

Dear Editor

One of the sad things about the recent troubles with the ferries is that it reveals that some Gabriolans appear not to like living on an island. Their ideal, it seems, is, if not a bridge, something close to it in the form of an uninterrupted ferry service, all hours of the day and night. Why such people don't go live in some place like Cedar or Surrey is beyond me. Why go through the trouble of transforming Gabriola into a suburb of Nanaimo, when such suburbs already exist? Personally, I revelled in the thought of being cut-off from the rest of the world for a few days and thrown back on the resources that the island could provide—the old pioneers would have understood. As for the ferry workers strike, I don't have a good grasp of the details, but I do understand “attitude”, and premier Campbell and ferry boss Hahn had plenty of that. Like the goons that every NHL team seems to have to have, they were just spoiling for a fight. In a country where half of the families control 94% of its wealth; where having a rich daddy, or having sheer luck with the real estate market, not hard work, is the key to being rich, I have every sympathy for the workers and a union that fight hard in the apparently losing battle to ensure that a job, conscientiously and dutifully done, is rewarded. If it is true that the ferry system is badly managed, whose fault exactly is that? Giving tax cuts to the corporate rich, when the poorer segment of society is a paycheque away from financial disaster is the real crime here—not cutting off for a few days the opportunity to burn off another tank of gasoline on yet another trip to Nanaimo's synthetic shopping malls.

Sincerely

---