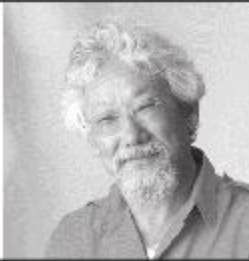


Science Matters

By David Suzuki



The ins and outs of oceans

June 8 was World Oceans Day – a fitting time to contemplate humanity’s evolving relationship with the source of all life. For much of human history, we’ve affected marine ecosystems primarily by what we’ve taken out of the seas. The challenge as we encounter warming temperatures and increasing industrial activity will be to manage what we put into them.

As a top predator, humans from the tropics to the poles have harvested all forms of marine life, from the smallest shrimp to the largest whales, from the ocean’s surface to its floor. The staggering volume of fish removed from our waters has had a ripple effect through all ocean ecosystems. Yet the ocean continues to provide food for billions of people, and improved fishing practices in many places, including Canada, are leading to healthier marine-life populations. We’re slowly getting better at managing what we catch to keep it within the ocean’s capacity to replenish. But while we may be advancing in this battle, we’re losing the war with climate change and pollution.

In the coming years, our ties to the oceans will be defined by what we put into them: carbon dioxide, nutrients washed from the land, diseases from aquaculture and land-based animals, invasive species, plastics, contaminants, noise and ever-increasing marine traffic. We once incorrectly viewed oceans as limitless storehouses of marine bounty and places to dump our garbage; now it’s clear they can only handle so much.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s recent report described how ingredients in the ocean’s broth are changing dramatically. Life in the seas is closely linked to factors in the immediate surroundings, such as temperature, acidity or pH, salinity, oxygen and nutrient availability. These combine at microscopic levels to create conditions that favour one form of life over another and emerge into complex ecosystems.

The oceans now absorb one-quarter of the atmosphere’s CO₂. That’s bad news for organisms with calcium carbonate shells that dissolve in acidic conditions. We’re witnessing the effects of ocean acidification on shellfish along the West Coast of North America. Earlier this year, a Vancouver Island scallop farm closed after losing 10-million scallops, likely because of

climate change and increasing acidity. The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has also linked oyster die-offs along the Pacific coast to climate change.

While we may be getting better at figuring out how to sustainably harvest crabs, lobsters and sea urchins, we’re just starting to investigate whether they can even survive in oceans altered by climate change.

Whales also offer a glimpse into our changing relationship with oceans. From the 17th century until well into the 20th, commercial whaling in Canada left populations severely depleted. Now, our most endangered whales are threatened by industrial activity. The St. Lawrence beluga population, for example, was decimated by hunting until 1979. Today’s biggest threats include contaminants, vessel traffic and industrialization, including a proposal to develop an oil port in the heart of their critical habitat.

Although the conservation challenge is daunting, nurturing functioning ecosystems offers hope. Healthy oceans ensure we can continue to enjoy seafood — and they’re more resilient to increasing human impacts. If the global fishing industry

wants to ensure its survival, it should advocate for marine ecosystem conservation.

By continuing to improve fisheries, protect habitat, carefully control industrial activities and create marine protected areas, we can maintain marine ecosystems that are better able to adapt to the pressures of climate change and other human activities. That’s happening on the Pacific North Coast, thanks to a partnership between the B.C. government and First Nations to develop marine plans to guide future ocean uses.

Although there’s much to lament about the state of the oceans, I remain inspired by the David Suzuki Foundation’s Ocean Keepers and others working to defend our precious coastal waters. With less than five per cent of the oceans explored, we have much left to discover and learn.

As the late American marine biologist, author and conservationist Rachel Carson wrote, “It is a curious situation that the sea, from which life first arose, should now be threatened by the activities of one form of that life. But the sea, though changed in a sinister way, will continue to exist: the threat is rather to life itself.”

Buck & Doe

Joel Dreise & Satome Holland

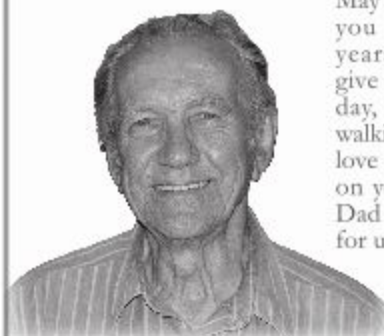


SATURDAY
JUNE 21ST AT 7 PM
ACTON TOWN HALL
19 Willow Street, Acton, On.

EAT
DRINK
and let's get them
MARRIED!!

Tickets are \$15.00
Please contact Anita Dreise: 519 853 9027
Or Dawson Bell: 519 546 5518

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY JOHN LOOYENGA



On June 19th, Dad will celebrate his 80th birthday. May God's blessings be on you today and for many years to come. May He give you strength for each day, surrounding you and walking beside you. Lots of love and best wishes to you on your birthday. Thanks Dad for always being there for us.

Love from your kids,
11 grandkids &
6 great-grandkids



HALL OF FAMERS: Halton Hills is the first municipality in North America to be inducted in the North American Railway Hall of Fame (NARHF.). The ceremony was held recently in St. Thomas, when NARHF secretary Barb Green (left) presented the award to Halton Hills Councillor Dave Kentner and Pat Farley, President of the Halton Hills branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario. – Submitted photo

NOTICE OF THE PASSING OF AN AMENDING EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CHARGES BY-LAW BY THE HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

TAKE NOTICE that on the 4th day of June, 2014, the Halton District School Board (the “Board”) passed Education Development Charges Amending By-law, 2014, which amends the Education Development Charges By-law, (2013) of the Board.

AND TAKE NOTICE that any person or organization may appeal the By-law to the Ontario Municipal Board under Section 257.65 of the Act by filing with the Secretary of the Halton District School Board on or before the 14th day of July, 2014, a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the By-law and the reasons supporting the objection. The appeal may not raise an issue that could have been raised in an appeal under section 257.65 of the Education Act of Education Development Charges By-law, (2013).

The said amending by-law comes into force on June 9, 2014, and increases the education development charge on residential development to \$3,380.00 per dwelling unit and the education development charge on non-residential development to \$0.87 per square foot (\$9.36 per square metre) of gross floor area. No other amendment to Education Development Charges By-law, (2013) has been made in the amending by-law.

A complete copy of the amending by-law is available for examination in the offices of the Board located at 2050 Guelph Line, J.W. Singleton Education Centre, Burlington, Ontario, during regular office hours or on the Board’s website at www.hdsb.ca.

Dated at the City of Burlington this 6th day of June, 2014.

David Euale
Director of Education and Secretary to the Board

