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Harbour Spiel



The independent voice of Pender Harbour & Egmont since 1990.

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#### **EDITOR**

Brian Lee

#### CIRCULATION (2,500)

Copies of the *Harbour Spiel* are mailed free to 1,375 homes between Egmont and Middlepoint and are available by paid subscription and free at locations throughout the Sunshine Coast.

Each issue of the Harbour Spiel (since Nov. 2006) is also available online as a PDF download at www.harbourspiel.com.

#### CONTRIBUTORS

This month we thank: Mark Brezer, Leonard Lee, Robert Livingston, Susan Marlatt, Shane McCune, Marg Skelly and Karen Strong.

#### COVER

Early season snow made for excellent ATV carving up the Middlepoint Forest Service Road on Dec. 4. (Mark Brezer photo)

#### ADVERTISING

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## Maybe they don't like us



Brian Lee

As we try to digest the latest dock plan nonsense, it's hard not to be

overwhelmed by its absurdity.

There are approximately 109 boathouses in Pender Harbour and one qualified estimate puts a conservative average value of each at \$100,000.

The cost for removal of a boathouse is about \$35,000.

Not including the accompanying loss in property value, the ban on boathouses inflicts a \$15 million penalty on Pender Harbour — and there are twice as many on Sakinaw Lake.

Pender Harbour's 300 docks will cost \$80,000 each to replace and between \$20,000 to \$50,000 to remove.

Add some archeological bad luck to time spent and this dock plan costs another \$33 million.

With close to 300 docks on Ruby and Sakinaw Lakes, 100 in Egmont and Sechelt Inlet, 80 in Halfmoon Bay and 180 on Nelson Island, this plan will cost Sunshine Coast taxpayers close to \$150 million.

Yet, docks cover roughly 0.34% of the surface area of Pender Harbour.

A biologist isn't necessary when simple math explains why boosting light transmission by 43% over such a tiny area will have a negligible environmental effect.

But after a decade of pointing out the unfairness and impracticability of the DMP, we should consider the possibility that maybe the shìshàlh just don't want us here.

Each time an independent expert is brought in, including the province's own superstar Barry Penner, they all agree — it shouldn't be this way.

Yet, so far, we've only been successful in pushing ahead comment

period deadlines.

"Sure, no problem," they say.

"We can ignore your comments after Jan. 12 too."

During a presentation to the SCRD board on Nov. 30, Jasmine Paul, a "strategic advisor" to shìshàlh Corp. and one of the architects of the DMP, joined two reps from the province to congratulate their plan.

The trio described their good ideas as "best management practices" over 30 times in the presentation.

Who says they are?

Boathouses shade boats, not bottom and if you go snorkelling in Pender Harbour, you won't see a fish until you swim under a dock.

It's jargon bureaucrats use to imply legitimacy.

The same might be said of another talking point, that the DMP aims to "protect the environmental and archeological resources that we all hold dear."

Paul and crew repeated variations of that phrase 12 times on Nov. 30.

As I went back through *Harbour Spiel* issues to create the timeline on p. 5, it was hard to miss the anger growing towards the shìshàlh Nation.

The shìshàlh have legitimate grievances and reconciliation was met with optimism for a shared solution.

But the Sunshine Coast reality is that 5% of our population have assumed at least 50% of the power in determining how the rest of us live.

And they're abusing it.

The shishall have shown a pattern of indifference to our community's values and residents are justifiably concerned about what lies ahead.

This shìshàlh council can't be blamed for past blunders, but they are responsible for current resentment.

And they should be ashamed.

## Opposition to latest dock management plan growing Coast-wide

Residents are still digesting the potential impacts of recent updates to the province and shìshàlh Nation's 2021 Pender Harbour dock management plan.

The new document, a draft amendment titled "shíshálh swiya Dock Management Plan," was released Nov. 24 and will apply to all of the shìshàlh Nation's traditional territory and includes a number of controversial changes from the 2021 document.

Key among those changes are restrictions on the size of docks, a ban on boathouses and a proposal to apply the DMP to all freshwater lakes.

"When they first came out with the dock management plan, docks couldn't be wider than 1.5 metres," said Peter Robson, president of the Pender Harbour and Area Residents Association.

"We told them it was crazy and they kept it there until this draft where they finally recognized that it was a legislated hazard."

PHARA's insistence that a threemetre width was preferable and a 2.44-metre dock width should be the minimum were finally acknowledged in a recently released engineering report commissioned by the province and shìshàlh Nation last year.

According to the "Review of Pender Harbour Dock Best Management Practices," prepared by McElhanney Ltd. (Jan. 17, 2023):

"The maximum width of the float causes safety concerns, specifically due to the stability of the float.

"It is recommended that the float widths are not limited by width, and instead the float area is limited.

"This allows for the floats to be customizable, and still safe."

Instead of a maximum dock width, the new document proposes a maximum floating surface area of 30m<sup>2</sup> (323 sq. ft.).

Now, Robson is questioning the new math.

"It's about enough for a 30-foot boat, right?"

The preferred three-metre dock width, with a maximum area of 30m<sup>2</sup>, would allow for a maximum dock length of 10 metres, or 33 feet.

At the minimum width of 2.44 metres, the largest the draft plan

would safely allow is a 40-foot dock.

The DMP doesn't offer advice for dock owners with boats over 40 feet in length.

Robson said there are a number of examples in which the engineering report contradicts some of the changes they've made in the draft.

"If they're worried about the environment, removing docks is going to be much more harmful than leaving them where they are," he said.

Robson is as confused as others about why the province and the band refuse to listen.

"I know the band is angry with us, stretching way back to (June) 2015 when they had that meeting," he said.

"But I think the community has a right to be upset because this was thrown at them without any consultation.

"If somebody had maybe talked to the local people first, it might have calmed things down."

Robson said PHARA has been continually snubbed in efforts to arrange a meeting with the shìshàlh.

"We've had no replies at all. "We've sent them copies of all



Decades of turmoil begin as pressure from the shìshàlh Nation persuades Land and Water BC to halt the process for foreshore licence applications due concerns over the "rights to harvest shellfish."

Over 100 people from Pender Harbour attend a "passionate" meeting regarding the moratorium on docks with provincial officials, MLA Harold Long and members of the shìshàlh Nation, in the shìshàlh Nation longhouse July 12.

The province briefly opens the process for private moorage applications and renewals. The process was subsequently halted Jan. 17, 2012.

Feschuk blames the province for failing to achieve resolution on private moorage applications in Pender Harbour: "The proliferation of private moorages has done significant damage to Sechelt's economy, fisheries and way of life."

Pender Harbour dock owners' open-ended "specific permission" private moorage tenures are replaced by fixed term "licences of occupation."

Provincial
officials face
anger at an open
house at the
Pender Harbour
Community
Hall when
they present a
draft DMP that
introduces
controversial and
restrictive dock
zoning in Pender
Harbour.

A petition opposing the DMP "due to lack of meaningful consultation with residents and property owners of Pender Harbour," receives close to 2,000 signatures.

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the correspondence with the government, all of our concerns have gone to them and yet there's the silence at their end and even the government will only talk to us after the fact — after they've come up with a new set of proposals."

PHARA has had meetings with the joint DMP working group made up of representatives from the province and Jasmine Paul, a shishalh Nation consultant and one of the original architects of the DMP.

"They made it clear at our meeting on Nov. 24 — they said you're absolutely not going to talk about the light penetration issue (through the surface of docks) and we're not going to talk about the zones," said Robson.

"And there's still no scientific reasoning whatsoever for the zones.

"Our study has said there is no reason for it but all the band has ever said is that, 'We have our science and we have our history and that's it."

Since the release of the Nov. 24 draft, the deadline for public comment was extended from Dec. 15 to Jan. 12.

At a Nov. 30 SCRD meeting in which province representatives Jamie

Hagman and Tonianne Mynen were joined by Paul to present the "shíshálh swiya Dock Management Plan" to the board, Leonard Lee, SCRD chair and Area A director, received board support for a motion to request the province extend that deadline for public engagement to March 15.

That meeting can be viewed at www.scrd.ca/agendas.

Well over 100 concerned residents attended in person while another 183 attended virtually and Robson said that one ray of hope since the draft was released is that it has pulled a lot more people into the cause.

"We are in the process of forming a Sunshine Coast dock management plan committee which will include representatives from different groups from around the Coast like Halfmoon Bay, Secret Cove and Egmont," he said

"The people of Ruby and Sakinaw Lakes are totally up in arms over this whole thing because, under this new DMP, the same rules will apply to lakes and obviously lakes don't have eelgrass and there isn't a lot growing in the lakes. "Plus, they're more sheltered and there's no tides but the DMP says they should follow the same rules."

Essentially, what Robson and others are asking for is for the province to grandfather in all existing docks and, going forward, force new docks to comply.

"Removing the docks would be way more harmful and plus, they don't want to disturb archaeological sites caused by ripping out docks and ramps and everything."

Robson believes that most dock owners have less than five years left on their current tenures which means that if this current draft comes into law, it will require most docks to be rebuilt and all boathouses removed within that time period.

Many see no path forward other than a legal challenge.

Though Robson admits there's been plenty of discussion on that topic, all he would say is that PHARA has "engaged legal council and are in the process of evaluating our options, with a goal to reduce the impact of the new DMP rules on businesses and individuals."



The DMP draws a boisterous crowd, and the RCMP, to a meeting at the Pender Harbour Community Hall that includes staff from the shìshàlh Nation and Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources.

Province hires consultant Barry Penner to oversee "further engagement to identify possible options for the foreshore lands before the plan is finalized." Penner's report was released Feb. 12, 2016 with 13 recommendations including the elimination of the "red" zoning.

The province releases the "Pender Harbour Dock Management Plan" despite intense local opposition to zoning that restricts docks in certain areas of Pender Harbour.

First dock approved (in Whiskey Slough) under the 2018 Pender Harbour Dock Management Plan. Province releases the updated 2021 Pender Harbour Dock Management Plan.

Some Gunboat Bay (red zone) property owners were given until Aug. 31, 2022 to remove their docks according to a letter from the province. Some docks were removed by government contractors, with an RCMP escort, in the summer of 2023.

Province releases a controversial draft amendment "shìshàlh swiya Dock Managment Plan" that expands the DMP to apply to the entire traditional territory and includes freshwater docks and a blanket ban on boathouses.

January 2024

#### "What's Changed?" Document

## Summary of Proposed Amendments to the shishalh swiya Dock Management Plan

Best Management Practice Outline	Current Dock Management Plan (March 2021)	_	to Dock Management Plan nber 2023)					
Moorage Type	Private and Commercial	Private	Commercial					
Maximum width of access ramp and walkways	1.2m	1.8m	1.8m					
Maximum float width	1.5m	None	3.0m wide for main floats, 1.5m wide for float fingers					
Maximum float area	No prior maximum float area.	30m²	40m² per vessel up to 40 feet length overall					
Maximum total length of dock	No prior maximum	50m	60m					
Annual moorage inspections	No prior annual inspection requirements.	Annual inspection required to be completed annually by authorization holder and documents submitted to BC upon request and upon application for replacement.	Annual inspection reports to be submitted with annual Statutory Declaration.					
Outdoor lighting	No prior requirement for outdoor lighting	Outdoor lighting should be minimized and should be on a timer/motion detector.	Outdoor lighting should be minimized and should be on a timer/motion detector.					
Boathouses	Undefined best management practices	Boathouses within Private Moorage Tenures are not in alignment with Provincial and shíshálh policy. The Plan has been updated to align with policy.	Required to meet Best Management Practices for Commercial Moorage. *Clarification in relation to the light penetration Best Management Practice: application for boathouses must demonstrate alignment with the goals and intent of the Dock Management Plan					

Ministry of Forests

Marine and freshwater dock owners are facing hundreds of thousands of dollars in dock replacements without convincing evidence that this plan will achieve its goal of 'protecting the environmental and archaeological resources.'

## Tracy McClelland wins S.D. 46 byelection

Tracy McClelland beat out Jay O'Keefe in a Dec. 9 by election to fill a vacant school trustee position for the Upper Coast in the Sunshine Coast school district.

McClelland received 106 votes to take the seat on the School District No. 46 board representing Electoral Area 1 (Upper Coast) which is made up of electoral areas A and B of the Sunshine Coast Regional District.

O'Keefe received 35 votes.

McClelland was raised in Garden Bay and graduated from Pender Harbour Secondary School.

With two of her four children already graduated from PHSS, McClelland recently enrolled her youngest child at Madeira Park Elementary.

McClelland will be officially



submitted

Tracey McClelland won a Dec. 9 byelection to fill a School District 46 Upper Coast board position.

inducted into her role at the Jan. 10 regular board meeting,

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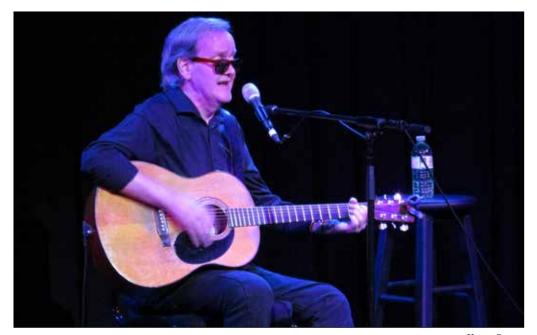


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## photojournal



Karen Strong

Roy Forbes, AKA Bim, visited the Pender Harbour School of Music for a sold out concert on Nov. 19. It was Forbes' fourth time performing at the SoM and, according to Margaret Skelly, P. H. Music Society board member, concertgoers were 'treated to a warm musical hug with a good dose of positive philosophy.' Forbes opened with 'I'm on the edge' which lead to the chords from La Bamba in 'Find the joy in your heart.' 'He laughed that he had enough material to keep us here for four hours,' said Skelly. 'And we would have loved that.' Forbes is now 'Dr. Forbes,' having been granted an honorary doctorate of letters from UBC this past summer.

## **EXCAVATION SERVICES**



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## 2023 harbour spiel review



JANUARY: The first Pender Harbour Winter Festival was a



JUNE: Members of the MPES PAC and principal Sandy Magnussen pose in front of a new \$30,000 swing set.



Brian Lee

JUNE: The May Queen float in the Pender Harbour May Day parade.



Brian Lee

DECEMBER: On Nov. 8, the P. H. and District Chamber of Commerce voted to merge with Sechelt and Gibsons. Page 8



FEBRUARY:Late December's king tides breached the banks of downtown Garden Bay, trapping those on Panorama Drive.



JUNE: A school bus carrying one student overturned near the Grasshopper Pub May 24.



Brian Lee

JULY: Luckily it had recently rained when two homes were destroyed by fire in Gunboat Bay June 16.



Brian Lee

NOVEMBER: On Oct. 22, the P. H. and Area Residents' Association held their first town hall meeting since COVID.

Harbour Spiel

## 2023 harbour spiel review



Brian Lee

MARCH: An encampment on Myers Creek in Lower Kleindale has grown into an eyesore and environmental liability.



Jasmine Chandler

MAY: A powerful thunderstorm rolled through April 16 delivering lightning strikes like this one at the P. H. Hotel.



Brian Lee

JULY: Egmont Day parade passing the Egmont Community Hall on June 3.



submittee

OCTOBER: Rotary Club of Pender Harbour members recently installed a 'storybook walk' in Madeira Park's Tyner Park.

January 2024



Shari Fade

APRIL: PHSS students pose on a ski trip to Whistler on March 8 to 10.



Brian Lee

APRIL: Recent logging in Egmont has uncovered this gaspowered yarder from the 1940s or 1950s.



FurlanFotography

AUGUST: Marjory Mackay celebrated her 100th birthday on July 12.

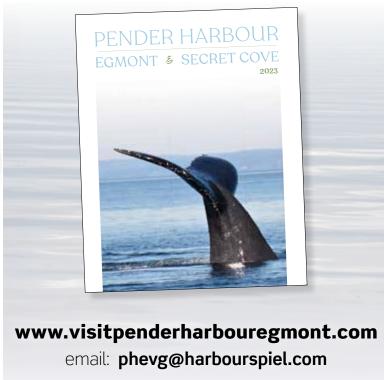


submitted

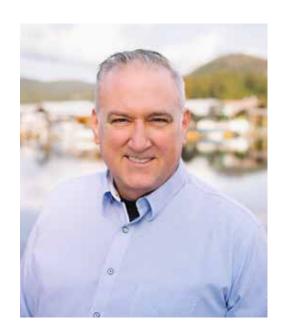
SEPTEMBER: Some characters at the annual ladies club tournament at the Pender Harbour Golf Course Aug. 10.



# Have you reserved your spot for 2024 yet?







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## O'Keefe: Importance of voting in local elections

Editor,

Thank you for publishing the profiles of candidates for the upcoming by-election for school trustee (*Harbour Spiel*, Dec. 2023).

In advance of tomorrow's polling I would like to express my gratitude to all the school district staff, Sechelt staff, election workers, the Pender Harbour Community School and everyone involved in making the election happen.

While local politics don't often make national headlines, it is so important that we remain collectively involved in the democratic process in a time when, across Canada, many school boards, parks boards and other avenues for constituent representation are increasingly being filled by government appointees. Choosing to vote matters, without it, our collective ability to have direct civic involvement, representation and constituent oversight erodes.

Participating in local elections is a vote for transparency and accountability — and so I want to especially express my gratitude to everyone who took the time to come out and vote.

Jay O'Keeffe Madeira Park (salalus)

## Legion 112 raising funds to host 'emergency registration centre'

Editor,

The Pender Harbour Legion has been designated as an "emergency registration centre" for our area.

Working with Nancy Hughes, co-ordinator for the SCRD emergency management program, we have an agreement in which the SCRD will supply a 40-foot container with emergency supplies, cots, blankets, etc.,

and we will supply security, space and electricity.

Because of the numerous power outages that we experience, we are required to have a standby generator, as we could have as many as 200 to 300 people to shelter and feed with the help of the community hall, and the elementary school.

The cost of a generator will be approximately \$75,000.

We are writing applications for grants but will also be relying on the public for support.

Cheques can be made out to Community Improvement Foundation Legion, generator fund and mailed to the Royal Canadian Legion, Box 148 Madeira Park, BC, V0N 2H1.

Tax receipts will be issued.

Jack Dennis

Emergency plan program committee

## Dock plan leaves many questions

Editor.

Allow me five comments:

• Reconciliation is a two way street and not a dictatorship.

It appears to be rammed through with little consideration for the dock owners' considerable feedback;

- It is unclear is why boathouses or docks have to be disallowed or modified at all in Pender Harbour;
- Indeed many lights are far too bright at night, for example at a dock in Irvines Landing, across from us on Francis Peninsula near Charles Island.

That could use some regulation and enforcement;

• Let the land owner decide if

they want a big dock, a boathouse or

Charge a reasonable fee for it and set reasonable guidelines as to appearance, maintenance and size, and

• We want a dock too but we are in an area that doesn't allow any.

Why? Who set these arbitrary zones in the DMP?

Green zone 3 should be extended by at least 10 to 13 lots further west along Francis Peninsula near Charles Island or even on Charles Island where there's a house.

How do you get to it if there's no dock?

The plan needs to be revised.

Thomas Beyer



## Shìshàlh swiya dock management plan



Leonard Lee Area A director, SCRD

The "shishalh swiya dock management plan" is a proposed amendment to the Pender Harbour

dock management plan.

In 2003, the province suspended dock applications in Pender Harbour, then in 2014 stopped accepting new, private moorage applications, leaving existing tenures on a month-to-month basis with tenure holders continuing to receive lease-payment invoices.

We saw a draft DMP in 2015, archaeological/environmental studies by Millennia Research Ltd. of Victoria and MC Wright and Associates Ltd. of Nanaimo in 2018, approval of the DMP in 2018, and amendments to it

in 2021.

The 2021 DMP was improved:

- New dock/float applications reinstated;
- Improved standards and environmental protection based on professional advice, e.g. grating and encapsulated foam, and
- First Nations concerns addressed, e.g. rights protected to harvest intertidal shoreline areas, archeological sites respected, and public lands decisions shared.

Resident concerns about the 2018 DMP, including "red zones" and faulty engineering standards, resulted in an engineering study to address some of the issues, which led to the current SSDMP draft.

This DMP version expands its boundaries and fine-tunes its regulations, but exposes many unknowns, and creates a justified fear.

- The maximum access ramp and walkway width increase to 1.8 m/5.9 ft. and commercial widths of 3.0 m/9.8 ft. for main floats and 1.5 m/4.9 ft. for fingers seems workable;
- The 30 m<sup>2</sup> standard allows a residential float to accommodate a 40-foot boat, but residents will have to move larger boats to a marina, and requirements cannot be met for stratas, condo developments, group moorage, single-resident shared docks, and private fishing docks;
- The SSDMP doesn't comply with provincial policy permitting roofed/covered structures if allowed by a local bylaw, and doesn't accommodate a variance procedure for extraordinary situations;
- Application processing is taking far too long, and



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## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Committee of the Whole January 11 at 9:30 a.m.

Regular Board January 11 at 1:00 p.m.

**Electoral Area Services Committee** 

January 18 at 9:30 a.m.

Finance Committee Round 2 Budget January 22 and 23 at 9:30 a.m.

Committee of the Whole January 25 at 9:30 a.m.

Regular Board January 25 at 1:00 p.m.

For more information, please visit www.scrd.ca/agendas.

If you're starting the new year with a clean sweep of old and unfixable gadgets or toys, remember to remove the batteries! Recycle the batteries and cameras, electronic toys, electronics and more for free.

Visit **www.rcbc.ca/recyclepedia/search** for what can be recycled and where.



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• We need a study on the impact of docks and boathouses in freshwater because freshwater and saltwater conditions are vastly different.

Negative economic impacts include decreased property values from removal of previously approved boathouses, and the loss of marine construction jobs.

Lack of private moorage and increased commercial moorage competition will hinder our option to own a boat, and available anchorages will soon be exhausted by resident boats.

The province has failed in their duty to ensure individual Crown-use application decisions are made by independent, unbiased individuals.

They have not recognized our shared goals with First Nations to restore our Harbour's environment to acceptable standards, to protect archeological remains and culturally important sites, and to employ technical standards and associated actions.

This is the fourth version of the DMP released without public consultation, which is not acceptable because everyone must be involved to achieve public acceptance.

It's long past time the province involved the SCRD in the DMP.

They ignored their 2021 memorandum of understanding assenting to allow local government participation in negotiation and implementation of agreements.

To comment to the province about the proposed SSDMP, before Jan. 12, visit https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/applications and enter reference number 2412772.

#### **WASTEWATER COSTS**

Our 15 rural systems each have their own bylaw, area, rates, and management, with one of this year's challenges being a significant trucking and disposal cost increase.

Administration expenses (financial management, communications, office of the CAO, etc.) are spread across all SCRD services, with each share based on overall costs and determined by that service's cost.

Other expenses like wages, benefits, and minor materials are assigned to a specific service.

Proposed wastewater plant increases are Canoe Road, 3.43%; Greaves Road, 17.24%; Lee Bay, 6.7%; Lily Lake Village, 16.09%: Merrill Crescent, 2.08%; Painted Boat, 5.33%; and Sakinaw Ridge, 0%.

#### **BUDGET, ROUND 2**

The Jan. 29 SCRD budget will see remaining budget decisions integrated into the draft but changes are possible until final approval Feb. 22.

When water and solid waste projects are integrated in January, we could see a 14% budget increase.

This includes a 4.75% Bank of Canada rate increase, 6% SCRD staff increase, and 4.77% consumer price index increase.

The base budget includes maintaining park and facility service levels, ensuring public safety, and operating water and wastewater plants.

The P. H. Health Centre, Reading Centre, Sechelt Library, and Egmont Museum requested additional funding.

Property taxes depend on services, so if you don't have fire protection, water, wastewater, and pool access, your tax increase will be insignificant.

If you receive most or all services, you'll likely see at least a 7% increase, but if all items pass by February it could mean 10% for North Pender, 14% for South Pender, and 11% for Egmont.

This month the SCRD will provide information and answer questions about this budget at budget community information sessions.

Visit https://letstalk.scrd.ca/bud-get for more detail.



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- Tree Trimming, Topping & Falling
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- Odd Jobs





now dormant building in downtown Madeira Park?  a. Pender Harbour Restaurant  b. Euspiria Cafe  c. Blackfish Bakery  d. Seiners Cafe  and marine park near Freil Falls?  b. Harmony  c. Amity  d. Euphony	was designated a provincial marine park in 1995?  a. Jedediah Island b. Jervis Island c. Bull Island d. Lasqueti Island	4. Which local building was formerly a recreation hall in a logging camp up Jervis Inlet?  □ a. P. H. Community Hall □ b. Bargain Barn □ c. Egmont Community Hall □ d. Sarah Wray Hall
□ a. Middlepoint □ a. Calvin Craigan □ b. Egmont □ b. Aaron Joe	now dormant building in downtown Madeira Park?  a. Pender Harbour Restaurant  b. Euspiria Cafe  c. Blackfish Bakery	□ a. Calm □ b. Harmony □ c. Amity
□ d. Ruby Lake □ d. Lenora Joe	<ul><li>□ a. Middlepoint</li><li>□ b. Egmont</li><li>□ c. Kleindale</li></ul>	□ b. Aaron Joe □ c. Jordan Louie

Answers: p. 34

Four-plus: **Local** Two-plus: **Newbie** Less than two: **Townie** 

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Three of the basket winners from the Pender Harbour Community Club's Christmas craft fair on Dec. 9. From I-r (clockwise): Aline Ainslie, Naomi Brand with Marlene Cymbalist and Jennifer Doherty. The club received \$1,364 in donations at the door and raised a further \$840 in the silent auction. All proceeds will go to maintaining the P. H. Community Hall.

local organizations

## Women's connection hosts Celtic duo

submitted

The opening meeting of the Pender Harbour Women's Connection for 2024 will be Tuesday, Jan. 23.

January's will be a special event as the P. H. School of Music will be filled with a variety of Celtic melodies provided by the talented duo of flautist Leslie McDougal and harpist Margaret Skelley.

This vibrant duo is known for presenting beautiful music to appreciative audiences.

Their combined talents will lend a note of festive sparkle to our first

gathering of the new year.

Come and enjoy a morning of talent, tunes, and tasty refreshments.

Doors open at 9:30 a.m and there's a drop-in fee of \$4.

# **CHAMBER MUSIC WEEKEND**





## Victoria Piano Quartet





Saturday, Jan. 13 & Sunday, Jan. 14 at 2pm

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Page 15 January 2024











## Lou Farrell AUGUST 2, 1925 — OCTOBER 26, 2023





Lou Farrell died on Oct. 26 at the age of 98, in the Sechelt Hospital with her children, and some of her grand-children, by her side.

Farrell and husband Jack moved

to Madeira Park in the early 1970s.

Later, they moved to Middlepoint, until Jack's dementia caused them to move to Halfmoon Bay.

Farrell was born in Smoky Lake, Alta., the youngest of eight children.

She moved to Armstrong during her late teens.

There she met Jack and the two married when she was 22.

Together they raised five children.

They moved around in the early years, following the logging industry.

In the early 1950's, they lived in Vancouver Bay, a logging town up Jervis Inlet.

In 1974, they moved to Pender Harbour, after 16 years in Coquitlam.

Farrell was a lifelong volunteer, beginning in the library in Vancouver Bay, and culminating in over 40 years with the Sechelt Hospital Auxiliary.

Farrell is survived by her children, Mark (Shirley), Val, Barry "Mitch" (Kerri), Kevin (Lisa), and daughter-in-law, Kristy.

She will also be missed by her six grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

She was predeceased by her daughter Marilyn in 2012, and her husband Jack in 2016.

**OBITUARIES:** The *Harbour Spiel* publishes obituaries without charge as a longstanding effort to recognize and record the lives of those who lived in Pender Harbour and Egmont. Submissions must be timely, include the dates of birth and death and be submitted in a digital format. Submissions will be edited for length and to remove first-person and personal messages as required to maintain editorial consistency.

## **Veterinary Services in Pender Harbour – A Stable Future**

To quell fears and rumors, we at the Madeira Park Veterinary Hospital would like to update the community on recent news!

**It is true** that Dr. Rick has sold Madeira Park Veterinary Hospital to P3 Veterinary Partners, a small corporation that owns other veterinary practices across Canada.

**It is not true** that Dr. Rick is retiring. Dr. Rick will be staying on staff for at least the next two years after which time he intends to apply for the position of front door "old vet" Greeter.

**It is true** that Dr. Meg Wharin has joined our veterinary team. Dr. Wharin was raised in the Georgian Bay area of Ontario. She has spent a number of summers on our end of the Sunshine Coast visiting family before finally moving here with her husband Nevin, 2 dogs, a cat & a horse in late 2023.

Meg attended the University of Guelph for her undergraduate degree in biology then hopped across the pond for vet school at the University College Dublin School of Veterinary Medicine.

She has a passion for integrative medicine with a special interest in traditional Chinese medicine and its role in helping pets. This led her to obtain her CVA certification in Canine and Feline Acupuncture from the Chi University in Ocala, Florida. We are excited with the addition of Dr. Meg to the team and invite clients and their pets to drop in and welcome Meg and Nevin to Pender Harbour.

It is true that we will open on Thursdays as well as our regular days of Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays.



With these changes, Dr. Rick is pleased to assure our furry clients that their veterinary health is taken care of.

~ The Team at Madeira Park Veterinary Hospital

#### Look here first.

The Harbour Spiel Business Directory has long been your best bet for sourcing services from trusted community members.







A

#### ACCOMMODATION

- Pender Harbour Resort and Marina.....(604) 883-2424
- Sunshine Villa B&B.....(604) 883-2992

#### ACCOUNTING & BOOKKEEPING

- Crowe MacKay LLP.....(604) 697-9271
- Ocean Breeze Accounting.....(604) 885-0366

#### AUTO REPAIRS & SERVICE

• Kleindale Supply.....(604) 883-2616

B

#### BACKHOE

• Glenn's Backhoe Services.....(604) 883-2840

#### BUILDING SUPPLIES

- Coast Builders RONA Madeira Park.....(604) 883-9551
   Coast Builders RONA Sechelt.....(604) 885-5818
- Gibsons Building Supplies.....(604) 885-7121



## These folks will take care of you.

Mention you found them in the HARBOUR SPIEL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

To list your business, call 604.883.0770

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**C**.....

#### CONCRETE

• Swanson's Ready-Mix Ltd.....(604) 885-9666

D

#### DINING

Cove Restaurant	(604) 883-8025
Harbour Pizza	(604) 883-2543

• Triple B's Burger Stand.....(604) 883-9655

#### DOCK & RAMP CONSTRUCTION

• Garden Bay Marine Services.....(604) 883-2722

#### DOORS AND GATES

• Malaspina Door And Gate .....(604) 590-4300

E

#### ELECTRICIANS

• L.A. Electric	 (604)	883-9188
L./ \. LICCUIO	 (UUT)	000 5 100

• Reid Electric.....(604) 883-9309

F

#### FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

• S.C. Credit Union, Pender Harbour.....(604) 740-2662

G

#### GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Andrew Curtiss Contracting.....(604) 740-7775

#### GENERAL STORE

- Bathgate General Store, Resort & Marina.....(604) 883-2222
- Oak Tree Market.....(604) 883-2411

H

#### HARDWARE

• Coast Builders RONA.....(604) 883-9551

#### HOT TUBS

• SunCoast Waterworks.....(604) 885-6127

L

#### LAWYER

Coastal Law Corporation.....(604) 885-5831

M

#### MOBILE MECHANIC

Mobile Mechanic Auto and Marine (Dave)....(604) 741-2286

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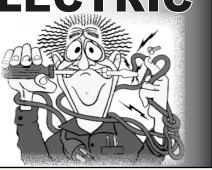
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P

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- Tyee Pacific Marine Operations.....(778) 833-0446

#### PROPERTY CHECKING

• Home Checker ......(604) 760-9595

#### PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

- Coastal BC Property Maintenance.....(604) 399-8928
- Eaves to Earth Property Maintenance.....(604) 740-5499

R

#### REAL ESTATE

- Julie Beckett PREC/Sotheby's Realty.....(604) 740-2164
- Dave Milligan, Re/Max Oceanview Realty.....(604) 741-7373
- Joel O'Reilly PREC, Royal LePage Sussex...(604) 741-1837

#### RECYCLING

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) ).....

#### SEPTIC SERVICES

- AAA Peninsula Septic Tank Pumping Service...(604) 885-7710
- SunCoast Waterworks.....(604) 885-6127

#### **STORAGE**

- Make Space Storage.....(604) 883-2444
- Squirrel Storage.....(604) 741-7665

T

#### TREE SERVICE

- Parker's Tree Services.....(604) 740-7927
- Pender Harbour Tree Service.....(604) 989-3624

#### TRUCKING SERVICES

- Double D Trucking.....(604) 741-2665
- KER Enterprises.....(604) 883-2154

V

#### VETERINARIAN

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W

#### WATER PUMPS

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business directory

W

#### WATER TREATMENT, PURIFICATION/WELLS

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# Recreational Boating Crucial to BC Economy: New DMP Proposal Threatens Economic and Environmental Catastrophe

The recreational boating industry, a vital contributor to the British Columbia economy, injects more than \$1 billion, disproportionately benefiting small communities like the Sunshine Coast. However, a looming threat in the form of the proposed Dock Management Plan poses severe economic and environmental consequences for the region.

The proposed DMP, touted as an environmental safeguard, stands in stark contrast to its intended purpose. If implemented, most conforming private and commercial docks would become non-conforming and owners would be compelled to replace their docks at the end of their existing tenures, resulting in the creation of tens of thousands of cubic meters of landfill. Additionally, the consequential movement of anchors and pilings to accommodate the replacement docks would have a devastating effect on marine wildlife, disrupting ecosystems and endangering vital species.

Furthermore, the economic impact on residents and business owners is staggering. The proposed regulations would mandate existing marinas in Pender Harbour, crucial drivers of community tourism and economy, to reduce their size by up to 80%. This reduction directly contradicts the economic growth these marinas have been fostering, and the consequences would be felt throughout the entire community.

The newly formed Sunshine Coast Dock Management Plan Committee, under the Pender Harbour and Area Residents Association (PHARA), is committed to challenging these detrimental proposals and pressuring the government to adopt more sensible and inclusive rules. Our requests align with other dock management policies across BC and include more reasonable size restrictions for docks to accommodate business and individual needs.

Importantly, PHARA advocates for the grandfathering of existing docks, recognizing their functionality and eliminating the unnecessary ecological and financial burden of replacement. "Far from protecting the environment, this new plan will have devastating environmental and economic implications," states Peter Robson, president of PHARA. "We call upon the government to reconsider and work collaboratively with stakeholders to create a plan that preserves our environment without compromising the economic vitality of our communities."

PHARA encourages residents, businesses, and all stakeholders to join forces in advocating for a more rational approach to dock management, one that ensures sustainability without sacrificing the economic lifelines that recreational boating provides to British Columbia's smaller communities.



#### Note your seal of approval or disapproval.

By email only: editor@harbourspiel.com. Include full name and telephone number. (Editor will edit for length.)

Harbour Seal of Approvals to Bonamatic Excavations Inc, Sicotte Bulldozing Ltd, Pacific Pumps, and SRP Complete Services for sponsoring our student hot lunch program at PHSS.

Anne Pino PHSS PAC

A Harbour Seal of Approval for **Parker's Tree Service** for work completed above and beyond expectations. Irene Boyd

A vast Seal of Approval to the wonderful, dedicated staff of the Legion who hosted an entertaining Bargain Barn Fashion Show event on Nov. 26. We couldn't do it without the Legion and it's amazing staff.

Karen Wells Bargain Barn

Harbour Seal of Approval to **Don** and Crystal White for their yearly contribution to the community in supplying free Christmas trees.

Beth Voutier

A Huge Harbour Seal of Approval and heartfelt thanks to **Dr. Jackie** for the wonderful support and dedication to our patients, clients and staff over the past 15 years.

We wish you every happiness in your well deserved retirement.

Rick, Andrea, Carley, Jenna, Heather, Bobbie and Janice Madeira Park Veterinary Hospital

A Harbour Seal of Approval to the **kind woman who returned my keys** to the post office after I left them at the mailboxes at Garden Bay Road and Hammond.

Peter Robson

"Spreading Kindness" Seals of Approval to **all who donated** to those locally in need this Christmas and all year long as well.

Your kindness and generosity is what makes our community such a great place to call home.

Lyn Charlton

Full Harbour of Seals of Approval to the **20 plus volunteers of the P. H. Food Bank** who amaze me again with your dedication and good cheer.

Joka Wright

P. H. Food Bank Society

A huge hug of appreciation to every business partnering with the P. H. Food Bank and all the community groups and innumerable individuals who steadfastly donated to our cause.

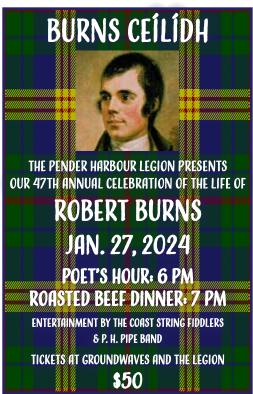
Joka Wright

P. H. Food Bank Society

Harbour Seals of Approval to the fabulous Pender Harbour people who have been instrumental in my stroke recovery: James Eaton, Karl Harrison, Michael Parrott, Drew & Emily Lyle, Graham MacFarlane, Lynne Urghart, Harry & Anka Drost, Linda & Larry Curtis, Chelsea Brown, Haida Bolton, and Ron Malcolm. Very many thanks.

Hugh Baird





Pender Harbour Seniors Housing Society
Outreach Healthy Meal Program



Healthy Meals service has resumed.

FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE:

Call Linda — 604.883.2819, Wendy — 604.883.2514 or Anky —604.883.0033

January 2024



DATE-TIME-SIZE (small, medium, large, extra large)

**EBB (-), FLOOD (+)** - Standing wave is best on large flood (tide flowing into Sechelt Inlet).

1.8:12 AM +XL, 3:14 PM -M

2. 8:36 AM +XL, 3:44 PM -M

3. 9:04 AM +L, 4:15 PM -M

4. 9:37 AM +L

5. 10:16 AM +M

6. 11:01 AM +M

7. 11:52 AM +M

8. 9:08 AM -S, 12:49 PM +S

9. 10:18 AM -S, 1:47 PM +S

10. 11:11 AM -S, 2:44 PM +S

11. 11:58 AM -S, 3:39 PM +S

12. 12:41 PM -S

13. 1:24 PM -M

14. 2:06 PM -M

15. 7:36 AM +XL, 2:48 PM -M

16. 8:06 AM +XL, 3:31 PM -M

17. 8:39 AM +XL, 4:18 PM -L

18. 9:14 AM +L

19. 9:55 AM M

20. 10:42 AM +M

21. 11:37 AM +S

22. 9:22 AM -S, 12:39 AM +S

23. 10:22 AM -S, 1:44 PM +S

24. 11:10 AM -S, 2:44 PM +S

25. 11:52 AM -M, 3:36 PM +S

26. 12:29 PM -M

27. 1:02 PM -M

28. 1:30 PM -M

29. 1:51 PM -M

30. 2:12 PM -M

31. 7:33 AM +XL, 2:37 PM -M

These are estimates only and not intended for navigation.



# INDIGENOUS CANADA

1,807,250

The Canadian Indigenous population, according to the 2021 census.

5%

Percentage of Canadians who are Indigenous, up from 4.9% in 2016.

290,210

BC's Indigenous population.

0.6%

Canadian population growth rates for 'on reserve' First Nations people (2016 to 2021).

6.3%

Canadian population growth rates for 'off reserve' First nations people (2016 to 2021).

5.3%

Canadian population growth rates for non-Indigenous Canadians.

801,045

The number of Indigenous people living in large urban centres in 2021.

55.5%

Percentage of First Nations people living in Western Canada in 2021.

2/3

Nearly 2/3 of Indigenous people are working age.

33.6

The average age of Indigenous people in Canada in 2021, compared with 41.8 years for the non-Indigenous population.

~2021 Canadian census

## JANUARY WEATHER

#### **TEMPERATURES**

January is our coldest month, with an average daily high temperature of 6.3 C and low of 2.9 C, giving us a mean daily temperature of 4.6 C.The highest January temperature recorded at Merry Is. is 13.2 C (Jan. 30, 1989); the lowest is -7.2 C (Jan. 29, 1969).

#### **PRECIPITATION**

We have an average of 46.2 hours of bright sunshine, 17 days with rain and three days with snow in January. Our average monthly rainfall is 118 mm; snowfall, 9 cm. The record daily rainfall recorded at the Merry Island weather station is 78.2 mm (Jan. 18, 1968).

#### JANUARY ASTROLOGY



#### CAPRICORN: DEC. 22 - JAN. 19

Capricorns often experience hardship early in life, but their resourcefulness makes them survivors. Sometimes hard to get to know, they are loyal, responsible and

down-to-earth. The challenging phase with Pluto, which has been shaking up your life since 2007, finally ends on Jan. 20. That's right, your spouse finally leaves and takes with them their insufferable whining about EVERYTHING. Financial prospects are looking good also until the spring. Rewards will come in the form of a raise at work or a big stock payoff.



#### AQUARIUS: JAN. 20 - FEB. 18

Aquarians are original, independent humanitarians who shy away from emotional expression. This often makes them seem uncompromising and aloof. Aquarians are

thoughtful listeners but they rarely tolerate someone they disagree with. For the near term, Pluto in your decan brings significant life-changing experiences with profound evolutionary changes. Your life will soon metamorphosize from a larval nobody to a glorious butterfly. Just beware of nets during this time. Also, your fertility is at an all-time high until Jan. 3

## **BC BESTSELLERS**

#### For the week ending Dec. 9

The BC bestseller list uses sales data from over 80 independent bookstores in BC representing sales of BC published books released within the calendar year.

- 1. The Wild Horses of the Chilcotin: Their History and Future by Wayne McCrory (Harbour Publishing)
- 2. Gumboot Guys: Nautical Adventures on BC's North Coast edited by Lou Allison with Jane Wilde (Caitlin Press)
- 3. The Best Loved Boat: The Princess Maguinna by Ian Kennedy (Harbour Publishing)
- 4. E. J. Hughes: Life at the Lake by Robert Amos (TouchWood Editions)
- **Answers to the Great Arctic** Mystery by Ken McGoogan (Douglas & McIntyre)

- 6. Crushed Wild Mint by Jess Housty (Nightwood Editions)
- 7. The Summer Canada **Burned: The Wildfire Season** that Shocked the World by Monica Zurowski & Postmedia (Greystone Books)
- 8. East Side Story: Growing Up at the PNE by Nick Marino (Arsenal Pulp Press)
- 9. Sunset and Jericho: A Wakeland Novel by Sam Wiebe (Harbour Publishing)
- 10. Hot Springs of Western 5. Searching for Franklin: New Canada: A Complete Guide by Glenn Woodsworth & David Woodsworth (Harbour Publishing)

~ Association of Book Publishers of BC

#### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Jan. 1 ~ Dave Steppell, Paul Wharton and Cheryl Thompson.
- Jan. 2 ~ Bill Hunsche, Vince Perreca and Salem Taylor
- Jan. 3 ~ Colton Landry.
- Jan. 4 ~ Crystal White and Avril Maveety.
- Jan. 5 ~ **Sue Lee, Betty Wenman** and **Taylor** Phillips.
- Jan. 8 ~ Sue Natall, Jodi Godkin and Destiny Wallbaum.
- Jan. 9 ~ Arhea Howitt, Mario Lowther and Amanda Mayo.
- Jan. 10 ~ David Pease.
- Jan. 11 ~ Randy Cummings.
- Jan. 12 ~ Lisa Duncan, Mary Ebert and Ryan Logtenburg.
- Jan. 13 ~ Tia Haase and Betty Wray.
- Jan. 14 ~ Dominic De La Canal, Norman Edwardson, Karlee Legge and Alannah Nichols.
- Jan. 15 ~ Curtis Sample and Ron Kushner.
- Jan. 16 ~ Cody Angus.
- Jan. 17 ~ Anne Clemence and Tashina McLean.
- Jan. 18 ~ Vanessa Lanteigne.
- Jan. 19 ~ Arieanna Henderson.
- Jan. 20 ~ Gerald Mackie, Les Dornbierer and Hazel Jay.
- Jan. 22 ~ Starr Harding, Lil Higgs, Leanne Legge and Troy Brown.
- Jan. 23 ~ Taree Bathgate and Kelly Kammerle.
- Jan. 24 ~ Carolyn Ireland and Warren Dunaway.
- Jan. 27 ~ Leona Colebank.
- Jan. 28 ~ Vanessa Smith and Ikuko Kishimoto.
- Jan. 29 ~ Jordan Field, Glen Scoular, Lorne Campbell and Tanya Bernier.
- Jan. 30 ~ Lyle Forbes.





Please check the website for current hours and information: www.penderharbourhealth.com

#### **NURSING SERVICES** – (604) 883-2764

RNs are on duty 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. weekdays

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- Home/Palliative care Dressings Holter Monitors

#### **DENTISTRY** – (604) 883-2997

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Rosa Seda – Hygienist

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- Implants Surgical Extractions

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE** – (604) 883-2764

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## **FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER** – (604) 984-5070 Annaliese Hasler, NP

• Women and Youth Health Services

## **FOOT CARE NURSE** – (778) 244-8503 **Alene Barry**

• Foot care nursing

#### **COUNSELLING SERVICES**

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THE SUNSHINE COAST HOSPICE SOCIETY: Compassionate, respectful end-of-life and bereavement care. Whether you want to talk with one person or to join a bereavement group, trained volunteers are available. Call (604) 883-2764.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: Meets Wednesdays at 7 p.m. – everyone welcome.

TEENS' DROP IN CLINIC: Offered every Tuesday between 3 and 5 p.m.

LOAN CUPBOARD: Crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, commodes, raised toilet seats etc.

DIABETES & DIETICIAN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: Weekly on Thursdays ~ call to book an appointment CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: Weekly on Wednesdays ~ call to book an appointment.

ADULT DAY PROGRAM: Dementia Care-Giver Support Group. Call (604) 883-2764.

First-class health care for the people of the Pender Harbour area.

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## Nobody likes a cute bronchitis

Compiled by Pender Harbour Health Centre nursing staff

Bronchitis is a viral infection similar to the common cold that causes a cough.

Tubes in the lungs called bronchi become inflamed and irritated producing mucus, leading to the most common symptom — a cough that lasts more than five days and up to three weeks.

The cough may be productive for mucus that can be yellow, green or clear.

Other symptoms may include chest wall tenderness caused by muscle strain from coughing, wheezing, mild shortness of breath, mild headache, fatigue or sore throat.

Fever is not usually a symptom.

The diagnosis of viral bronchitis can usually be based on the history, although an exam may be necessary.

Chest X-rays are not useful as changes in the lungs are not usually seen.

A chest X-ray may be required if a patient complains of fever, increased heart rate or difficulty breathing with signs of congestion in the chest on physical exam.

These symptoms could indicate pneumonia.

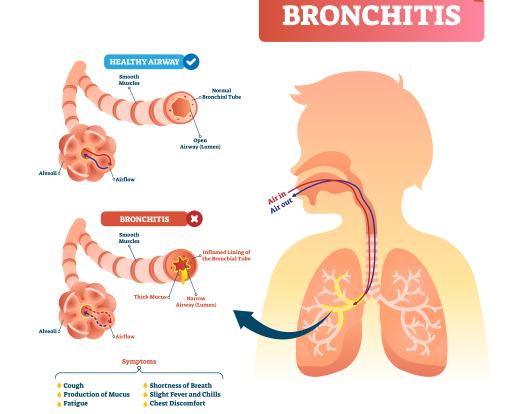
Treatment is aimed at symptom relief and making breathing easier.

Tylenol and anti-inflammatories, rest, fluids and warm, humidified moist air can help.

Over-the-counter cough and cold remedies from the pharmacy may help alleviate symptoms but do not shorten the duration of the illness.

Cough suppressants are not shown to be helpful because coughing can help clear the airways of mucus.

Your physician may prescribe in-



haled medications to open the airways which may reduce cough and help breathing.

Antibiotics do not work for viruses as they treat bacterial infections only and repeated antibiotic use promotes development of antibioticresistant bacteria.

These resistant germs multiply and are the No. 1 cause of increased drug resistance.

There are also the unwanted side effects of antibiotics to consider, including nausea, rashes, diarrhea and allergic reactions.

It is also important to distinguish acute viral bronchitis from chronic bronchitis or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

COPD is usually acquired from years of smoking and can be defined as a cough with phlegm production every day for three months of the year or longer.

Usually, pulmonary function tests

are required to confirm the diagnosis.

The lungs in the COPD patient are damaged due to scarring and result in narrowed airways.

Since these patients have compromised lungs, infection can be more serious, therefore chest infections for this group may require antibiotics, steroids and inhalers.

If you acquire a chest cold or cough that is of concern, you should see a physician:

- If you have a fever greater than 38 C;
- If the cough lasts longer than 10 days to two weeks;
- If you develop hemoptysis (bloody sputum), or
- If you develop a barking cough or if you have a cough with unexplained weight loss.

To help prevent the spread of infection it is important to wash hands frequently and always cover the mouth when coughing.

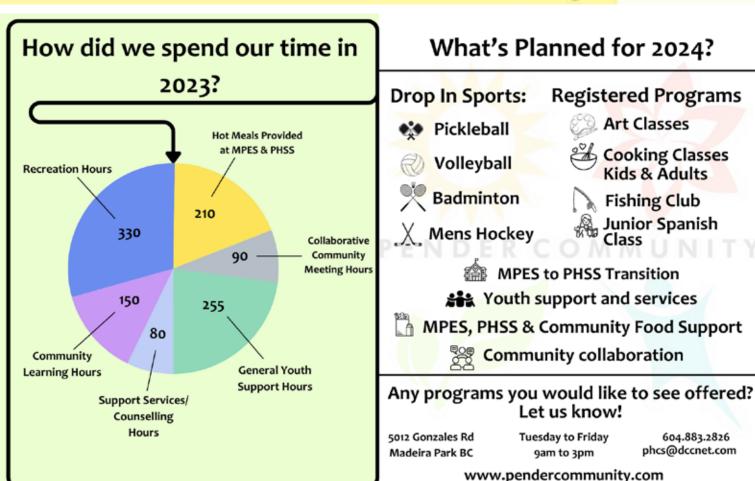
#### **JANUARY IS LITERACY MONTH!**

Take the Rotary Club's Storybook Walk by Lily Lake and discover the beautiful book, *Feasts and Festivals Around the World* by Alice B. McGinty. Learn about the amazing celebrations and feasts of 12 countries and cultures from around the world. From South Korea to Nigeria to Australia, people are celebrating!

After you've taken the walk, email the Community School to be entered in our prize draw by telling us which festival you would most love to go to! Deadline Jan. 31, 2024.

~ A partnership between the PHCS, Seniors Initiative, PHAFC and the Rotary Club. ~





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#### PENDER HARBOUR **SENIORS INITIATIVE**

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**HARBOURSIDE FRIENDSHIP PROGRAM** 

Sponsored by:

P. H. Health Centre & P. H. Health Auxiliary

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**CALL MARLENE:** (604) 883-9900

# Happy New Gear to AU!

HARBOURSIDE FRIENDSHIPS: Thursday drop-in, 10:30am - 1pm

In the Pender Harbour Community Hall. Lunch will be served at 12pm. The cost will be \$10 per person.

Jan. 25 - Literacy Week

Feb. 1 - Armchair Travel to Australia

CARPET BOWLING: Wednesdays, Jan. 24 & 31

At the Pender Harbour Community Hall, 1-3 pm. Cost \$3.

CHAIR YOGA: Mondays & Fridays, Jan. 22, 26 & 29

At the Pender Harbour Community Hall 11am -12pm with Kristin Tracey. Improve your balance, strength & flexibility with gentle moves. Cost: \$3.



#### PENDER HARBOUR **AQUATIC & FITNESS CENTRE**

20m, 4-lane pool hot tub, sauna, gym & weight room

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www.scrd.ca/recreation

## PENDER HARBOUR AQUATIC & FITNESS CENTRE www.scrd.ca/pender-pool

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By phone: 604-885-6801 (extension 6691)

In person at:

- P. H. Aquatic & Fitness Centre
- Sechelt Aquatic Centre
- Gibsons and Area Community Centre

## **HOURS FOR JANUARY (effective Jan. 2)**

Monday & Friday 7:30am – 1pm

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

Saturday CLOSED

Sunday 10am – 4pm

7:30am - 1pm

5pm - 8:20pm

#### SWIM LESSONS START JANUARY 14!

#### FITNESS CLASSES

#### **MYPASS DROP-IN:**

- Land Meets Water: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:30am
- Mat Pilates: Wednesdays, 9:30am
- Mix It Up: Thursdays, 8:45am
- Aquafit: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 9am
- Gentle Waves Aquafit: Monday, 10am

#### **REGISTERED PROGRAMS**

- Iron Goddess, Women's Weight Training: starts Jan. 8
- Beginner Total Body & Core: starts Jan. 15

## **Gus's otter Mac**

Susan Marlatt

I met Gus and Dana Angus, and family, in 1975 at the government dock in False Bay on Lasqueti Island.

Keray Farrell and I came in on our 35-foot double ender, *Sarita Bay*, loaded with prawns collected from the top end of the island.

They were aboard *Wanderer*, a fabulous classic yacht belonging to Dana's parents, and we just had to meet these people.

It's still true that the best way to do that is to offer free prawns, still jumping fresh.

I had two little boys aboard at that time and the Anguses' son Toby was aboard the *Wanderer*.

My boys lived in lifejackets and had a 16-foot Farrell dory to row around.

David, age 5, would face forward and row standing up — the only option for such a little guy.

Yolan was only 3 but solid, and contributed bow weight to keep the large dory into the wind.

They were speechless when they discovered that *Wanderer* had a dinghy with an outboard motor on it, and Toby was allowed to use it.

By himself.

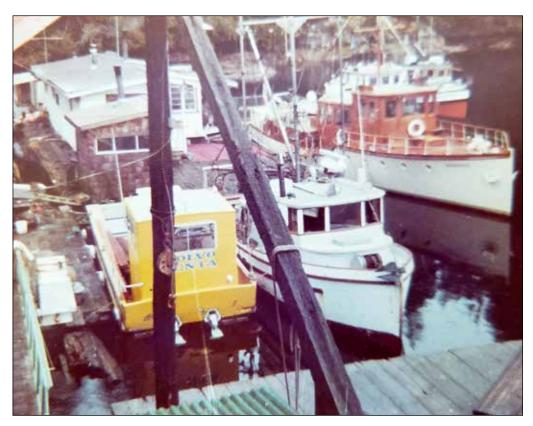
It was unheard of in their world and they had to make friends with this privileged child.

Along with Toby's baby sister, the four fell into friendship as only children can.

Those prawns formed the start of a lasting family bond.

We pulled traps twice a day and sold them fresh, keeping them alive on deck under wet burlap sacks.

We learned that our new friends lived in Vancouver, where Gus worked at the aquarium in Stanley



Susan Marlatt

Wanderer (upper right) at Totem Bay, St. Vincent's Bay.

Park.

He gave us a reciprocal gift of free passes to the aquarium which we used for years when we landed in Coal Harbour at Menchion's Shipyard to deliver clams we'd dug from the Lasqueti beaches.

Gus visited Lasqueti occassionally after he and Dal Grauer (the younger Dal) had bought what we called the "White House."

Years later, our friends announced that they were taking over Sis Harris's lease at Totem Bay, just behind Junction Island in St. Vincent's Bay.

Angus and Mike Gray were specimen collectors for the aquarium at the time and when they discovered the area, they decided to move there with their families.

We had just acquired Keray's daughters and took a caretaking op-

portunity in Sabine Channel, on the west side of Texada Island.

Gus, whose mind never rested, had an offer for us.

The Vancouver Aquarium had a river otter display at that time and he had recently received a call from a woman who lived close to the water in North Vancouver and had a mother otter with babies under her home.

She wondered if the aquarium would take this family.

"Nope, got lots of otters," said Gus.

"But I know how to get rid of them."

According to Gus, the trick is to steal one of the babies and then the mother will move the rest.

Gus performed the theft and afterwards, had a baby otter the aquarium didn't want.

So, he offered him to us.

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He was named Mac.

Why I agreed to this is beyond my recall.

I've cared for a lot of animals and pets and thought an otter would be just another.

Right?

Gus delivered Mac to our caretaking situation on Texada and he was a terror.

He bit, he snarled, he ate everything — even balloons (we learned otters have very rapid bowel transit time).

After Mac, there were no more picnics, no eating outside or anywhere else that could be accessed by a fostered otter.

Initially, we slept in tents and keeping him out was impossible.

Somehow he knew how to get between the sheets of the beds and rub his wet otter-ness dry.

Ugh.

"Otter proofing" became our catch word and life goal.

"Not to worry," said Gus,

"We'll be at Totem Bay in a few weeks and will collect Mac soon after."

Right.

We built a house in record time, mostly because of the otter threat.

This discouraged Mac, but he put in extra effort into getting back in our bed.

He dug through the new back door so we covered the lower half of the door with roofingn which he dug at until his paws bled.

He dashed in when the door was open and stole rolled up socks, stashing them in his special place below the house.

He had to eat, and hadn't learned to feed himself yet, so we Frisbee'd pancakes at him until he was stuffed. The other animals sorted him out much quicker.

Mable the goat flipped him a few times on her horns and he got the word.

Charlotte, the rooster, spurred his nose and that worked.

The cat popped him a fast one to the same sensitive nose and they also came to an understanding.

But we took much longer.

Eventually, Mac learned to catch fish, especially a fish attached to a fishing line.

But he was finally able to hunt on his own.

I thought he might join a family of river otters as he matured (still no Gus and he was getting big) but he was afraid of the wild otters.

I learned from the library that it

takes four years to mature and I knew I couldn't do it for that long.

He was at his worst when we returned from a shopping trip because he knew the boat was loaded with his favourite foods.

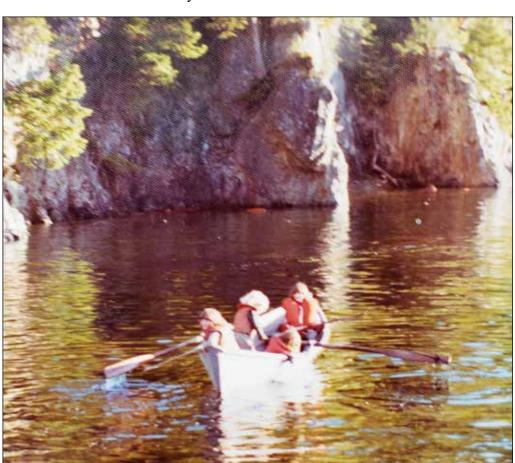
We developed a method to getting our purchases up the hill to the caretaking house but it involved sacrificing some of the cheapest hamburger available in town that day.

As we came in to land on the beach, Mac bumped his way to where he figured the boat would touch.

At that point, someone would call his name and show him the hamburger.

After lobbing the burger down the beach as far as possible, the rest

(continued on p. 33)



Susan Marlatt

The kids in the dory.

January 2024

Cooler colour codes indicate lower tides. For kayaks and small boats accessing Canoe Pass (Beaver Island), these colour codes (right) indicate what should usually provide sufficient depth for passage. Note: variability occurs due to barometric pressure, wind conditions, etc.

#### Canoe Pass:



January	1AM	2AM	3AM	4AM	5AM	6AM	7AM	8AM	9AM	10AM	11AM	Noon	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
Mon 01	5.5	4.8	4.9	5.8	7.5	9.7	11.8	13.7	15.0	15.4	15.0	14.1	12.8	11.6	10.6	10.1	10.2	10.6	11.2	11.5	11.5	10.9	9.9	8.6
Tue 02	7.3	6.4	6.1	6.4	7.5	9.2	11.1	12.9	14.3	15.1	15.0	14.3	13.2	11.8	10.5	9.6	9.2	9.4	9.9	10.5	11.0	11.1	10.8	10.1
Wed 03	9.2	8.3	7.7	7.6	8.1	9.2	10.7	12.4	13.7	14.6	14.9	14.5	13.5	12.1	10.6	9.3	8.4	8.2	8.5	9.1	9.9	10.6	11.0	11.0
Thu 04	10.6	10.0	9.4	9.1	9.1	9.7	10.7	12.0	13.2	14.2	14.6	14.5	13.7	12.4	10.8	9.2	7.9	7.2	7.1	7.5	8.3	9.4	10.4	11.1
Fri 05	11.5	11.4	11.1	10.7	10.5	10.5	11.0	11.8	12.8	13.7	14.3	14.4	13.8	12.7	11.1	9.3	7.7	6.5	5.9	5.9	6.6	7.6	8.9	10.3
Sat 06	11.4	12.2	12.4	12.3	11.9	11.6	11.6	11.9	12.6	13.3	13.9	14.2	14.0	13.0	11.5	9.6	7.7	6.1	5.0	4.6	4.9	5.8	7.3	9.0
Sun 07	10.7	12.1	13.1	13.5	13.3	12.9	12.5	12.3	12.5	12.9	13.5	13.9	14.0	13.4	12.1	10.3	8.2	6.2	4.6	3.6	3.4	4.0	5.4	7.2
Mon 08	9.4	11.4	13.1	14.2	14.4	14.2	13.6	13.0	12.6	12.7	13.1	13.6	14.0	13.8	12.9	11.3	9.1	6.9	4.8	3.2	2.4	2.4	3.4	5.2
Tue 09	7.5	10.0	12.3	14.1	15.1	15.2	14.7	13.9	13.1	12.7	12.8	13.2	13.7	14.0	13.7	12.5	10.6	8.2	5.7	3.5	2.0	1.4	1.7	3.2
Wed 10	5.4	8.1	10.9	13.3	15.1	15.8	15.6	14.8	13.8	13.0	12.6	12.7	13.3	13.8	14.1	13.7	12.2	10.0	7.4	4.8	2.6	1.2	0.7	1.4
Thu 11	3.2	5.9	8.9	11.9	14.3	15.8	16.2	15.7	14.7	13.5	12.6	12.3	12.6	13.2	13.9	14.2	13.6	12.0	9.6	6.9	4.2	2.0	0.7	0.5
Fri 12	1.6	3.8	6.7	10.0	12.9	15.2	16.3	16.3	15.5	14.2	12.9	12.0	11.8	12.3	13.1	13.8	14.1	13.5	11.8	9.3	6.5	3.9	1.9	0.8
Sat 13	1.0	2.4	4.9	8.0	11.2	14.0	15.9	16.6	16.2	15.0	13.5	12.1	11.3	11.2	11.8	12.7	13.6	13.9	13.2	11.6	9.2	6.5	4.1	2.3
Sun 14	1.6	2.0	3.8	6.4	9.5	12.6	15.0	16.4	16.6	15.7	14.3	12.5	11.1	10.3	10.3	11.1	12.1	13.0	13.4	12.9	11.4	9.2	6.9	4.8
Mon 15	3.4	2.9	3.7	5.6	8.3	11.3	13.9	15.8	16.6	16.3	15.1	13.3	11.4	9.9	9.2	9.3	10.1	11.2	12.2	12.7	12.4	11.3	9.5	7.6
Tue 16	5.9	4.9	4.8	5.8	7.8	10.3	12.9	15.0	16.3	16.5	15.7	14.2	12.2	10.2	8.6	7.9	8.1	8.9	10.1	11.2	11.9	12.0	11.3	10.1
Wed 17	8.7	7.5	6.9	7.1	8.2	10.0	12.1	14.2	15.7	16.4	16.1	14.9	13.1	10.9	8.9	7.3	6.6	6.8	7.6	8.9	10.2	11.3	11.7	11.6
Thu 18	10.9	10.1	9.3	9.0	9.3	10.3	11.8	13.5	15.0	15.9	16.2	15.5	14.0	11.9	9.7	7.6	6.1	5.4	5.6	6.4	7.7	9.2	10.6	11.7
Fri 19	12.1	12.0	11.6	11.1	10.9	11.1	11.9	13.0	14.2	15.2	15.8	15.6	14.6	12.9	10.7	8.4	6.4	5.0	4.3	4.6	5.4	6.8	8.5	10.2
Sat 20	11.7	12.7	13.1	13.0	12.6	12.3	12.4	12.8	13.6	14.4	15.0	15.3	14.9	13.6	11.8	9.5	7.3	5.3	4.0	3.5	3.9	4.9	6.5	8.5
Sun 21						13.7						$\underline{}$						$\underline{}$	4.5	3.3	3.0	3.5	4.8	6.7
Mon 22						14.8						$\equiv$						$\equiv$				2.7	3.4	
Tue 23						15.4						=						=						
Wed 24						15.6						=						=						
Thu 25						15.3						=						=						
Fri 26						14.7						$\equiv$						=						
Sat 27						14.0						=						=						
Sun 28						13.1						=						=						
Mon 29						12.3						=						$\equiv$						
Tue 30						11.7						=						$\equiv$						
Wed 31	7.9	7.2	7.2	8.0	9.5	11.2	13.0	14.3	14.9	14.7	13.8	12.4	10.7	9.2	8.2	7.9	8.2	9.1	10.1	11.2	11.8	11.9	11.5	10.6

## Gus's otter Mac (cont.)

continued from p. 31

of us would tear up to the house with the items Mac would challenge us for, like cheese and butter.

We didn't need to worry about flour or other staples that he wasn't interested in.

At some point, we were forced to leave Mac to his own devices for a few weeks.

On a trip for supplies, our inboard-outboard engine packed it in.

We had to haul our boat up to big brother Barrie Farrell's shop in Nanoose to order a new engine.

While we were gone, Mac got lonely and decided to find a friend.

Unfortunately, our friend Beau had a home several miles up the Texada beach in Cook Bay.

Beau lit up the radio airwaves about being trapped in his house by a crazed otter.

When we heard this, without a boat, we had no way to return for him so we suggested Beau try pancakes.

After that, the two of them became fast friends and Mac continued to visit Beau after that.

On another trip out of the bay, I happened to turn around to look at the beach and a small boat with log salvagers had just pulled in.

We turned around but by the time we got there, Mac had already stolen their lunches and was sitting on one fellow's head.

"Is this your otter?" he squealed. After a year and a half — a year and a half (!) — Gus finally came to collect the little villain.

Mac went to live in Totem Bay where it was so much easier for him to fish for himself — crabs could be found right off the dock.

Unfortunately, Mac quickly learned lunches could also be stolen



Susan Marlatt

Mac the otter.

from Blair Milligan's log sort across the bay.

Mac chose the wrong logger to steal from one day and got a pop on that sensitive nose that killed him.

After he was gone, my kids would say it wasn't any fun without him.

Both of our families have good memories of Mac sliding down a sleeve and popping his head out the cuff.

Or being fast asleep with his teddy bear ears so fat under my fingers.

He was a difficult child, I guess.



Calendar listings are provided free of charge by the Harbour Spiel. Send information to editor@harbourspiel.com by the 15th of the month.

## **JANUARY**

Tue. Jan. 2........Pender Harbour food bank pickup - P. H. Community Church, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Thu. Jan. 11......SCRD committee of the whole meeting - SCRD boardroom, 9:30 a.m.

Thu. Jan. 11......SCRD regular board meeting - SCRD boardroom, 1 p.m.

Sat. Jan. 13.......Neighbourhood emergency planning meeting (Nancy Hughes), Madeira Legion, 12:30 p.m.

Sat. Jan. 13......Midwinter Chamber Music Weekend (2 days) - P. H. School of Music, 2 p.m.

Sun. Jan. 14......Midwinter Chamber Music Weekend (2 days) - P. H. School of Music, 2 p.m.

Mon. Jan. 15......Pender Harbour food bank pickup - P. H. Community Church, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Thu. Jan. 18...... Electoral Area Services Committee - SCRD boardroom, 9:30 a.m.

Mon. Jan. 22.....SCRD finance committee (round 2 budget) - SCRD boardroom, 9:30 a.m.

Tue. Jan. 23......SCRD finance committee (round 2 budget) - SCRD boardroom, 9:30 a.m.

Tue. Jan. 23......P. H. Women's Connection presents Celtic duo - P. H. School of Music, doors at 9:30 a.m.

Thu. Jan. 25......SCRD committee of the whole meeting - SCRD boardroom, 9:30 a.m.

Thu. Jan. 25......Harbourside Friendships drop-in (Literacy Week) - P. H. Community Hall, 10:30 a.m.

Thu. Jan. 25......SCRD regular board meeting - SCRD boardroom, 1 p.m.

Sat. Jan. 27......47th annual Robert Burns celebration - Royal Canadian Legion No. 112, 6 p.m.

Mon. Jan. 29....Pender Harbour food bank pickup - P. H. Community Church, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Wed. Jan. 31....Deadline to enter P. H. Community School's Literacy Week Prize draw (see p. 28)

Thu. Feb. 1.......Harbourside Friendships (armchair travel to Australia) - P. H. Community Hall, 10:30 a.m.

Harbour Spiel Trivia Answers:

1. a

2. b

3 (

4 c

5 h

6. d



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"There are forms of oppression and domination which become invisible — the new normal."

~ Michel Foucault

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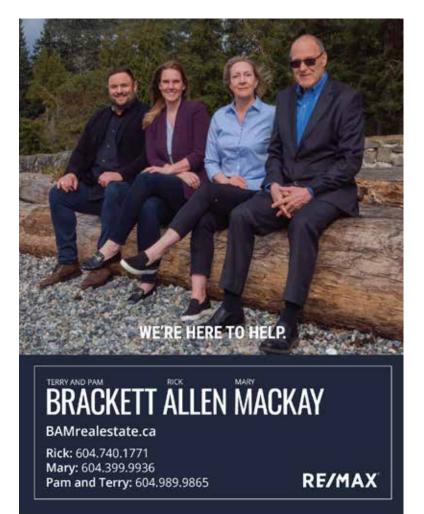
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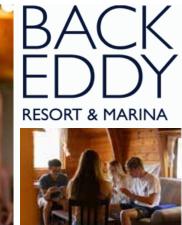


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