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Gabriola Island. Annual *SHALE* evenings.

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Annual *SHALE* evenings

WI Hall, w. Nick Doe and Jenni Gehlbach, January 26, 2006

## *SHALE* evening, 2006

On Thursday, January 26, at 7 pm The Gabriola Historical and Museum Society is having an evening to celebrate five years of *SHALE* - and to introduce the journal to those who don't yet know it. The place is the Women's Institute (the building just up the hill on South Road a few dozen feet from the Post Office). We will have cookies, coffee, and tea for anyone who would like some.

*SHALE* is devoted to Gabriola's history, in the broadest sense, and any aspect of life here that is of interest. There have been many topics covered in the 12 issues so far, recent visits by orcas (killer whales), the native plants including the local trees, stories and tall tales - and there will be an overview of the variety of topics covered so far.

Everyone is welcome, and admission is free. Back issues of *SHALE* will be available for purchase - and any donations to the museum or to the journal will be welcome - but there is no obligation to donate to either. Come and meet museum board members and writers for *SHALE*. Bring a friend who might be interested.

The editor of *SHALE*, Nick Doe, will be there, as will other contributors, to talk about past and future issues articles, to answer questions, listen to what people like (and don't like) about *SHALE* and its website. There will be an old-fashioned slide show of Nick and Jenni's kayak trip in search of Captain Cook, including scenery depicted by Cook's 1778 expedition artists, Webber and Ellis.

For further information call the museum at (250) 247-9987.

REVIEW of *SHALE* evening, January 26, 2006 by Joyce White

Forty-eight brave souls battled the driving rain of a dark January night to celebrate and learn more about *SHALE*, Gabriola Historical and Museum Society's Journal. The WI Hall was warm, welcoming, and almost filled to capacity.

*SHALE* editor, Nick Doe, using slides and a new digital projector, gave a summary of some of the highlights of earlier issues including the Island geology, the history of settler families, a comparison of Gabriola and Manhattan - two islands of similar size but vastly dissimilar in makeup, Malaspina's lost gallery, etc.

Barrie Humphrey spoke of the history group's research into the life of the early settlers, most of whom married First Nations women and how, at first, there was little response in locating descendants. All this changed rapidly when the families were posted on the Museum website.

Lynda Poulton spoke of the contacts made with these descendants and the ongoing work into deciphering the school's correspondence, and what is being learned about the history of Gabriola's educational system, which, at the time, was very controversial.

During the refreshment intermission, the audience was able to purchase early editions of the Journal, a booklet on the history of the Museum, and examine a collection of Gabriola rocks, fossils, bricks, and diatomaceous earth.

Nick devoted the final part of the evening to a slide show of a kayaking expedition he and Jenni took to Nootka Sound, in search of Captain James Cook's astronomical observatory. This was Cook's third voyage to the Pacific and he was here in 1778 for about a month while repairing the ships' masts. Nick and Jenni also took photographs of landscapes sketched by expedition artists John Webber and William Ellis. These artists stretched artistic licence by painting mountains where there were none and deciduous trees alien to this part of British Columbia. Nick ended on a cautionary note, artists don't always tell the truth, and a plea that the work of the historians and scientists that live here not be overlooked. Gabriola is, in his view, an "Isle of the Arts and Natural Philosophy".

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WI Hall, w. Mike Layland, January 25, 2007

## *SHALE* evening, 2007

The Gabriola Museum & Historical Society is planning another *SHALE* evening at the Gabriola Women's Institute on Thursday, January 25, 2007 at 7 pm. For those who don't know, *SHALE* is the Museum's Journal, and contains articles, not only on Gabriola's history, but also on the natural history and geology of our island. The format of the evening will be similar to last year's but with extra time for questions and discussion. There will be a brief walk through of recent issues by the editor, Nick Doe, and an equally brief review of the four well-attended beach walk/talks that the Museum and *SHALE* held last summer.

After the break, we will be treated to an old-fashioned slide show on the infamous Ripple Rock in Discovery Passage just north of Campbell River. At one time, this navigational hazard was considered to have the makings of a foundation for a bridge between Vancouver Island and the mainland, but in the end, it was successfully blown up in the largest non-nuclear peacetime

explosion ever. This illustrated talk will be given by Michael Layland, a cartographer, historian, and president of the Victoria Historical Society. Make it date to be there on January 25th! Everyone welcome. There will be modest refreshments. Admission free - but any donations to *SHALE* and GHMS will be gratefully accepted.

REVIEW of *SHALE* evening, January 25, 2007 by Joyce White

January 25 was a busy night on Gabriola, although not everyone was out celebrating the birth of the Scottish Bard. Thirty plus people assembled in the WI Hall for the Museum's second annual *SHALE* night. (*SHALE* is the Journal of the Gabriola Historical and Museum Society).

Editor Nick Doe began the evening with an illustrated talk showing some highlights of recent *SHALE* issues, and of this past year's beach walk/talks. One slide was of Submarine Island, near Orlebar Point, which is where Nick's research leads him to believe that George Vancouver spent an uncomfortable night. We also saw slides of Gabiola, in Spain's Basque Region; the probable origin of Spanish explorer Bodega y Quadra's choice for our Island name. (The "r" in Gabriola was added later).

Following intermission and refreshments, Mike Layland, president of the Victoria Historical Society, gave a talk and showed slides on the infamous Ripple Rock. Ripple Rock lies near Campbell River in Seymour Narrows and it was a shipping hazard from the days of the sailing ships; but was even more hazardous with the introduction of the larger steamships. Underground tunnels were built from neighbouring shores to install the explosives into the Rock. It was destroyed in 1958 and it was the largest non-nuclear explosion ever.

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WI Hall, w. Jenni Gehlbach, January 24, 2008

### *SHALE* evening, 2008

We start off the New Year with a special *SHALE* night with editor, Nick Doe, January 24<sup>th</sup> 7 pm at the WI Hall. The guest speaker will be Jenni Gehlbach and the subject will be "Brick Making on Gabriola and Tamil Nadu". Nick will also review of the year's *SHALE* activities, and there will be an opportunity for discussions, questions, and answers.

REVIEW of *SHALE* evening, January 24, 2008

On Thursday January 24, the Gabriola Museum held its third annual *SHALE* evening in the WI Hall. About 30 people attended. *SHALE* is the journal of the Gabriola Historical and Museum Society (GHMS) and is published on average three times a year. The evening is just part of the "historical-focused" activities that the society organizes each year to complement its "museum-focused" activities, the others including beach walk/talks in the summer, the occasional guest speaker, and the "antique rock show" in the fall when people bring along interesting pebbles and fossils they've picked up on their walks for discussion and identification.

The evening started with a review of the 2007 editions of *SHALE* by editor, Nick Doe. Last year, the journal carried major articles on the island's archaeology including some new radiocarbon dating; the ecology and management of the island's forests (especially relevant to

the development of a 707-acre park management plan); polygons in the natural and human worlds—rock fractures, snake-skins, dragonfly wings, roadmaps, flaking paint on cars, lichen; and some very new information about the island’s petroglyphs.

Perhaps the most popular article of all (in Issue 15) was a history of the brickyard by Jenni Gehlbach, and she was on hand to give an “invited guest” talk on bricking making on Gabriola (in the past) and brick making in Tamil Nadu in southern India (in the present), all beautifully illustrated with archival and vacation-trip photographs.

If you don’t know *SHALE*, you can see copies in the library—there are currently 17 issues—or buy your own back issues at Pages, Artworks, and, when open, the museum. Subscriptions are \$20 for four, Google Gabriola *SHALE* for the web page.

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ROXY, Sunday, 2-4 pm, January 25, 2009

### *SHALE* event, 2009 (afternoon for a change)

The Gabriola Historical and Museum Society will be hosting its annual “*SHALE* evening” this year in the afternoon at The Roxy. This is a fundraiser, but more importantly an opportunity to come and meet the people who produce the Museum’s Journal *SHALE*. There will be a brief review of last year’s issues, which included a special edition on Gabriola’s sandstone quarries, and a chance to ask questions and make requests for future articles.

Nick Doe, the editor of *SHALE*, will follow this with an illustrated lecture on the results of his research on the design of some of Gabriola’s petroglyphs. This will be similar, but not identical, to the talk given on January 9, 2009, to the Nanaimo Branch of the Archaeological Society of BC. These petroglyphs have a sophisticated geometry and show evidence of having been accurately aligned relative to geographic coordinates (east, west, north, and south). They also have orientations defined by fractures in the sandstone. In one case, the petroglyph was probably a solar calendar; and in another case, the petroglyph site contains representations of the constellations of Orion, Gemini, and Ursa Major. Nick is also an avid student of the geology of the island, and brings a geologist’s perspective to the problem of dating them, and to the reasons as to why they are so rapidly eroding.

No charge for admission, but donations to the GHMS and *SHALE* very welcome.

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ROXY, January 26, 2010

### *SHALE* evening, 2010

Come and meet the people who produce the Museum’s Journal *SHALE*. The agenda is a review of last year’s 3 issues (including No. 22), so there will be a chance to ask questions about the island’s history (Ambulance Society, Community Hall, Withey’s Shipyard, HMS Egeria), archaeology (radiocarbon dating), geology, and mysterious mirages.

Guest speaker Mike Layland will talk about toponyms (place names to you), and Nick Doe, the editor of *SHALE* will follow this with an old-fashioned slide-show of photographs of Gabriola's rocks and rock formations with emphasis on "cute, curious, and pretty" rather than yet more technical stuff. GEOLOGY AS ART in other words. Come and join us. It'll make you glad you didn't go to Mexico.

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