

THE WCR LEARNING COMMUNITY

This project is made possible through funding from the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.



Elaine Campbell, left, stands with her friend at the airport
Photo: Spencer Anderson, *The Comox Valley Echo*

Shipwrecked in BC

Adapted from *The Vancouver Sun* and *Victoria Times Colonist*

Level 2
September 2011

For six days in early June, Elaine Campbell was alone on a rocky beach in Haida Gwaii, B.C.

Earlier, Elaine and her husband, Fred, were exploring the island. They were in a small boat.

Suddenly, a large wave tipped over their boat.

Elaine held on to the motor. Fred held on to the other end of the boat, but he soon let go and floated away.

Elaine cannot remember how she got to the shore. She was wet and cold. Luckily, she had a lighter. She built a fire.

She also made a small shelter.

Later that day, an orange and a thermos of tea floated onto the shore.

She used the thermos cup to collect rainwater from puddles.

On the third day, Elaine ate the last piece of orange. She remembers it in her mouth.

She sucked it and then swallowed it.

“That’s it,” she thought. “Nothing else to eat.”

On day six, Elaine woke in the middle of the night and walked to the beach. She saw a light.

She yelled and banged the fire with a stick.

As day came, she heard two young men shouting. Not long after, rescuers came.

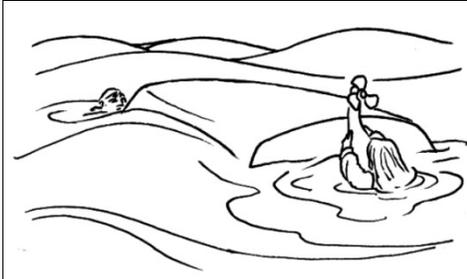
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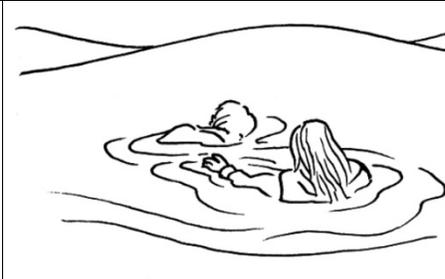
Elaine said that Fred gave her
the strength to survive.
“He was with me the whole time.”

Elaine is now home in Courtenay, B.C.
Sadly, Fred is still missing.

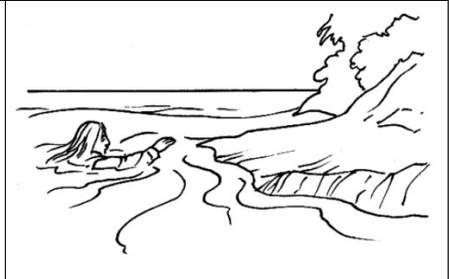
Illustrations:



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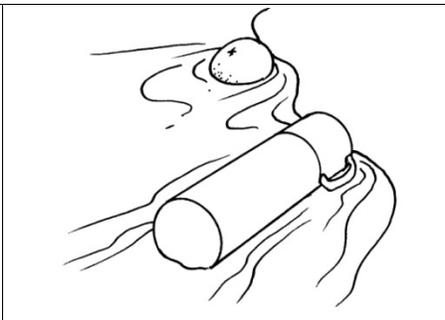
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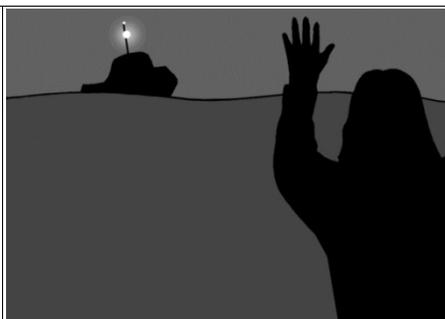
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Illustrations by: Nola Johnston