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HARBOUR SPIEL

MARCH 2008
ISSUE 207



Linda Curtiss:
Our Woman of Excellence



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HARBOUR SPIEL



The Independent Voice
of Pender Harbour &
Egmont since 1990

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Brian Lee.

CONTRIBUTORS

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Unless otherwise credited, all photos taken by Brian Lee.

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DEBT COLLECTION



EDITORIAL

The hinterlands get a nod

By Brian Lee



At the risk of starting a dangerous precedent, I heeded a polite demand to put Linda Curtiss on this month's cover.

At first I was reluctant.

Not because she doesn't deserve the recognition or wouldn't add a touch of glamour to the rag — after all, *some* people liked the Tara Reid cover and Linda's even more famous... around here.

No, I was reluctant because I just wasn't sure how I could trick Linda into letting me take her picture.

I'd like to say it took a couple bottles of cab sauv, but no, she was very accommodating.

She's "retired" now but there are very few in the community who haven't at least had the pleasure of having Linda pump some flu vaccine into their arm or have her apply new dressings to a wound.

You would just as likely have come across Linda in any number of the other volunteer roles she's played in the past.

So it was a well-deserved nod when she was nominated for the Awards of Excellence for Sunshine Coast Women. (See story, p. 10)

She didn't win, but as Linda says,

"All of the women in that room have done such amazing things. Every single one of us is a winner."

That's hard to deny but it always seems like it's a fluke when somebody from our end of the Coast gets recognized "down there."

There's a divide as natural as the Rockies between ourselves and the lower Sunshine Coast and it becomes clear when the awards get handed out.

We're like the indie flick at the Oscars that squeaks in completely on artistic merit but everyone knows won't win because nobody's heard of it.

Personally, I like the fact that we're slightly forgotten up here — it maintains our identity.

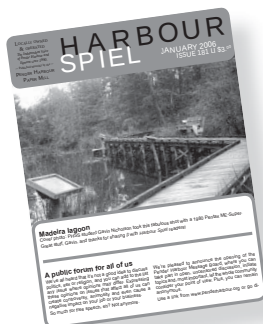
Let's face it, we're the mysterious hinterlands. The colonies.

The sticks.

And we prove it every time we look south for acknowledgment.

It's nice for people like Linda to get recognized like this but we shouldn't have to wait for outside recognition to honour our own.

We should do it ourselves.



Please support the Harbour Spiel
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who continue to make it possible.

SPIEL PICKS

FREE KAYAK EVENT FOR GIRLS: KAYAKS & PIZZA - MARCH 8

Girls aged 10 - 18 should come out on March 8 from 4 - 7 p.m. at the Pender Harbour Aquatic Centre. Register at the Pender Harbour Community School or call Charly at 883-3606 by March 5.

HEATHER'S DAY AT GARDEN BAY - MARCH 8

A fundraiser for Heather Brown and family who lost much of their belongings in a house fire on January 18. It will take place at the Garden Bay Pub on March 8 with a silent auction running all day, door prizes and Baby Harry performing in the evening. All proceeds from the \$15 cover charge for the evening portion will go directly to the Browns.

GO GREEN DAY - MARCH 16

The customary spring beach and road clean-up day will take place on Saturday, March 16 at 10 a.m. There will be two meeting points: Millennium Park in Madeira Park and in Garden Bay at 13274 Potts Lane (off Sinclair Bay).

ELDERCOLLEGE ECOLOGY COURSE AT THE IRIS GRIFFITHS CENTRE - MARCH 26

Starting March 26 at the Iris Griffith Centre, an Eldercollege ecology course will take place over four Wednesdays. Feature speakers will include: Dr. Michael Jackson (Freshwater Ecology), Jessica Casey (Medicinal Plants and Cedar Bark Weaving), Tony Greenfield (Identifying Spring Migrant Birds) and John Dafoe (The Centre as a Green Energy Building). The cost is \$30 and you can register at Cap College (604) 885-9310. Course number is: eldercollege 20013.

IRVINE'S LANDING SCHOOL PLANNING MEETING - MARCH 29

The property is now ours. Set aside Saturday, March 29 at 2 p.m. to get together at the site of the the Irvine's Landing School to arrange a committee to go forward with plans to develop it as a community property.



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Monday, March 17 and Wednesday, March 19: 9 am - 3 pm.
\$30 per day, family rate is available. Pre-registration required by March 10

• SPRING BREAK PUBLIC HOURS:

Monday, March 17 - Thursday, March 20: 1 - 3:30pm and 6:30 - 9 pm
(regular swim lessons and fitness classes will not happen during this week)

• EASTER FAMILY SWIM:

Sunday, March 23: 2-5pm.
Bring a non-perishable food item for the food bank and family admission is \$7

• SWIM TIMES AVAILABLE 7 DAYS A WEEK:

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2008 SCRD budget brings bad news for Area A

According to regional director John Rees, Area A got the short end of the stick when the Sunshine Coast Regional District revealed the 2008 Budget.

Round three budget figures, presented in the SCRD boardroom on February 20, show Area A's tax load continues to grow faster than the other areas' because of its rising property assessments.

The SCRD collects taxes through the province's Property Assessment Authority.

Because Area A's property values have risen so dramatically over the past few years the proportional tax burden has grown along with it.

The budget shows that Area A will pay 15.2 per cent of the total regional tax burden despite having only nine per cent of the population (2006 census).

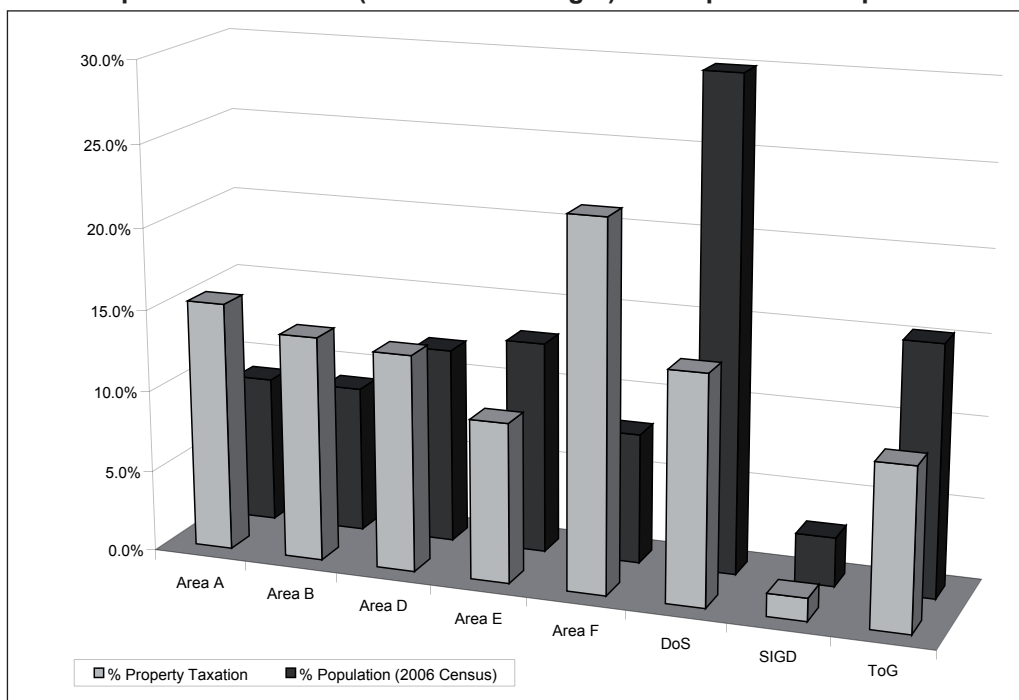
This climbs to 17.2 per cent when all areas take share an expense and to 27.2 per cent when only the five rural areas (A, B, D, E and F) take part in a function such as Community Parks.

Community parks carries a budget of approximately \$1.43 million, of which Area A (pop. 2,498) will pay almost \$389,000.

Area E (Elphinstone, pop. 3608) will pay 11.43 per cent or just over \$163,000.

Because Area A's property assessments are growing much faster than other areas but still maintain slow

Total Proportional Taxation (2008 SCRD Budget) vs Proportional Population



This chart illustrates some of the inequities between population and regional property taxation. (It should be noted that tax figures are totals and can be misleading if you don't take into account that each area participates in different functions.) For example: the towns of Sechelt and Gibsons collect taxes on their own for some services, so don't pay into many RD functions.

population growth, property owners in Area A will continue to pay more.

Rees says it reveals a flaw in the taxation system because it doesn't reflect the proportion of population who are expected to share the cost.

Rees is working on a number of ways to try to bring attention to the matter (see Rees' Piece, p. 15) but it will be too late for this year.

The bylaw for the final budget must be adopted by March 31.



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NOTICE TO CLIENTS OF
MICHAEL C. CROWE,
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Due to illness, I will be retiring from the practice of law on February 29, 2008. Clients should contact me at 883-9875 to obtain their open or closed files, original documents, valuable papers, or corporate records as soon as possible. I regret that this has become necessary and thank all my clients for their support over the past fifteen years.

Michael C. Crowe

Howard White saluted/roasted by friends and colleagues



In advance of his receiving the Order of Canada at Rideau Hall on April 11, a stellar lineup of old friends and colleagues gathered to salute local publisher Howard White at a fundraising evening for the Sunshine Coast Arts Council.

Friends and fans packed into the cozy Sechelt Arts Centre to hear a warm and often hilarious collection of memories plucked from White's successful career as publisher and author.

Howard and Mary White have run Harbour Publishing on Francis Peninsula since 1972, winning numerous awards along the way for publishing for and about the BC coast.

White's old friends, former Pender Harbour resident Roger Walker and Nanaimo bookseller Thora Howell, offered some perspective on the man before son Silas White took the stage to perform a song he wrote about boating with his parents and the special memories of growing up in the White publishing environment.

Former Pender Harbour resident and author Andreas Schroeder donned a yellow sou'wester to channel his alter ego: Pender Harbour By-law Enforcement Officer Brett Parker.

Parker (Schroeder) reviewed the "cautionary tale that his [White] life amounts to" in the form of a mock

elegy for White warning about the gateway effects of using books.

"First you borrow 'em, then you buy 'em, then you make 'em — then you deal 'em!"

Area A Director John Rees presented White with a plaque from the SCRD recognizing his achievements.

Other friends like Executive Director of the Association of Book Publishers of BC Margaret Reynolds, Ruby Lake poet John Pass, New Star Books publisher Rolf Maurer and author and editor of the Encyclopedia of BC Daniel Francis all offered congratulations and their own special memories of White and Harbour Publishing.

After a champagne toast, White provided some perspective on his and wife Mary's experience publishing books in Pender Harbour for 37 years.

"Pender Harbour is really the perfect place for me — I've lived there for over 50 years and most of the people still have no idea of what it is I do."

"Including some who work for you," heckled the event's MC Shane McCune from the side before White carried on.

"The general impression out in the community seems to be that, ever since I quit my job as supervisor of solid waste at the Pender Harbour



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Landfill — which I really did have for about 10 years, some of them think I'm still living on that \$2,500 Opportunities For Youth grant I got in '72 and they're still mad about that!"

White recalls being in the liquor store checking out a bottle of champagne for this past New Year's Eve.

"I ran into the guy who used to sit behind me in Grade 3. He's a guy who's real name I can never remember because all we ever called him was Horse Teeth. So I was checking out this bottle of champagne and he said 'What's up, Howie? You get a new grant or somethin'?"

After the laughter subsided White became more serious.

"I used to think my ultimate aim should be to take the stories of this place and get the world to recognize it.

"But you know, after awhile I began to think 'To hell with the world.'

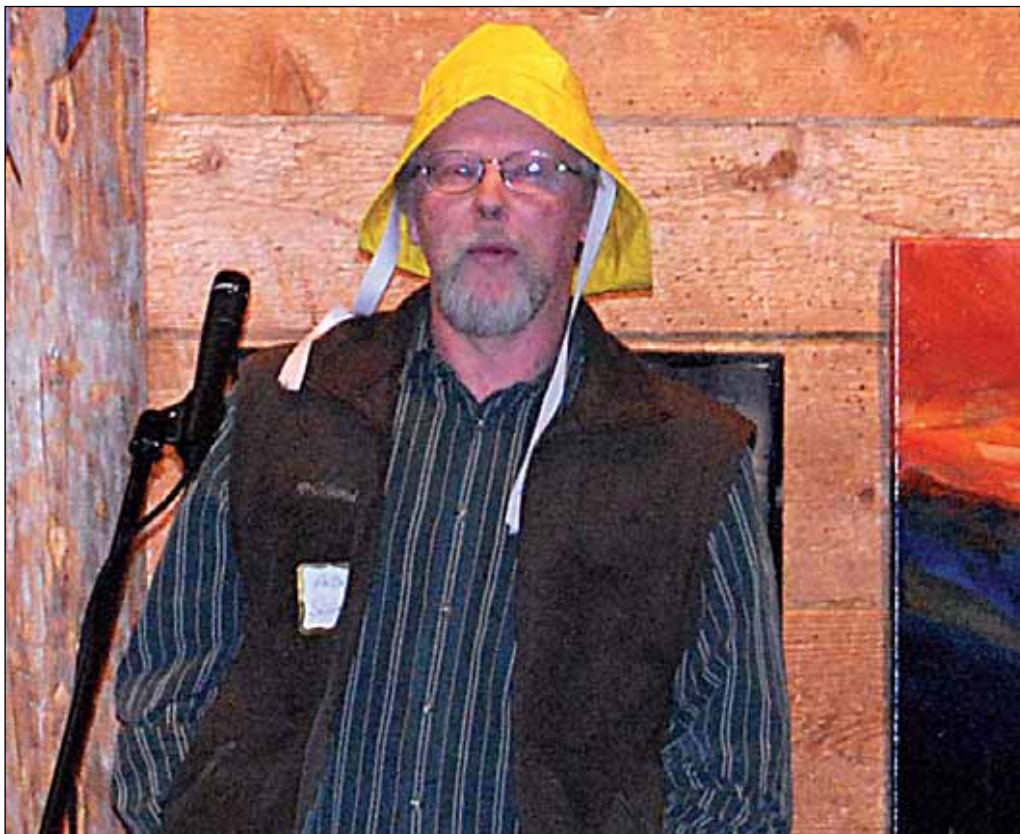
"The more valid thing was to have people of the place itself recognize their stories because when they did, it was so moving and powerful it restored my idea of what art was about. It actually validated their lives.

"Harbour's books have worked their own kind of magic — the magic art always can work which is to hold the mirror up to our lives and make us see them as something more than just drab, backwater non-events that we tend to think they might be," White said.

"One thing I will take credit for is an abiding belief that art isn't something relegated to ivory towers or big cities or far-away lands.

"It's something that is present every where, in all soils like traces of gold.

"Even here in the thin soil of our rainy coast."



"I heard you were here holdin' a wake for Howie White. He used to be my neighbour way down back when so I thought I might as well come in here and add a few points to the cautionary tale that his life amounts to." Author Andreas Schroeder channels Pender Harbour By-law Enforcement Officer Brett Parker.



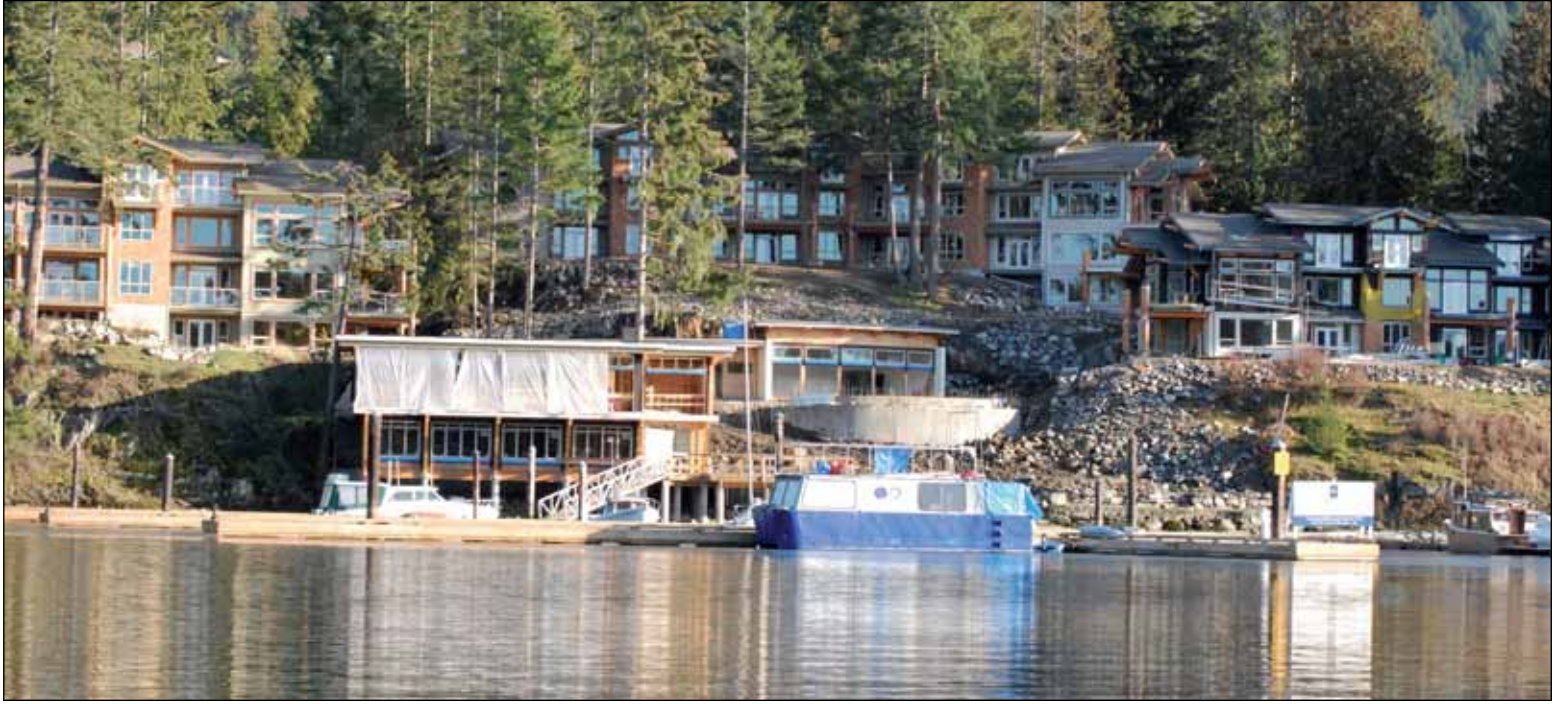
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Painted Boat nearing ready for launch



The new face of the old Lowes Resort property is beginning to take shape. The two buildings near the water will soon become a restaurant and a fitness centre.

It's starting to look like the Painted Boat Resort Spa and Marina will be up and running soon.

A number of recent announcements signalled a shift in focus from construction to operational activity.

Managed by Canadian Rocky Mountain Resorts, the Painted Boat Resort and Marina is a fractional ownership development containing 31 "vacation villas," each sold with quarter shares.

It's the first development of its kind in the area and has been the object of scrutiny by sentimental locals mourning the loss of the historic Lowes Resort.

Painted Boat has had to overcome a perception that the sudden real estate market shift threatens the area's traditional lifestyle.

In order to offset concerns, Painted Boat developers have made efforts to associate the new development with the former — including hiring former Lowe's employee and childhood guest Marleen Cymbalist as resort manager — but apart from that there is very little resemblance to the rustic atmosphere of old.

Upscale amenities like the restaurant and spa will attract those fishing for luxury rather than coho.

Painted Boat's Coast Grill is due to open in May on the spot where the old Lowe's boat house stood, and, according to the Painted

Boat's online newsletter, it will have exterior decks hanging over the water with an interior theme "of a casual, contemporary bistro with chocolate brown leather seats, deep espresso tables and tiger bamboo flooring."

Calgary chef David Cox has been hired as head chef and comes with an impressive resumé.

Cox has worked throughout Europe and was head chef at Muse restaurant and lounge in Calgary, recognized as 2002's "eighth Best Restaurant in Canada" by *En Route* magazine.

Cox is a fan of French techniques, local ingredients and is described as having a "Rocky Mountain" culinary style.

Painted Boat promotional material describes his food as "light yet vibrant and nourishing while always deeply rooted in French technique."

Near the restaurant will be a fitness facility overlooking a "grotto-style" hot tub and swimming pool.



An Alternative Approval Process

will be conducted concerning "Pender Harbour Aquatic and Fitness Centre Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 594, 2008".

Please see the February 29th and March 7th editions of the Coast Reporter for the official notices.



Illustration: Painted Boat promotional material

NASA spy satellite imagery, obtained at great expense by the Harbour Spiel, shows the extent of the Painted Boat Resort Spa and Marina.

Nearing completion at the front of the property is the Solarice Wellness Spa, offering a wide range of services including massage therapy, bodywork, Chinese medicine, acupuncture, facials, body wraps, yoga, Pilates, psychotherapy, nutritional counselling and personal training.

Solarice already has two locations in Whistler and another set to open this month in Vancouver.

The Painted Boat will be open for occupancy by April 15 and is planning a grand opening in June.

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 Holy Thursday - March 20, 7:00 pm
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Linda Curtiss: Our woman of excellence

Linda Curtiss was the only representative from our area nominated for the inaugural Awards of Excellence for Sunshine Coast Women that took place down the coast last month.

Though she was edged out in the “Health and Wellness” category, Linda could just as easily have been nominated for the “Non-profit and Community Building” category — and maybe should have.

In 1970, Linda Curtiss and husband Larry had an inkling that they wanted to get into the tourism business.

When they married they bought property in Langley and assumed that was where they would build a house and raise kids.

“Then everything went to hell in a hand basket when he came to me and said ‘I think we’ll move to the Sunshine Coast and buy a resort!’”

“Lar... what do we know about a resort?” asked Linda.

Their friend Judy Wilbee had family on the Coast and knew the area, so Larry and Linda travelled up for a weekend with her and husband Barrie.

As luck would have it, Ed Lowe just happened to be selling his little resort in Madeira Park.

The four friends decided to buy it and, in June of 1971, Linda and Judy moved up and started nursing at St. Mary’s Hospital in Sechelt, months before completing the purchase and the guys joining them that Fall.

For the next ten years, Linda worked as a nurse at St. Mary’s but, in the meantime, had a couple of kids and helped to start — and operate — our local ambulance service.

Because the only ambulance was located in Sechelt, Judy and Linda were already responding to emergen-

cies on their own.

After the Pender Harbour Health Centre was built in 1976, they finally had a place to station a real ambulance and took their first official call on October 31, 1976.

For the next 21 years, Linda moonlighted with the ambulance service while maintaining her day job as a nurse.

It became somewhat easier to juggle the dual roles when she started working at the

Pender Harbour Health Centre in 1981, replacing Trudi Paetkau who took a maternity leave.

Paetkau didn’t return, opening the door for Linda’s long tenure as nurse administrator — a job she held until 2005.

Curtiss worked nights on-call with the ambulance and during the day as a nurse which often led to some rough mornings.

“It was an extension of my job, shall we say, but the call-outs were minimal at that time so it didn’t interfere with working too much,” Curtiss says.

“Towards the end it started to interfere with work because if I was out all night long, I still had to go to work the next day.”

Working in the health services in a small community brings some emotional hazards and, during her time with the ambulance service, Linda witnessed more than her share of tragedy.

“Basically, I wasn’t really ready to quit — I still loved the work — but I started picking up a number of [son] Andy’s friends and it wasn’t pleasant,” she says.

“It really emotionally upset me so much that I just thought, you know, ‘I



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have to take a break from this because there's going to come a time when I'm not going to make a good decision because I'm too emotionally involved with these kids.”

But far from taking a step back, Curtiss just applied more of her time to the many other volunteer duties she had acquired over the years.

She'd already been involved with the Girl Guides for years and not only is she still the District Commissioner for our area but offers her time as resident nurse for Girl Guide functions at Camp Olave in Roberts Creek.

She's worked with the Area A Seniors Housing Society since its inception in 1991 in their quest to bring seniors' housing to Pender Harbour in the form of the Abbeyfield project.

Later, Linda recognized a need for a local "Meals on Wheels" program to ensure shut-ins and elderly patients got the proper nutrition they required.

So, she tracked down some available grant money through the Union of BC Municipalities and, with the help of other dedicated local volunteers, the Healthy Meals program came to be.

It's a quiet program that allows elderly patients to remain at home longer than they otherwise might and also ensures they get the nutrition required to maintain health.

Curtiss has also been closely involved with any number of tourism committees that have popped up over the years and was one of the original directors of the Pender Harbour and District Chamber of Commerce.

When the Information Centre in Madeira Park looked on the verge of collapse, she mobilized efforts to keep

it open and managed it for a number of years — which included canvassing local businesses for funds to offset the operating expenses and the less glamorous job of cleaning the washrooms.

Through her work with the chamber she became involved with the Pender Harbour Growth and Development Partnership where it became clear there was a need for an entity that could accept cash donations for various local projects while able to offer tax receipts in return.

In the mid-1990s she helped to start — and still chairs — the Pender Harbour Community Improvement Foundation, which acts as a conduit for philanthropic donations to local projects.

Add to this list the PAC committees, bursary committees and any number of other projects Linda's been associated with over the years and you'd think she'd have a hard time deciding which of her accomplishments she's most proud of. But she doesn't hesitate when asked.

"I'm really proud of the job I did at the health centre. There were really strong board members who worked

really, really hard. There were so many community members — unpaid people — who worked and worked and worked to keep that place afloat during a time when we were so grossly underfunded," Curtiss says.

"And when I left in 2005, in January of that year we had finally managed to negotiate a really good contract with Vancouver Coastal Health which was going to allow the nurses to be paid appropriately and to expand the programs. To me, having gone through all of those poor times of scraping and... volunteering half my time and making Larry come over there and do repairs after hours... , when I retired I felt really good about the state the health centre was in."

But, predictably, Linda hastens to pass on much of the credit for her achievements to her equally community — driven husband Larry.

"He is the major strength in my life. Not only did we go to high school and graduate together but he paid my way through nursing and has always supported me in any initiative I've wanted to pursue."

But Larry's another story.



7th Annual April Tools Wooden Boat Challenge

2006: The year of the plastic boats — builders got much less plywood to work with but their kit included a large sheet of polyethylene plastic!

2007: The teams found out at 10 a.m. on boat-building day that they had to row, not paddle, their boats and that they had to make the oars out of the building materials provided.

2008: Some things don't change — you bring only your own hand tools and a battery-powered screw gun BUT neither the materials list nor the new 'twist' will be revealed until 10 a.m. on April 26!

10 a.m. April 26
Seafarer Millenium Park



\$160/team - Register by April 19
\$140/team - Register by April 1

Call 883-0539 for information or register by April 19 at www.apriltools.ca

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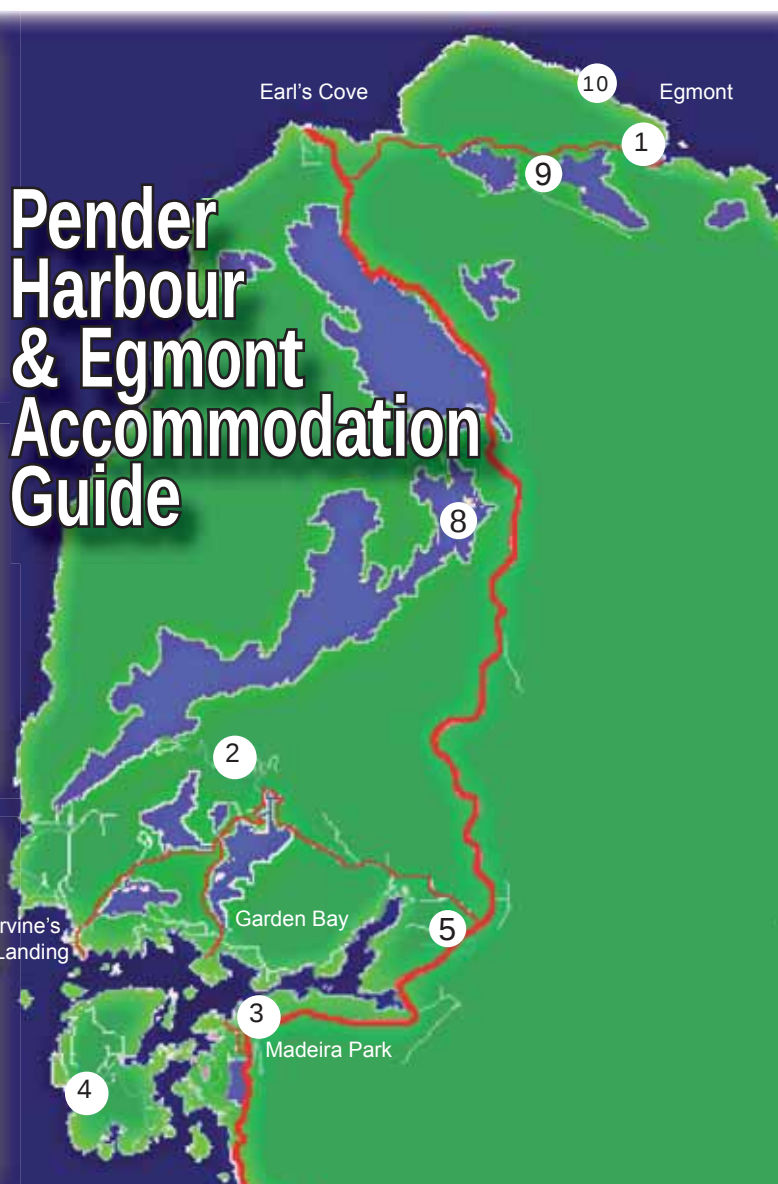


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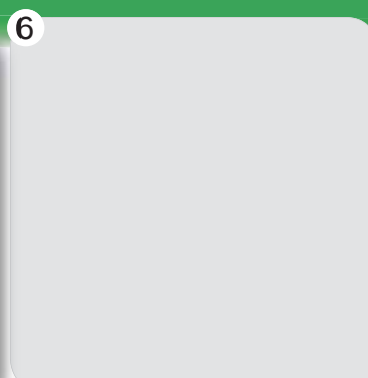
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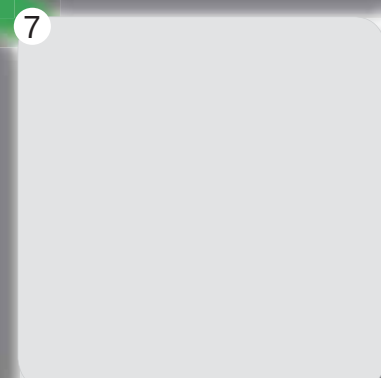
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Jessie Helen Rietze

JUNE 16, 1943 – FEBRUARY 10, 2008

Jessie passed away at home on Sunday, February 10, 2008 at 10:45 a.m.

She will be greatly missed by her husband Carl; son Ernie; daughter Tina (Cory); grandchildren Amber and

Justin; brothers Arthur, Allen, Donald, David and Stanley; and many extended family and friends.

A service was held at the Madeira Park Community Hall, Saturday, February 16.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Pender Harbour Health Centre would be appreciated.

She will be in our hearts forever.

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(604) 885-7909 (fax)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monday, March 3, 2008

- 9:30 a.m. Budget

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

- 9:30 a.m. Budget

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

- 9:30 a.m. Budget

Thursday, March 6, 2008

- 1:30 p.m. Infrastructure Services

Monday, March 10, 2008

- 9:00 a.m. Policing Committee
- 10:00 a.m. Transportation Committee

Thursday, March 13, 2008

- 1:30 p.m. Planning & Development
- 7:30 p.m. Regular Board

Thursday, March 20, 2008

- 1:30 p.m. Community Services

Thursday, March 27, 2008

- 1:30 p.m. Corporate & Administrative Services
- 7:30 p.m. Regular Board

AREA A ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION

The next meeting of the Egmont/Pender Harbour Advisory Planning Commission is scheduled for:

Wednesday, March 26, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Room 107, Pender Harbour High School.

DIRECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Director John Rees is available to meet with residents to discuss local issues related to the Sunshine Coast Regional District government. He can be reached at home at 604-883-9033 or by email, jarees@dccnet.com.

Alternate Director Barrie Wilbee is assisting Director Rees with Policing and Transportation issues. Barrie can be reached at 604-883-2243.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: SOUTH PENDER HARBOUR WATER BOARD

Are you interested in making a difference in your community?

The SCRd is looking for area residents who would like to provide input on the planning and operation of the South Pender Harbour Water System. As a committee member, you will also be expected to act as a liaison between the Sunshine Coast Regional District and the water users in the SPHWD. Applicants must live in the South Pender Harbour Water District.

To apply, send a letter with your name, address, telephone number and email address, explaining why you are interested in water management and why you want to join this committee. Please send your information, by March 15, 2008, to:

Chuck Steemers, Infrastructure Services.

1975 Field Road, Sechelt, B.C. V0N 3A1

Fax: 604-885-7909, e-mail: chuck.steemers@scrd.bc.ca

For more information, contact: Chuck Steemers at 604-885-6800



*By John Rees
SCRD Director,
Area A*

ASSESSMENT AND TAX IMPACT

At this time
last year I wrote

that residents of Area A were assessed six per cent higher than all other areas on the Coast.

The new assessment for 2008 shows a further increase of 7.3 per cent — above all other areas.

A two-year increase of this size will definitely have an impact on your local government taxes this year.

Overall property value is the basic formula for establishing cost sharing and tax implications of a function and it now seems that we are on a continuous uphill climb compared to our other seven partners on the Coast.

This funding formula is established by the province but I continue to argue at the SCRD that there should also be a population consideration in the mix that would help an area with a smaller population like ours with the tax load.

Generally, this does not have much impact as other directors are reluctant to look at a formula that would cost them more money.

I have made several requests to the SCRD board.

First, that the regional manager of the B.C. Assessment Authority meet with our board to address the concerns of this director.

Second, that the SCRD write a letter to Minister of Community Services Ida Chong outlining the concerns described above and requesting both a population component in

the tax formula and the possibility of a more gradual phasing-in of assessment increases.

Third, I have stated that this area will request a review in several functions to determine equity and cost balance (within the SCRD) in view of this assessment phenomenon.

Fourth — reluctantly I might add and also based on our escalating costs — a letter to the same minister requesting a phase one feasibility study on restructure (incorporation).

This request would hopefully draw provincial attention to this problem and encourage them to allow for a population blend in their tax collecting formulas.

Having said all that, there will be some relief from the taxation applied to actual growth.

In 2007, Area A had \$29 million in new, mainly residential development.

This compares to \$24 million in Sechelt and \$8 million in Gibsons.

Some residents may think that the proposed measures described above, are an about-face from my usual positions on incorporation.

All I can say is that I am monitoring this assessment impact carefully, and more options should be looked at.

The scales of equity and cost are now becoming more imbalanced annually.

IRVINE'S LANDING SCHOOL

By the time you read this column, the 20-year lease between the SCRD and SD 46 will be finalized and I will have the keys to the building.

Set aside Saturday, March 29 at 2 p.m. to get together at the site, put some committees together, exchange ideas and get on with it.

TRANSIT PILOT PROJECT

The administration of the Gas Tax Rebate fund have ruled that our plan, a twice weekly bus to Sechelt from Area A, only partially qualifies for the funding.

They would consider helping to purchase a bus but could not support funding the operation.

Since the operation was the major part of the cost — we were going to lease a bus — funding would have to come from taxation.

In view of what I have explained above this will have to wait for further negotiations and subsidies.

SMALL CEMETERY KLEINDALE AREA

This small cemetery just past GRIPS (driving north) and on the high side of the highway was closed by the province in 1982.

The land was originally donated by the Klein family.

Since then the SCRD have become responsible for the basic maintenance, grass cutting etc.

I noticed that many of the little wooden crosses were leaning in different directions and asked our parks department to look into it.

They found that many of them were rotting out and should be renewed.

Parks people came up with a cedar cross (modified celtic) which is available to family members who wish to have them replaced.

The cost is less than \$50 and anyone interested can contact either myself or Geri Gelineau at the SCRD.

Don't be fooled

by Jim Rutherford

(Potting assistance by Nolan Sawatzky)

Most of those gorgeous garden planters/containers/window boxes/hanging baskets you see in glossy gardening magazines or at the grocery store are a set up.

Just like a movie set.

They're not particularly realistic because the plant material has been assembled just for that picture.

In one coffee table book, a colour filter must have been used as a giant blue hosta is never that blue!

So don't anticipate that your gardening containers will always look as good.

These picture perfect containers are way over-planted.

To maintain this look, you'd have

to water almost every day, dead head the same and fertilize constantly.

Remember the pictures of the roast turkey, where the gravy turned out to be varnish?

So here are some ideas that really work for sustainable containers.

For height in the centre of a ceramic container, I use an old plastic five-gallon bucket.

They're about 15" high and 12" across.

Just ask at the recycling for various sized plastic containers from mayonnaise buckets to soap detergent pails.

If the plastic bucket is too tall for your container, mark the correct height and above the line use a 1 - 1½" wood drill bit to make a hole and, with a jig saw (a medium coarse blade), cut around the bucket to remove the access.

Add drill holes in the bottom for drainage but, if you are often away in the summer, place the holes in the side up from the bottom about 1½" to give the plant a reservoir of water.

Curly willow Nan Dina, pieris and tall ornamental grasses will do just fine for fall sun.

True, the roots of these shrubs/grasses will become rootbound in a couple of seasons and need to be

transplanted out of the bucket into the garden but you'll have a pretty valuable plant by then.

Without an interior container, roots become so intertwined and matted that it's impossible to plant your summer annuals.

An old serrated large knife will

cut out pockets for planting but the shrub will draw away all the available moisture from the smaller plants.

While you're at it, place glacial or pin-point ivy (not English), in the centre bucket so it will trail out and over

the edge of the ceramic container or whatever you're using.

Now you can plant around the centre bucket letting the ivy cover any bare spots.

Sheet moss (sphagnum) is used to cover any visible plastic edges and to retain moisture.

In some gardening magazines, the combination of plants in the same container is literally unbelievable.

Gerbera daisies and tuberous begonias in the same planter will not work — warm sun for gerbera and cool shade for begonias.

Ask your nursery to help in making the solution of plants that will work together for your location.



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10 Things We Could Learn From Our Cats

By Doretta Morland

1 If you're taking a nap in a sunny spot when someone calls, feel free to ignore them completely.

2 Never forget: YOU are the most deserving of the best seat in the house.

3 If the person you're wanting attention from happens to be reading, brazenly stretch out on their book or newspaper, roll over on your back and gaze at them lovingly until they relent.

4 Don't waste your time on people who already like you. Save all your charms for those who don't.

5 Keep an unwavering eye on what you desire. If it moves, pounce on it.

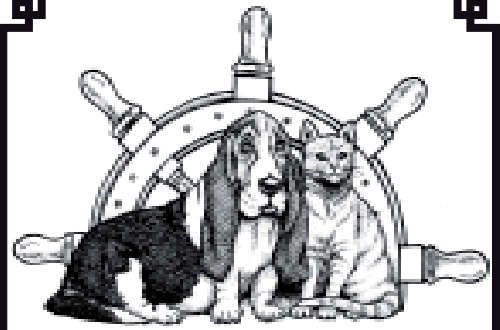
6 If you're wanting someone to wake up and make you breakfast, try patting their face gently and nuzzling their neck – hey, it's worth a try.

7 Sleeping 18 hours a day and grooming as a favorite hobby equals no wrinkles.

8 When you're feeling playful, try hiding around a corner and leaping at the next warm body that passes by. Great fun to watch them peel off the ceiling and endure that nervous tic for the rest of the day.

9 If someone serves you something you aren't fond of, a disdainful turning up of your nose is never appreciated but does send a strong, clear message for next time.

10 Self-confidence exercises are a waste of time. Simply understand that the world revolves around you and it's time everyone else recognizes this fact.



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The dirt on the yurts: what's going on at the top of Misery Mile

By Brian Lee

For quite some time there's been something stirring at the top of Misery Mile.

First people started noticing the new owners of 12887 Sunshine Coast Hwy. cleaning up the front of the property.

Suddenly, in place of the derelict shed coccooned in blackberry bushes, were what appeared to be alien space pods surrounded by a massive wooden deck.

Rumours flew, people slowed down to look.

Is it a MASH unit? What's going on down there?

As construction continued it soon dawned on passers-by that Pender Harbour had its first serious case of... yurts!

The owners of the novel cluster of dwellings are Reg and Yvonne Stowell.

They also operate a bed and breakfast at their home in the back of the property, out of view of the road.

The cluster of yurts provide office space, a gallery, a working art studio, independent bathrooms and Yvonne's own private studio.

The Stowell's purchased their yurt village from Yurtco in Burnaby who sell a basic structure, minus the foundation, doors, windows and radiant heating for approximately \$15,000.

The yurts are insulated with in-floor heating and electric lighting with skylights and some have plumbing and on-demand hot water.

They range in size with the largest, the 28-foot diameter gallery, providing a whopping 615 square feet.



Stowell maintains the gallery and showcases artists from the Sunshine Coast and beyond, changing the exhibits every six weeks.

Currently, she's showcasing "Scarves, Stoles and Shawls," providing a rich and colourful display in the warm, earthy feel of the yurt interior.

Yvonne keeps another yurt as her private workspace and in it is a dazzling array of dyed yarn, shelved around the interior walls which house her pride and joy — her loom.

Yvonne hand-spins her own yarn on a traditional spinning wheel from fleece purchased directly from a hand-spinner/sheep raiser in Barnesville, Minn.

"Being able to do the process yourself, you totally control the texture and the colour and all of that kind of thing," Stowell says.

"Is it cheaper to do this? Not at all. I can buy the equivalent much cheaper but I wouldn't have the control over the fibre."

I ask if it isn't cheating to buy her fleece rather than raising the sheep and harvest the wool directly.

"I was born and raised on a farm and know what it takes to raise the animals and I came to the conclusion very early on that I could raise the animals or I could work with their fibre. I

couldn't do both!"

Like most artists, Yvonne's not motivated by financial reward — something that becomes clear when she explains the time involved to make a 5-foot by 8-foot carpet.

"If someone were going to work at it 8 hours a day... you're probably looking at four to six months if you were going to spin your own yarn and stuff," Stowell says.

"Fibre arts is just something I've done since I was four years old. It's not something I can stop!"



Yvonne Stowell spins single strands of fibre from wool before combining them into three-strand yarn for use on her loom (left) and weaving anything her imagination can invent. A 5' x 8' carpet could take up to 1,000 hours to complete.



Scott Barras photo

Scott Barras had to pull over one morning on his way to work to capture this photo of one of the many moods of Garden Bay Lake.

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Congratulations to Linda Curtiss!

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to Linda Curtiss for being a finalist in the first Women of Excellence Awards for the Sunshine Coast.

It was a proud evening for Pender Harbour to be recognized for having such an accomplished woman take her place among the other finalists from the rest of the Sunshine Coast.

Linda has contributed so much to Area A, unselfishly, generously and

capably, in the line of duty and as a volunteer, that we would have a hard time to tally up the hours.

As well, Billy Griffith must be congratulated for nominating her for the award.

He knows a winner, and he gave us the chance to know that we are all winners to have Linda Curtiss in our midst.

Thanks to Linda and Billy.

Ann Barker

Put Linda on the cover!

Dear Editor,

You should put a picture of Linda Curtiss on your front cover.

She was one of three finalists in the health and education category of the Sunshine Coast Women of Excellence awards.

The fact that she did not get the final award does not matter.

The other two finalists had equally imposing lists of public service.

Even the ones that did not make the finals were dedicated and devoted ladies.

Sunshine Coast residents can be

justly proud of such, and so many, volunteers.

That Linda was so honoured justifies our respect.

Her dedication to peoples health, to Sparks, Brownies, Guides, to ambulance, meals on wheels, community improvement foundation — even a stint on the credit union board — all show her merit.

Ever since she and Larry came here they have devoted themselves to the good of the community.

So her picture and a big Thank You would be appropriate.

Billy Griffith

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Ted Taylor — HAM RADIO OPERATORS

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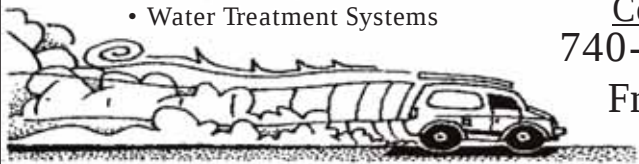
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Rietze and Scoular families offer thanks

Heart-felt thanks:

To Jessie's very special quilting friends, Marg. Goldrup, Gail Ewen, and June Percival.

You were there to give Jessie emotional support from the beginning to the end of her lengthy illness.

Also, many thanks to Marg, June, Gail and the quilting ladies for their organization and food preparation for Jessie's service.

It was greatly appreciated.

Special thanks to Jessie's life long friend and nurse Linda Szabados and nurse Nancy McKay, for giv-

ing all you possibly could, whenever you were needed — 24/7 — to make Jessie's last days as comfortable as they could possibly be.

You are all the very best of true friends and caregivers. Our admiration & thanks go out to you all.

The Rietze & Scoular families

How I came to love bingo

Dear Editor,

I arrived in Pender Harbour in 1973 and, coming from the city, I was lost for entertainment.

Then I was acquainted with the game called bingo.

Equipped with my little colourful pieces of plastic — we've come a long way... we now have daubers — and the help of some local old time

players, I learned to play this game.

To my surprise it turned out to be a lot of fun!

I found out the proceeds from this game were distributed throughout the community in a number of ways.

Some of the proceeds raised each year were given out to student bursaries and there was always some saved there to help out with a crisis.

Other charities also benefit from

bingo; this past year bingo players raised \$500 towards the "It's Ours" campaign and \$300 towards the Outreach Balanced Meals Program.

Generally, the funds raised at bingo over the years have helped to keep the community hall in good running order.

But this fundraiser is in need of players to keep it going.

It has become a place to meet friends and to have a night out.

We live in an awesome community and we have a great community hall to service public meetings, weddings, funerals and other activities.

We even doubled for the high-school when it burned down in the 1970s.

So please come out and support us — we'll teach you how to holler BINGO!

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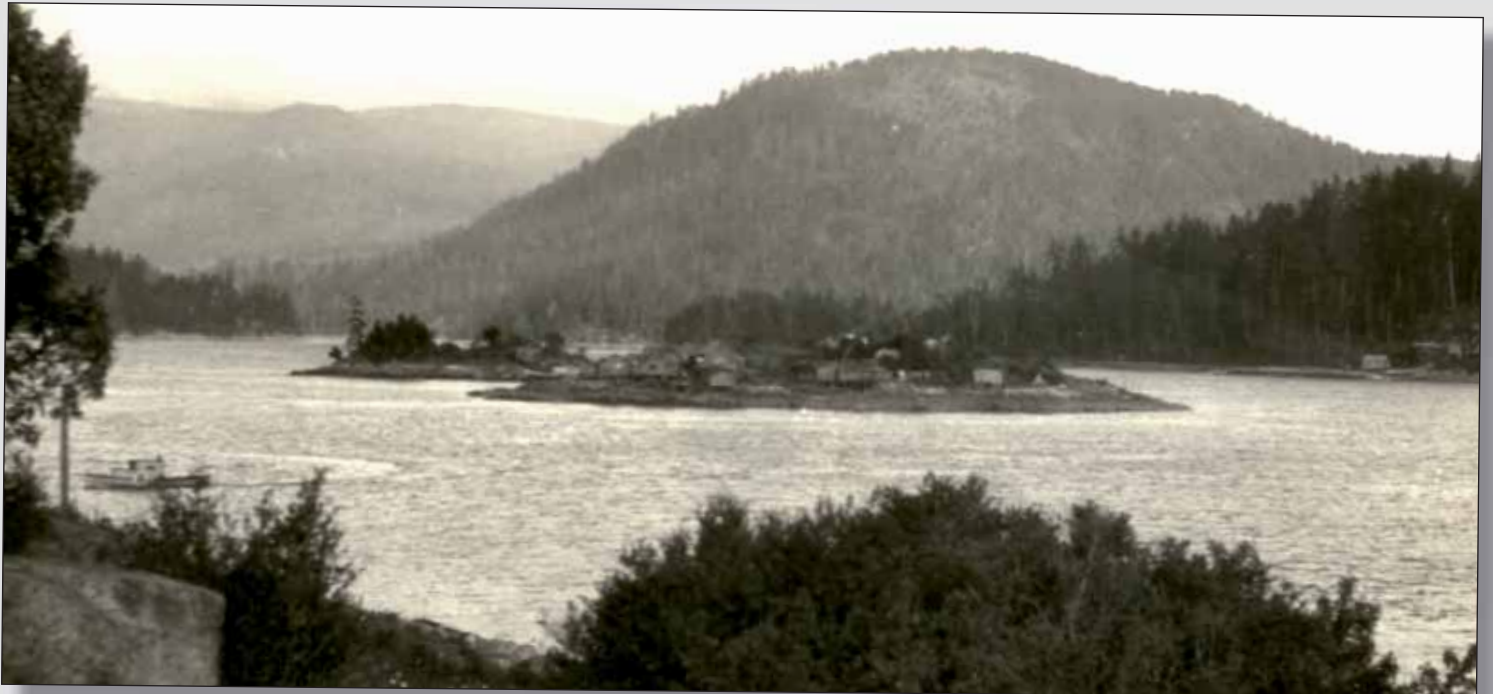
For info: Linda Curtiss 604-883-2819 or Anky Drost 604-883-0033





Florence Klein Collection photo

"This photo was found in the effects of Mrs. Florence (Atcheson) Klein who worked with her brothers in Pender Harbour about 1914."



Lee Family Collection photo

"Pender Harbour from Entrance Channel." (Date unknown - possibly @ 1930-40s)

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Feel Joy

Spring coming means it's time to dust off clubs

By Jan Watson

VALENTINE SCRAMBLE

Mother Nature blessed us with a beautiful afternoon — we even had lovely sunshine.

34 golfers, making nine teams, participated in a fun scramble on Saturday February 16.

The golf course is in great shape and for once I could not be blamed for making up the teams.

It's a good job too as I happened to be on the winning team.

Our score was a two under par 34 but it was certainly no thanks to my play!

My teammates Eldy Gandy and Ian and Jackie Grant carried me most of the way.

Second with a 37 were Jay Deyman, Lori Wilson and Len Best.

Two teams tied for third with 38 and we had four teams with 39.

The golf was followed by a wonderful potluck dinner, as usual the ladies and gentlemen outdid themselves with an amazing selection of food for the main course and for dessert.

I had to mention the men as I

missed them last month and some of them really do cook some great stuff.

NEW SEASON READY TO START

Now is the time for the rest of you to get those golf clubs out of the cupboard, dust them off, polish your shoes and head up to the golf course for a round of golf.

Ladies Day is every Thursday and the first event will be March 20. Come at 9 a.m. for the traditional coffee and muffins followed by a 18 hole scramble at 10 a.m.

Men's Day starts Tuesday March 25 at 10 a.m. and this year the ladies may take pity

on them and treat them to coffee and muffins !

Non-members and visitors are welcome to participate on these days.

UPCOMING EVENT

We will hold a Shamrock Scramble and BBQ Dinner on March 15.

Check with the Pro to sign up for this event. Everyone welcome.



FROM THE 19TH HOLE...

A gushy reporter told Phil Mickelson,

"You are spectacular, your name is synonymous with the game of golf. You really know your way around the course. What's your secret?"

Mickelson replied, "The holes are numbered."

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Know before you go

Compiled by Nancy Mackay, RN and Linda Szabados, RN

So there you are: the bags are all packed, pets are at the kennel, the oven is safely turned off.

And you think, I wonder if there is anything special I need to do before flying to (insert your destination here)?

Yup! There is.

Well before heading off to most parts of the world, you will want to visit your local travel clinic to find out what health issues should be on your radar, what vaccines you should be getting and other precautions you should consider.

In fact, some destinations won't even let you in unless you have certification of immunization. (But even if they did, would you really want to take a chance with yellow fever, malaria, hepatitis or Japanese encephalitis?)

If you are planning to travel internationally, start out with a visit to the travel clinic in your community.

For residents of Pender Harbour and district this means the Sechelt or Gibson's Health Unit.

Not only should you be aware of special vaccinations needed for travel, but your routine immunizations should also be up to date.

In Canada that includes diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps and rubella.

The travel clinic will know which vaccines are recommended and which are mandatory for your particular destination.

They will also give you the time frame for receiving a full course beginning weeks in advance of travel.

In other words, start your travel planning early with a visit six to eight

weeks or more prior to travel.

Vaccinations are not the only medications that may be needed.

If you are travelling to an area where malaria occurs, you will need to obtain a supply of anti-malarial medication.

With the vaccinations and other pre-travel medications out of the way, what else should you know about travelling abroad?

Again, the travel clinic can help with information on health and hygiene, avoiding traveller's diarrhea — not an unrelated topic — and even provide supplies you might need such as mosquito nets, water purifiers, repellents and more.

Staying healthy during travel is usually a matter of common sense with a bit of extra attention given to insect, food, water and security precautions.

With just a few changes in lifestyles, your trip will be an exciting, healthy and rewarding adventure.

Travel Clinic services are provided at the Sechelt Health Unit, 5571 Inlet Avenue, Sechelt (604) 885-5164) on Thursdays from 1:30-3:30 p.m. and the Gibsons Health Unit, 494 South Fletcher Road, Gibsons (604) 886-5625 on Wednesdays from 1-3:30 p.m.

These two clinics are now licensed to provide health consultations

with Shoreland Inc.'s Travax EnCompass program.

Anyone who is planning a trip abroad will now receive the following:

- A complete travel health consultation.
- Recommended immunizations (with referral to a yellow fever vaccination centre if required).
- A copy of a traveller's report from the Travax web site (updated daily with reports from WHO (World Health Organization) and CDC (Centre for Disease Control)).

Travel clients should contact either the Sechelt or Gibsons health unit at least six to eight weeks in advance of departure to book their 30-minute consultation and immunization appointment.

At the time of booking, clients will be asked to provide their travel itinerary in order for the travel public health nurses to provide their destination-specific recommendation.

There will be a fee of \$5 per traveller for each new trip consultation.

Please note: Adult clinic services, i.e. TB skin tests and routine immunizations, will continue to be offered at the Pender Harbour Health Centre by appointment, by phoning (604) 883-2764

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BIRTHDAYS

Mar. 01 ~ Bob Hubbard and Linda Dunaway.

Mar. 02 ~ Sandra Bosch and Marcus Delaney.

Mar. 03 ~ Ernie Carswell, Lana Ross, Terry Bosner and Jim Reid.

Mar. 4 ~ Brian Lee.

Mar. 05 ~ Mackenzie Stewart, Kirk Mackie, Brigit Garrett, Sylvia Heiliger, Alicia McDonald and Valerie Reid.

Mar. 06 ~ Ron Minch.

Mar. 07 ~ Mitch Higgins and Cassidy Craig-Watters.

Mar. 08 ~ Jeremy Morin and Trevor Tiefenbach.

Mar. 09 ~ Mary Cain, Bobbie Wendland, Eldor Dougan and Denise Cymbalist.

Mar. 11 ~ Tannis Campbell and Gayle Adams.

Mar. 12 ~ Alicia Cummins, Sunny Charboneau and Gord Wenman.

Mar. 13 ~ Ian McDonald and Paul McDonald.

Mar. 14 ~ Peter Hunsche and Heather Smith.

Mar. 15 ~ Bev Higgins, Arlen Howitt, Carissa Gilkes and Justin McKimm.

Mar. 16 ~ Steve Hanna and Brad Zayshley.

Mar. 17 ~ Bill Bradshaw, Jim Weir, Michelle

Cymbalist and Chris Cavielier. Happy anniversary to Kirk & Leanna Mackie.

Mar. 18 ~ Mike Reid, John Struthers, Tayler Metcalfe, Blair Landry, Janie Arduini and Michelle Bernier.

Mar. 19 ~ Megan Knock.

Mar. 20 ~ Larry Curtiss, Patrick White, Kim Smail and Tammy Collins.

Mar. 21 ~ Melissa Charboneau and David Massullo.

Mar. 22 ~ Eric Graham, Margaret Hartley, Ross Palmer and Dennis Cotter.

Mar. 23 ~ Mary Ann Haase and Barb Cowan.

Mar. 24 ~ Jane Reid, Heather Fearne, and Doris Pride.

Mar. 25 ~ Hailley Schroeder, Lexine Scoular, John Seabrook and Shirley Norish.

Mar. 26 ~ Motoko Baum and Halle Bosch.

Mar. 27 ~ Maureen Lee, Donna Edwardson, Cole Edwardson, Doris White and Rick Wagner Jr.. Happy anniversary to Rick & Jill Wagner.

Mar. 28 ~ Tom Barker, Joka Roosen and Jill Bennett.

Mar. 29 ~ Rod Webb and Terry Jacks.

Mar. 30 ~ Del Deguire.

Mar. 31 ~ Merv Charboneau.

MARCH WEATHER

TEMPERATURE

Our average March daily high is 9.2 C, our average daily low 4.3 C, giving us a mean daily temperature of 6.7 C. The highest March temperature recorded is 15.6 C (March 11, 1965); the lowest, -3.3 C (March 3, 1976).

PRECIPITATION

March has an average of 127.7 hours of bright sunshine and 15 days with rainfall. The monthly total rainfall averages 78.6 mm; monthly total snowfall averages 1.5 cm. The highest March daily rainfall recorded is 44.7 mm (March 4, 1968). The lowest March daily snowfall recorded is 8.9 cm (March 2, 1962).

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HARBOUR ALMANAC

OF MARCH

CHUCK NORRIS' BIRTHDAY - MARCH 10



TOP TEN CHUCK NORRIS FACTS

- ♦ Chuck Norris does not sleep. He waits.
- ♦ Chuck Norris can slam a revolving door.
- ♦ There is no theory of evolution. Just a list of animals Chuck Norris allows to live.
- ♦ There is no chin under Chuck Norris' Beard. There is only another fist.
- ♦ Chuck Norris counted to infinity — twice.
- ♦ Chuck Norris is the reason why Waldo is hiding.
- ♦ Chuck Norris doesn't read books. He stares them down until he gets the information he wants.
- ♦ When Chuck Norris does a pushup, he isn't lifting himself up — he's pushing the Earth down.
- ♦ Chuck Norris' hand is the only hand that can beat a Royal Flush.
- ♦ Chuck Norris gave Mona Lisa that smile.
- ♦ When the Boogeyman goes to sleep at night he checks his closet for Chuck Norris.

-compiled by the internet

MARCH ASTROLOGY

PISCES: FEB. 19 - MAR. 19

Pisceans have a boundless imagination and a natural aptitude for acting. They are sympathetic, highly tolerant and incurable romantics. Pisceans are often religious or mystical. Of all the astrological signs, Pisces make the best lovers. Get with one.

ARIES (MARCH 20-APRIL 20)

The sign of the ram gives Arians loyalty, generosity, high energy and courage. They love adventure and often fiercely defend the underdog. Consequently, Aries do poorly in Vegas.

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- 2 Jumbo Red Onions
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ORGANIZATIONS DIRECTORY

• Aquatic Centre Society	883-2612
• Blues Society	883-2642
• Bridge Club	883-2633
• Canadian Cancer Society.....	883-9708
• Chamber of Commerce, P. H. & Egmont.....	883-2531
• Christ the Redeemer Church.....	883-1371
• Coast Guard Auxiliary, Unit 61	883-2572
• Community Choir.....	883-2283
• Community Club, Egmont	883-9206
• Community Club, Pender Harbour	883-2715
• Community Policing.....	883-2026
• Community School Society	883-2826
• Egmont Volunteer Fire Department.....	883-0012
• GRIPS (Recycling Society)	883-1165
• Garden Bay Sailing Club	883-2689
• Gardening Club	883-0295
• P. H. Golf Club.....	883-9541
• Guides, Brownies, etc.	883-2819
• Harbour Artists.....	883-2807
• Harbourside Friendships (seniors, Thur. 10:30 -1 p.m.).....	883-2764
• Health Centre Society	883-2764
• Health Centre Auxiliary.....	883-0522
• Hepatitis C Connection.....	883-0010
• InStitches (1st Monday, 11 a.m., PH Health Centre).....	883-0748
• Iris Griffiths Centre	883-9201
• Ladies Auxiliary to Legion Branch 112 (1st Thurs. @ 1:30)	883-0748
• Lions Club, Egmont.....	883-9463
• Lions Club, Pender Harbour (1st & 3rd Wed).....	883-1361
• P. H. Music Society.....	883-2689
• P. H. Paddling Society	883-3678
• Pender Harbour Choir (7:30 pm Tues).....	883-2307
• Piecemakers (quilters, 1st & 3rd Wed. 9:30 a.m.).....	883-3662
• Power & Sail Squad (2nd Wed. Legion).....	883-2103
• Red Balloon Parent & Tot drop-in.....	885-5881
• Reading Centre Society	883-2983
• Rotary Club (noon Fri. Garden Bay Pub)	883-1350
• Royal Cdn Legion 112	883-0055
• Skookumchuck Heritage Society (Egmont Heritage Centre).....	883-9994
• St. Andrew's Anglican Church	883-9927
• St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary (2nd Wed. @ 1 p.m. Sept-June)	883-1174
• Seniors' Housing Society (3rd Thur.).....	883-9883
• Serendipity Preschool	883-2316
• Suncoast Players	883-9277
• Sunshine Coast Community Based Victim Services	885-0322
• Volunteer Fire Dept (Wed. evening)	883-9270
• Wildlife Society (3rd Tues. PHSS).....	883-9853
• Women's Cancer Support	883-9708
• Women's Connection (2nd & 4th Tue.)	883-2454
• Women's Outreach Services	741-5246

~ ORGANIZATIONS ~

PENDER HARBOUR DISTRICT WILDLIFE SOCIETY

The wildlife society will be meeting on Tues., March 18 at 7:30 p.m. Venue change to be announced. Our guest speaker is Dr. Michael Jackson, ecologist. Michael is president of the Lagoon Society and a leading force in the establishment and continuing growth of the Iris Griffith Centre. His topic will be Crows, Mosquitos and Sticklebacks. Jackson will look at how it might be necessary to re-examine how humans have been manipulating our environment through the eyes of crows, mosquitoes and sticklebacks.

P. H. AND EGMONT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The chamber will be holding elections and the AGM at 7 p.m. on Wednesday March 5 at the Pender Harbour Legion. We would like to see a good turnout to support the local chamber and invite current and new members. We will have a brief directors meeting to elect the board followed by two guest speakers to update our members on recent details involving the upcoming Jazz Festival and the Pender Harbour Harbour Authority. There's some new blood in the chamber and we have lots of exciting projects we'd like to get to if we had some more help.

WOMEN'S CONNECTION

On March 11, Women's Connection have invited Tracy Parker, a notary public, to speak. She will cover subjects such as wills, living wills and power of attorney. Please bring your questions so we can all benefit from the answers.

On March 25, Yvonne Stowell will do a presentation titled "FibreWorks — What's in a yurt?" Come to this demo and find out about her workshops and working studio found at the FibreWorks Studio and Gallery.

Both gatherings are at the School of Music in Madeira Park. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. and meetings start at 10 a.m. and run until noon.

EGMONT & DISTRICT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT SOCIETY AGM

On Monday, March 3 the Egmont & District Volunteer Fire Department Society will hold it's AGM at the Backeddy Marina Restaurant at 7:30 p.m.

Seventh annual April Tools Wooden Boat Challenge: April 26, 2008

Submitted

You'll never guess what the organizers of the seventh annual April Tools Wooden Boat Challenge have in store for you this year!

And what's more, they won't tell you until the day of the race.

But they promise it will be a twist to challenge your boat building and paddling expertise.

As usual, the fun-filled event will be held at the Madeira Park Government Dock in Pender Harbour on the last Saturday in April, April 26, 2008.

Boat-builders will have three hours to create a boat from materials provided, using only hand tools.

Then the builders race their boats around a preset course to the delight of spectators, vying for first, second, and third place cash prizes.

Last year, the teams found out at 10 a.m. on boat-building day that they had to row, not paddle, their boats and that they had to make the oars out of the building materials provided.

The result was hilarious.

In the first heat, three boats got hopelessly tangled up in the infamous "chain alley" a narrow opening where the boats have to pass under a ramp leading down to the floats.

And the year before that was the year of the plastic boats: builders got much less plywood to work with but their kit included a large sheet of polyethylene plastic!

But some things don't change.

As usual, you bring your own hand tools; the only exception is a battery-powered screw gun.

There will also be the ever popular mini-boat building for kids, and other kids' activities.

Local high school teams will build their boats in advance of the day

and bring them to race for prizes prior to the adult races.

There will be a collection of traditional boats for enthusiasts to try out in the water and the P. H. Rotary Club will set up their BBQ on the dock..

The entry fee is \$160 per team, \$140 for early birds who register before April 1.

Advertisement

Denture Dilemma Dissolved

People who need to wear dentures almost always have problems keeping them securely in place.

Social activities can be stressful if you are concerned about a denture inhibiting your speech, laughter and eating.

One of the challenges of eating with dentures that move, sometimes fall and invariably trap food, would be to maintain a healthy diet.

Denture wearers are at a high risk of suffering poor nutrition.

Consequently, most people use an adhesive to secure their dentures but the results are seldom satisfactory.

There is another option. Dental implants, which are root replacement, are implanted into your jaw providing a stable and reliable base on which a denture can be anchored.

This can be done for either a full denture or a partial denture.

In studies, dental implants are shown to preserve bone and reduce gum tissue loss – all problems faced by patients

who have had their teeth removed.

Historically, dental implants have a high clinical success rate — patients who have opted for dental implants often remark how similar the implant feels to their own natural teeth.

Would implant supported dentures make a difference in your life?

The improved stability during eating, less food seepage under the denture and social interactions accomplished with confidence are all benefits.

Dr. Robert Hynd is pleased to announce that he is now offering implant treatment to his patients.

You may book a consultation appointment to evaluate your particular needs and suitability for this innovative treatment.

Call our Madeira Park office, located at the Pender Harbour Health Centre.

As always, we welcome new patients and our helpful, friendly staff is on hand Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to answer your questions and book an appointment.

Madeira Park Dental Office
(604)883-2997

Tips on what to do if you're planning on selling this Spring



By Alan Stewart

What's that funny yellow light coming through the window? Spring!

Thank the Lord we're almost out of the clouds again.

February has sailed past and we're starting to see property buyers expressing an interest in our community again.

So, what can we expect in 2008?

Statistically, we are in about as stable a market as we've seen in the past five years.

We have seen a return to an historic average of 400 – 450 houses for sale on the Coast and although sales volumes saw all-time records last year, median sales prices are about as regular as William Shatner.

If you're planning to put your home on the market in time for spring, now's the time to get it ready.

But what can you do to catch the buyer's eye and get them to make an offer?

With more and more homes available for sale it's going to take more than a fresh coat of paint and a new welcome mat.

Knowing how purchasers reason should help you pick which updates are most likely to help you sell your home.

Let's take the most basic selling suggestions and explore why they are so important.

BOOST YOUR CURB APPEAL

A clean house with cosmetic upgrades like painting and planting flowers can help form a fantastic first impression of your home.

Why? It seems 84 per cent of homebuyers use the Internet to search for homes.

Because so many buyers in our area come from off-coast, most use the internet before any other source.

That means that people are making decisions whether or not to even drive by your home based on how it looks in video, virtual tours and photographs.

It's like fishing with a rusty lure, you just can't get the fish to bite!

MAKE BIG FIXES WHERE YOU CAN

If your budget allows, invest in bigger improvements.

Focus on "make or break" rooms like bathrooms and kitchens because nothing says "uninviting" like an unattractive cooking space.

Why? According to the US National Association of Realtors, in 2007 a whopping 59 per cent of home buyers remodelled or made improvements to their homes within three months of purchase.

BE UPFRONT WITH DISCLOSURES.

Don't wait for the buyer to get a home inspection, or the buyer could find a reason to wiggle out of the deal.

I recommend getting a preliminary inspection yourself, so you can improve the condition of your home before a buyer sees it.

Keep receipts of recent improvements and provide estimates on optional upgrades.

These actions will reinforce your trustworthiness as a seller and help overcome objections from the buyer.

Finally, be realistic.

Your price should be competitive with comparable homes nearby with similar features that have sold or are on the market within the last three to six months.

Buyers are just as interested in seeing what's happened in the market before offering and if your property looks out of line, it's unlikely they will put pen to paper.

With the increase in selling prices slowing down, the market will take longer and longer to catch up to over-priced listings.

To offer suggestions for future real estate related column topics, e-mail alan@sunshinecoasthomes.com

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In the Curtis Lumber Shopping Plaza

You never know, continued...



By Barry Ashley

Funny old world, eh?

Just a month ago I was writing about the absolute neces-

sity of fire departments being ready for anything despite fewer chances to do it for real.

I cited how Britain's worst-ever road traffic accident happened on the fireground of a small, retained (paid-on-call) fire station, illustrating the point that the unthinkable can happen anywhere.

Within days we were attending a serious house fire at Irvine's Landing and then heard of two serious road accidents involving — of all things — emergency vehicles.

Like I said, you never know what's around the corner.

The house fire was through the roof before the call went in so it was a case of damage limitation.

Engines from Garden Bay and Madeira Park soon brought the fire under control.

While no-one was hurt, damage was considerable and the local community — in true Pender Harbour fashion — is pulling together to help the occupants.

A fundraiser is being held at the Garden Bay Pub on March 8, providing an ideal opportunity for us all to

help out.

On a positive note, the fire gave three young trainees — Sara Crabb, Matt Ryland and Louis Pepin — an early experience of a real house fire and they revelled in the adrenalin-charged atmosphere.

It also saw, for the first time, two female firefighters from Madeira Park working side by side on a house fire.

More recently, we saw on TV the results of fire engines skidding on black ice.

In Maple Ridge, a responding engine had hit a power pole and turned over, bringing live wires down on top of it.

The crew had no option but to stay put and radio for help — to exit the vehicle would have meant certain death by electrocution.

Likewise, the rescuing engine did not attempt to get near them until Hydro had confirmed all lines were disconnected and grounded.

Miraculously, the entire crew, all wearing seat belts, was unhurt and reported for its next shift!

The other incident was at Mill Bay where two engines were written off and some of their crew hospitalized in another crash involving a semi-trailer and an ambulance, again on black ice.

In both cases, the drivers were very experienced.

The message for us is very clear.

We must wear our seat belt and drive at all times in a manner appropriate to the weather and road conditions.

We can't assume that highway crews have made the road safe. They can only do so much in a short time.

Our safety is our own responsibility, so don't go if you don't have to and, if you must, slow down as much as necessary.

Remember the pictures on TV: vehicles with wheels locked, sliding gracefully over black ice towards disaster, the drivers now powerless to do anything about it...



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The spring tune-up: How to make getting fit fun

By Lydia Jackson



Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting.
So... get on your way.

- Dr. Seuss

Can you feel it?

The official season of hope, love, new beginnings, and shorter shorts is at our doorstep.

Finally, we can say goodbye to dreary days, darkness and down; and say hello to that great yellow sphere in the sky.

Yes, spring is here and the big question is: Are you ready for it?

Now I don't mean ready as in "Have you washed your car," "cleaned out your garage" or "planted your bulbs?"

I mean is your body ready for it? Whether you are a weekend warrior or an ultra athlete, the reality is, we all exercise more when the weather gets warmer.

Yet, many of us get injured or sick in the process because we have been hibernating for the past five months, eating Oreos and watching Survivor.

Our bodies need to be gently nudged out of this state and into action.

So go ahead: Treat yourself to a spot in the sunshine and a skinny latte and have a look at the following spring tune up tips:

SET A GOAL AND WRITE IT DOWN

A recent Harvard study tracked a group of their graduates for thirty

years.

It seems 84 per cent did not set goals, 13 per cent set goals but did not write them down, and three per cent wrote down their goals.

That group earned 10 times more money than the other 97 per cent of the participants!

When we write our goals down, we make a visual promise to ourselves.

FIND A PARTNER OR A GROUP

Seeking friends to run, walk, or bike with is not only fun but will make you accountable for your workout?

Join a group or better yet: create a new one!

AIM FOR FIVE AND GO FOR TEN

Health Canada recommends eat-

"On the Edge bikes" has gone "Off the Edge"



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ing at least five fruits and vegetables a day.

Try blending yogurt, a banana, your favourite berry, and an orange along with water in a blender.

Voila – you are more than half way there for the day!

TRY SOMETHING NEW

It is so easy to get caught up in our regular routine: the same number of lengths, or the same walking trail.

Why not mix it up?

Run a new trail. Try a new class like salsa or kundalini yoga.

Spicing up your workout will help to spice up your life and you just might find something you like even more! Which brings me to:

STICK TO WHAT YOU LOVE

If you are dreading your workout, I have news for you: It's not your cup of tea and you should stop doing it now!

Exercise should never be a chore

or else you will end up quitting.

The key is finding something that makes you move and makes you smile.

That is when exercise truly becomes a part of who you are.

GIVE YOUR GEAR SOME LOVE

Treat yourself to a new pair of hiking shoes or a brightly pink tech top.

Get that muddy bike tuned up.

Buy a paddle for your boat... and then show off your new gear to the rest of the coast!

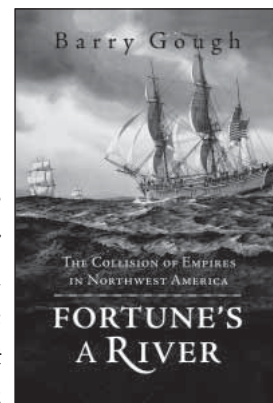
So, what are you waiting for?

Get outside and enjoy all the season has to offer.

We are so lucky to live in one of the most beautiful places on earth. Make this spring one you will remember: Get out there and live to play!

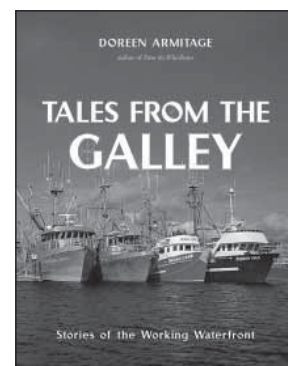
Lydia and Gary Jackson are the owners of Off the Edge Adventure Sports in Sechelt.

Marine titles from Harbour Publishing...



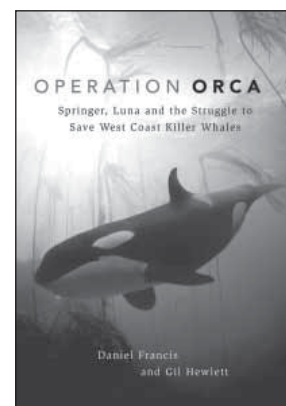
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Standings through February 17

TEAM	GP	WON	LOST	TIE	GF	GA	PTS
Halfmoon Sea Kayaks	13	8	2	3	40	17	21
C.P.U	13	8	2	3	40	17	19
Gibsons Pigs	13	7	5	1	31	26	15
Pender Bananas	13	5	4	4	29	27	14
Gibsons United	13	5	5	3	31	36	13
Sechelt Chiefs	13	4	6	3	26	31	11
Xenichen Wolves	13	2	8	3	36	51	7
IGA Selects	13	1	10	2	19	51	4

Feb. 10: Bananas 2 - CPU 2

Feb. 17: Bananas 1 - Selects 1

Feb. 24: Bananas 0 - Chiefs 3

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HARBOUR SEALS



Free and easy! Approvals or **disapprovals!**
Send to: editor@harbourpiel.com.
You must include your full name and a telephone number for confirmation.

A Harbour Seal of Approval to everyone who helped make our fundraiser with Conni Smudge on Saturday night a huge success! There weren't as many guests as we had hoped, but we still managed to raise over \$900! Huge thanks to **Ron**, who won the 50/50 draw and donated it back to us, **Marita, Raymond, the culinary master, and Jim, Suzanne and Cheri** for keeping the beverages flowing.

Andrea Clerx
P.H. Paddling Society

A huge Harbour Seal of Approval to the "Valentine's Day Heroes," Paul and Rowan van Wersch for rescuing a van full of "damsels in distress" when their van got a flat after the girls Valentine's Day Party in Garden Bay. You persisted and conquered changing my tire in the middle of the road at 10 at night. I really appreciate living in this community when it is filled with awesome people like you... Many thanks!

Paola Stewart and all the girls

A huge Harbour Seal of Approval to all the staff at the Sechelt Animal Hospital. We are weekenders in Earls Cove and last weekend our 11 year old border collie lab cross, Cody, passed away. They didn't know us and they didn't know Cody but their thoughtfulness and caring will be remembered forever. Thank you so much!

The Gossips

A Harbour Seal of Approval to the Outreach Healthy Meal program — Linda Curtiss, Anky Drost and their faithful helpers for the lovely meals they send directly to my home. What a wonderful service to have in our community. The meals were truly healthy and tasty and the presentation a feast for the eyes.

Helga Pehab

A Harbour Seal of Approval to the mysterious person who delivered a load of wood to my house. You have warmed my heart and home. Thank you.

Diane Jackson



South Pender Harbour Water Customers: Notice

Pender Harbour Waterworks is now part of the SCRD.

The office at 12828 Lagoon Rd. will remain open. You may still pay bills in person at this office from Mon. – Fri., 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or mail cheques to: **SCRD, 1975 Field Rd. Sechelt BC V0N 3A1.**

Please make your cheques payable to: *Sunshine Coast Regional District.*

New Billing Schedule

Water toll bills will be sent by the end of April and payment is due by Jun. 15, 2008. The water tax bill will be included in your property taxes.

Water Service Providers: Notice

Invoices must be sent to the SCRD. Payment will be made by the SCRD. Please send invoices to: **SCRD, 1975 Field Rd. Sechelt BC V0N 3A1**

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PERSONALS

- **Will Christina Doyle** please write to #2 - 33510 Lynn Ave., Abbotsford, BC, V2S 1E3? Anyone seeing this please give her the message.

WANTED

- **NEED treadmill**, gauges unimportant. WANT trilight, HAVE microwave and range hood - Trade? (604) 883 0522. Leave message.

Venessa (Fielding) and John Smith are very proud to announce the birth of their son - **Alexander Raymond Robert Smith** born on Dec. 7, 2007.

Proud grandparents are Bob and Diane Fielding. Uncle Ash is thrilled, and Ray and Doreen Lee couldn't be happier to be great-grandparents.



The Iris Griffith Centre at Ruby Lake presents an Eldercollege ecology course

Begins March 26

FEATURING:

March 26.....**Dr. Michael Jackson** – Freshwater Ecology
 April 9.....**Jessica Casey** – Medicinal Plants and Cedar Bark Weaving
 April 23..**Tony Greenfield** – Identifying Spring Migrant Birds by Sight and Sound
 May 7.....**John Dafoe** – The Centre as a Green Energy Building

Register at Cap College 604-885-9310. Fee is \$30
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

MARCH EVENTS

- Sat. March 1.....Musical Wake for Dave Howell - Garden Bay Pub, 8:30 p.m.
 Sun. March 2.....Larrie Cook and the Bluesmasters, Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
 Mon. March 3.....Egmont Volunteer Fire Department Society AGM - Backeddy Restaurant, 7:30 p.m.
 Mon. March 3.....P. H. Food Bank Pick-up - P. H. Community Church, 12 p.m.
 Wed. March 5.....P.H. & Egmont Chamber of Commerce AGM - P.H. Legion, 7 p.m.
 Sat. March 8.....Free Fun Kayak Event for Girls - P. H. Aquatic Centre, 4 p.m.
 Sat. March 8.....Heather's Day in Garden Bay - Garden Bay Pub, 8 p.m.
 Sat. March 8.....Van Django - P. H. School of Music, 2 p.m.
 Sun. March 9.....Joe Stanton and the Precious Littles - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
 Tues. March 11.....Women's Connection presents Tracy Parker - P.H. School of Music, 10 a.m.
 Sat. March 15.....Soup and Song - St. Andrew's Church, 5 p.m.
 Sun. March 16.....Go Green Day - 13274 Potts Lane OR Garden Bay Lake Pumphouse, 10 a.m.
 Sun. March 16.....Gaetan and the French Connection - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
 Mon. March 17.....Spring Break Day Camp - P. H. Aquatic Centre, 9 a.m.
 Mon. March 17.....P.H. Food Bank Pick-up - P. H. Community Church, 12 p.m.
 Tues. March 18.....P.H. Wildlife Society presents Dr. Michael Jackson - Venue TBA, 7:30 p.m.
 Wed. March 19.....Spring Break Day Camp - P. H. Aquatic Centre, 9 a.m.
 Fri. March 21.....Surveillance - Garden Bay Pub
 Sat. March 22.....Surveillance - Garden Bay Pub
 Sun. March 23.....Easter Family Swim - P. H. Aquatic Centre, 2-5 p.m.
 Sun. March 23.....Steve Hinton - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
 Tues. March 25.....Women's Connection presents Yvonne Stowell - P.H. School of Music, 10 a.m.
 Wed. March 26.....Eldercollege Ecology Course (starts) - Iris Griffith Centre
 Wed. March 26.....APC - PHSS Rm. 107, 7 p.m.
 Sat. March 29.....Irvine's Landing School Planning Meeting - Irvine's Landing School, 2 p.m.
 Sun. March 30.....Skookumchuck Heritage Society AGM - Egmont Heritage Centre, 3 p.m.
 Sun. March 30.....Mark Vance - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
 Mon. March 31.....P. H. Food Bank Pick-up - P. H. Community Church, 12 p.m.
 Tues. April 1.....Studio B flat Grand Opening - 4892 Gonzales Rd., 5 p.m.
 Wed. April 2.....A Secret Sadness: Depression in Women - P.H. Music School, 1 p.m.

FERRY DEPARTURES

Effective September 4 - March 31, 2008

Crossing time: Langdale 40 min./Earl's Cove 50 min. Ticket sales end 10 min. before sailing for foot passengers, 5 min. before for vehicles.
 See www.bcferrries.com for information on added sailings during peak periods.



Langdale	Horseshoe Bay	Earl's Cove	Saltery Bay
*6:20 a.m.	*7:20 a.m.	*6:30 a.m.	*5:35 a.m.
8:20 a.m.	9:20 a.m.	8:25 a.m.	7:25 a.m.
10:20 a.m.	10:00 a.m. (Mar. 21 & May 19)	10:25 a.m.	9:25 a.m.
11:00 a.m.	11:20 a.m.	12:30 p.m.	11:25 a.m.
12:20 p.m.	1:20 p.m.	4:25 p.m.	3:20 p.m.
2:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m. (May 15, 16 only)	6:25 p.m.	5:25 p.m.
3:00 p.m. (May 15, 16 only)	3:30 p.m.	8:20 p.m.	7:20 p.m.
4:30 p.m.	4:00 p.m. (Mar. 20 only)	10:10 p.m.	9:15 p.m.
5:00 p.m. (Mar. 20 only)	5:30 p.m.		
6:30 p.m.	7:25 p.m.		
8:20 p.m.	9:15 p.m.		
10:10 p.m. (Oct. 8 & May 19)	11:00 p.m. (Oct. 8 & May 19)		

Note: schedule differs slightly for Oct. 5 & 8, Nov. 12, Dec. 24 & 26, Jan. 1, March 21 & 24

♦ Daily except Dec. 25 & Jan. 1
 ○ Sept. 4, Mar. 21 & May 19 only

* Daily except Sundays, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1



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A musical wake for Dave Howell:

March 1 @ 8:30 p.m. A host of coast musicians and Dave's friends

Heather's Day at Garden Bay Fundraiser

March 8 w/ Baby Harry. Cover: \$15 (Proceeds to the Browns)

Surveillance - 2 days!

Friday, March 21 & Saturday, March 22

SUNDAY JAMS

March 2 - Larrie Cook and the Bluesmasters

March 9 - Joe Stanton & the Precious Littles

March 16 - Gaetan & the French Connection

March 23 - Steve Hinton

March 30 - Mark Vance