests (42 if the guest list includes couples) in complete luxury. A further 8-10 event planners and

support staff can be accommodated in bunk houses.

A great white canvas meeting tent, together with four break-out tent provides ample conference and meeting space, and the resorts new wireless internet servers and state-of the-art audio-visual platforms satisfy the most demanding clients.

Read what some discriminating meeting and group travel planners have to say about the resorts...



**Meeting Tent promises corporate clients a state-of-the-art a/v platform and wireless internet.**

## Resorts Come Highly Recommended

*"Tell them what you want and it is never too much. The environment fosters creativity in people.. a 'win' for corporations..."*

— Kevin De Vine, Director Global Travel  
Lam Research Corporation, CA

*"A premiere location, great facilities, amenities and a superior staff – this place has it all ... caters to small groups looking for the "out of the box" experience and will make you look like a star to your customer!"*

— Susan M. Relihan, Regional Director of Sales, SE  
Conference Direct, Marietta, GA

*"..truly unbelievable. I will be talking about this (the resorts) for years"*

— Sarah E. Breen, Director of Marketing  
Creative Design Consultants, LLC

*"Totally exceeded expectations and I heard everyone else commenting on this ... No question that Clayoquot is an excellent fit for several clients."*

— Jennifer Campbell, Managing Director  
Ken Ward Travel, Atlanta, GA

## Something Old, New, Borrowed, and *Green?*



Promises to love and honour may soon be joined by a commitment to the environment, according to the latest trend in nuptial planning. "Brides, most especially more educated ones, consider possible environmental impacts at every stage of the planning process," says resorts co-general manager Adele Caton, "right down to the honeymoon destination." The resorts generally hear from couples after they have done considerable research on

where they want to be wed. Couples know the resorts are eco-friendly and they know about participatory environmental programs. Resort ceremonies tend to be smaller (50 guests or less), intimate affairs that incorporate indigenous elements at every turn. Garlands and bouquets of local salal and fern fronds from the rainforest - peppered with shells and starfish and wildflowers. Cuisine is always coastal and very often organic.

Invitations tend to be handmade of recycled, unbleached paper. Bridesmaid and groomsmen gifts are most-often made by local artisans. "A favourite gift exchange happens during the ceremony itself, when the bride and groom assume a First Nations' tradition of offering each other hand-carved and hand-painted cedar journey paddles - a symbol of embarking on a lifelong journey together. So much for Vegas!

## Ladies Go *Wild*



**Eco-Janes represent 75% of adventure holidayers.**

A proliferation of tour and travel companies catering to women have sprouted up like spring wheat in answer to the growing demand, by women, for programs and destinations that cater to women of all ages and inclinations. Food & wine excursions, fitness weekends, book clubs, eco-adventurers, yoga retreats, do-nothing-but-relax getaways, and wildlife habitat restoration excursions are all the rage at the resorts.

According to Marybeth Bond, a well-known travel guru and former *CBS Evening Magazine* travel expert, whose reach ranges from *CNN* to the *Oprah Winfrey* show to her own *TravelGirl Magazine*, women are driving the leisure travel industry. And further, that:

- More than 75 million\* North American women travelled last year.
- Women represent 75% of people taking adventure, nature or cultural trips.
- Average age of female travellers is 47 years.
- Women spent \$55 billion (USD) on outdoor equipment like hiking boots
- Number of women-only tour operators increased 230% over past six years.

## Brits Mad for Clayoquot

The secret is out - way out, and far across the pond. The resorts saw a huge increase in visits by our friends from the United Kingdom this season. UK wanderlusts, generally loyal to exotic locales like Morocco, the Rivas and Africa, flocked to the resorts in record numbers, thanks in no small part to the venerable *Tatler* magazine, whose celebrity-status travel editor Victoria Mather touted Clayoquot Wilderness Resorts as one of the world's ten best places for readers to party among friends, and do so in seclusion and

grand style. The extraordinary value of the Canadian dollar against the Euro (1.8 to 1) and British Pound Sterling (2.65 to 1) didn't hurt either.



"Women often feel more adventurous when in the company of other women," says the resorts' own expert on girl-travel, general manager Adele Caton, "so it made sense for us to offer programs that respect womens' particular needs. When women sign-up for a girls-only getaway, or organize one for themselves, there is an immediate assumption that the destination environment will be non-competitive, nurturing and forgiving." And, contrary to conventional thinking, it is not that the women who frequent such programs are not the dog-eat-doggers of the corporate world, rather these high-achieving women are looking for safe environments in which to relax and to support each other without risking their own hard-won senior status. If you think that is all too new age - think again. Female boomers have the ways and means to make it happen - *when* and *where* they want. For inspiration regarding highly customized gender-specific group visits to the Outpost, call Sue Bosdet at one of the numbers listed below.

\*Marybeth estimates 72 million in the US alone, but we estimated 3 million more in Canada.