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# HARBOUR SPIEL

October 2025  
Issue 418







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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 Middlesbrough  
and are available by paid subscription and free  
at locations throughout the Sunshine Coast.

Past issues of the *Harbour Spiel* are available  
online at [www.harbourspiel.com](http://www.harbourspiel.com).

### CONTRIBUTORS

**This month we thank:** Christine Alexander,  
Alan Haig-Brown, Leonard Lee, Robert  
Livingston, Jennifer Peters, Shane McCune,  
Terri Scott and Dianne Smith.

### COVER

On Sept. 18, Black Bill Gilkes was honoured on  
the occasion of his 60th birthday by parents and  
students at a Madeira Park Elementary School  
barbecue for all of the help he regularly provides  
to the school (and many other community  
organizations). Gilkes' birthday was Sept. 21.  
Here he is seen arriving in his custom, hot-  
rodged golf cart. (Tayler Metcalfe photo)

### ADVERTISING

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November issue mails Oct. 31

Advertising bookings before Oct. 15

## editorial

# Powell River rage and other Garden Bay hazards



Brian Lee

Five years ago, I abandoned Madeira Park for Garden Bay.

It's been mostly positive but I have a few caveats.

First, some Garden Bay dog owners let their pets take a dump anywhere it pleases them — and, mostly, they are pleased to let them do it in front of someone else's property.

Each time I weedeat the frontage around my driveway, I'm gifted with a face shield of dog poo.

But, aside from the lack of night-life, my only other complaint about Garden Bay is when I try to leave.

Anyone acclimatized to the relatively chill roads of Garden Bay understands the shock of being greeted at the highway with ferry traffic.

Powell River lunatics launch off the *Malaspina Sky* in an impenetrable stream — bumper to bumper like a military formation moving dignitaries through hostile territory.

So fast, trucks get air on the bump at the Kleindale crossroads.

If you are able, and brave enough, to join this conga line of urgency, be prepared to be pushed, because Powell River drivers have one single-minded goal — to pass every other sucker in front of them.

They know their best chance to do that is Misery Mile — the two-lane stretch past GRIPS.

Every two hours, it turns into a perilous drag strip of impatient qatherers working to gain on their competition before hitting the squiggles south of Madeira Park.

In July, I found myself in the midst of this mayhem.

Anyone who has lived here more than a fortnight understands that passing is pointless — the highway is saturated with vehicles, so if you do pass anyone, they'll likely just end up

right behind you at the Norwest Bay Road light anyways.

Absent of reason, the Powell River driver is undeterred.

On this day, when I rounded the corner and entered the Misery Mile arena, I sensed grave urgency jockeying behind me.

I was happy to move to the right lane but also moving over in front of me were two plodding motorhomes.

So, I decided to pass them first.

I wasn't quick enough for the driver of a white Ford Expedition who was already on my ass like a dog greeting a new arrival at the park.

He (I didn't see this person but I recognize male driving habits) immediately started flashing his lights in a frantic attempt to show me how critical it was that he should get past.

I reacted poorly.

Struck with stubborn indignation and a desire to educate this interloper about proper habits while passing through my community, I remained in the line of cars in the left lane.

The qatherer took it personally.

He bleated away with his horn while aggressively rushing up on my rear end the entire way up the hill.

Finally, he found an opening in the right lane for a passing attempt — just as the lane ended.

Out of options, he made a desperate effort to pass on the shoulder.

What he didn't realize is that at the top of Misery Mile, the shoulder disappears into a steep embankment.

Not *really* wanting to see him die a fiery death, I braked and let him in.

Then, I followed him, at a safe distance, to Madeira Park where luckily for both of us, he didn't turn in.

My agitation subsided as soon as I passed back over Mt. Daniel hill.

But it all came rushing back when I turned into my driveway — and spotted fresh dog poop.

**PENDER HARBOUR FALL FAIRE: Sunday, Oct. 5, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

The annual kick-off to the harvest season. Come out to the Pender Harbour Community Hall on Oct. 6 for a fall exhibition that will include food, artisans, kid's games, live music and cookie decorating. For more information or to find out about exhibition entry forms, contact Megan at (604) 989-1496.

**SUNSHINE COAST ART CRAWL: Oct. 17-19, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Over three days each October, the Coast transforms into one large interactive art show. It is a celebration of displays, demonstrations and it provides an opportunity to meet the artists behind the amazing creations. Enjoy a spectacular weekend with 185 open galleries and studios with over 260 artists. This year, the art crawl includes 12 locations between Egmont and Secret Cove. For more information visit: [www.sunshinecoastartcrawl.com](http://www.sunshinecoastartcrawl.com).

**P. H. MUSIC SOCIETY PRESENTS OVER THE MOON: Sunday, Oct. 26, 2 p.m.**

A real life couple, Suzanne Levesque and Craig Bignell, endearingly describe themselves as “cowbillies” but they are a lot more than that. This Juno-nominated duo blend heartfelt harmonies, masterful musicianship and a love of storytelling, along with charming banter, into a performance to warm the heart. Performing at the Pender Harbour School of Music on Oct. 26 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$30 at [www.penderharbourmusic.ca](http://www.penderharbourmusic.ca).

**HALLOWEEN FIREWORKS DISPLAY: Friday, Oct. 31, 7:30 p.m.**

The traditional Halloween fireworks display is put on by the P. H. Volunteer Fire Department each year and is best viewed from Millennium Park in Madeira Park at 7:30 p.m. There will also be hot dogs, hot drinks and a hot fire.

You can support this event by buying a raffle ticket. Each year, the PHVFD fireworks raffle beats out all others for quality and volume of prizes. Tickets are available at Madeira Marina, Java Docks, Oak Tree Market, Sunshine Coast Credit Union, RONA, Kleindale Supply, Mountainview PetroCan, John Henry's, Harbour Insurance, Marina Pharmacy or from your favourite Pender Harbour firefighter. Winners will be drawn Halloween night at the fireworks.



# NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

*“On this National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we honour survivors and remember the children who never came home. The legacy of residential schools and the impacts of colonialism remain with us today. True reconciliation begins with listening, learning, and walking this path together every day.”*

**Patrick Weiler**

Member of Parliament  
West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country  
6367 Bruce Street  
West Vancouver, BC  
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## Forest fire in Middlepoint sends smoke to Pender Harbour

Residents in the Pender Harbour area were smoked out Sept. 13 after a forest fire broke out approximately 3.5 kilometres to the southeast of McNeill Lake.

The fire was reported that morning and listed as “human-caused.”

By the afternoon it had grown to 2.3 hectares.

From a 12:48 p.m. update from the BC Wildfire Service:

“It is burning at Rank 2 (low vigour surface fire) and is in mature timber.

“Three helicopters, two initial attack crews, one local fire department crew and one faller pair were assigned.”

A brisk southeast wind likely

hampered the fire response and directed smoke north.

By the next morning, the fire was still listed as out of control and had grown to 6.3 hectares overnight but the BC Wildfire Service said the fire “received significant precipitation overnight and fire behaviour has been reduced to Rank 1 (smouldering ground fire).”

“Today 10 firefighters, one response officer, two faller pairs and one helicopter are actioning the fire.”

Rain continued through Sept. 14 and by Sept. 15 the fire was listed as under control — “a wildfire that is not projected to spread beyond the current perimeter.”

It is now out.



Terri Scott

Terri Scott, a member of the Pender Harbour Volunteer Fire Department snapped this shot of a helicopter dropping water on the fire on Sept. 13.

## photojournal



Dianne Smith

Though the Langdale ferry terminal catches most of the criticism, Dianne Smith wanted to illustrate a daily hassle for Earls Covers. ‘When you leave your house, you pray that no one is blocking your road while lining up for the ferry. They did put a sign up but it doesn’t always work. I had to drive over the neighbours lawn to get off our street the other day,’ said Smith. It’s no better returning. ‘Coming home is nerve racking,’ she said. ‘The ferry traffic is usually backed up almost to the Egmont road. You have two choices. One, sit in your car and wait with everyone who is going to get a ferry or, two, put on your four way flashers and drive down the wrong side of the road praying nobody is coming up. If the ferry is unloading, they fly up both lanes trying to beat everyone and it’s a game of Russian Roulette if you need to go down.’ Smith said she has spoken to Earls Cove terminal ferry staff but, according to her, they said ‘it’s not their jurisdiction.’

October 2025

## Thanksgiving Ham/Turkey Meat Draw & Pie Auction

**Saturday  
Oct. 4  
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**Early Bird draws at 3pm  
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# HARBOUR SPIEL

# trivia

1. What is the nickname of the upper storage room in the Madeira Park Elementary School gym?

- ☐ a. Jenny's Room
- ☐ b. Nelly's Room
- ☐ c. Becky's Room
- ☐ d. Sally's Room

2. Where was the first non-First Nations settlement in Pender Harbour?

- ☐ a. Whiskey Slough
- ☐ b. Bargain Harbour
- ☐ c. Irvines Landing
- ☐ d. Popes Landing

3. In logging slang, what is a "widow maker?"

- ☐ a. Improperly loaded logging truck
- ☐ b. Hung up choker
- ☐ c. Sudden strong gust of wind
- ☐ d. Dead branch or treetop that could fall

4. What nationality were the Klein family who arrived in here in 1913 and settled Kleindale?

- ☐ a. German
- ☐ b. Swedish
- ☐ c. British
- ☐ d. Swiss

5. What is the name of the bay on which downtown Egmont overlooks?

- ☐ a. Secret Bay
- ☐ b. Maple Bay
- ☐ c. Sutton Bay
- ☐ d. Killam Bay

6. Where is Sex'wamin Street?

- ☐ a. Madeira Park
- ☐ b. Garden Bay
- ☐ c. Egmont
- ☐ d. Wherever Rod Kammerle lives

Answers: p. 34

Four-plus: **Local**

Two-plus: **Newbie**

Less than two: **Townie**

## A NOTE ABOUT THE DELIVERY OF THE HARBOUR SPIEL

As a result of an ongoing labour dispute with Canada Post, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers has introduced a ban on the delivery of unaddressed direct mail starting Sept. 15. This ban applies to the delivery of the Harbour Spiel to mailboxes in our area. The CPUW announced a full strike on Sept. 18.

Should this job action continue, the Harbour Spiel won't arrive in mailboxes as normal. Instead, it will be available in larger quantities at familiar retail outlets including the Oak Tree Market, Madeira Park IGA, Earthfair Bookstore, Madeira Park Liquor Store, Grasshopper Pub, JH Marina, Backeddy Pub, Bathgate's Store, Sechelt Library, Lighthouse Pub and many more locations, until the job action is rescinded.

The Harbour Spiel can also be viewed in its new online form at [www.harbourspiel.com](http://www.harbourspiel.com)



## Pender pool suffering ongoing staffing issues

Check opening the opening hours before you go because the Pender Harbour and Aquatic and Fitness Centre might be closed.

Due to an ongoing shortage of lifeguards at the facility, hours of operation were reduced last month when the pool reopened for the season.

According to an Aug. 26 SCRD statement, "These changes are necessary to maintain safe and reliable service across our facilities."

Swim lessons at the pool were also "temporarily paused," but, on Sept. 25 it was announced they would

resume Oct. 12.

While the weight room remained open from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. each week-day, morning access to the aquatic facility was reduced in September from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. to 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. for three days (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday).

Starting Oct. 5, those reduced morning aquatic hours will only be in effect Wednesday and Friday.

The entire facility (pool and gym) will open on evenings on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 3:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. and close Thurs-

day and Friday evenings

Staffing shortages last season caused full weekend closures but the pool and gym are open on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Interviews are underway, and we look forward to welcoming fresh faces to our facilities soon," said the SCRD statement.

"As new staff join our aquatics team, we will review pool schedules and adjust hours accordingly."

For updates to programs and facility operating hours, visit [www.scrd.ca/pender-pool](http://www.scrd.ca/pender-pool).

## PHSS student Poppy Makenzie Arnet new S.D. 46 student trustee

Poppy Makenzie Arnet, a grade 12 student at Pender Harbour Secondary School, was recently chosen to be School District 46 student trustee for the 2025-2026 school year.

Makenzie Arnet officially took the oath of office during the regular board meeting in Gibsons on Sept. 10.

"As the 13th student trustee in the district's history, Makenzie Arnet's appointment continues the tradition of elevating student voice in board discussions," said a Sept. 11 S.D. 46 statement.

"Guided by regulation 1290, the student trustee role ensures that student perspectives are represented in decisions that shape the future of education in our community."

Supporting Makenzie Arnet in her new position is a "District Student Leadership Team," a group of students from all four secondary schools in the district.

The DSLT "provides opportunities for collaboration and ensures a wide range of student experiences and ideas are shared."

With mentorship from the superintendent of schools, the district

principal of Indigenous learning and school leaders, the team meets regularly to address topics that matter most to students.

The DSLT is made up of students in Grades 10 to 12, selected through an application and interview process.

Each year, the team elects a Grade 12 student trustee to represent them at the board table.

"I am so excited and grateful to be able to represent the students of our district through this position," said Makenzie Arnet.

"Student voice is something that I am very passionate about, and it's incredibly important to me that every student feels that their experience and voice are valued."



S.D. 46

Pender Harbour Secondary student Poppy Makenzie Arnet is the student trustee at School District 46 for the 2025-2026 school year.



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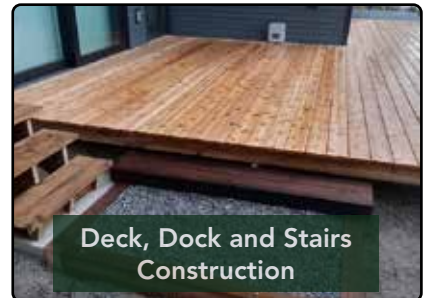
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## Fundraising goal to 'Raise the roof' reached

A large donation by the Rotary Club of Pender Harbour (see below) and funds raised from a recent "Homecoming" gala fundraiser at the Pender Harbour Community Hall (see photos, p. 29) has allowed the Pender Harbour Community Club to reach their fundraising goal to rebuild the aging roof of the Pender Harbour Community Hall.

Alain Catteau, PHCC roof placement project manager, told the *Harbour Spiel* that the club has the funding to move ahead with the project which is estimated to cost \$665,000.

Included in that total is a federal grant from the 'Green and Inclusive Community Buildings' program for \$532,000 (*Harbour Spiel*, May 2025).

Catteau said that although it has been "approved in principal," the

photojournal

PHCC has yet to receive the funding.

"While this is an exciting milestone, we know that unexpected costs still lie ahead and for this reason, we are extending our fundraising target to ensure we can cover every expense and deliver a project we can all be proud of," said Catteau in an email.

"We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support, generosity and partnership of our community as we move forward with this project."

According to Catteau, the PHCC has hired an architect as required as part of the building permit application.

Construction is scheduled to commence on June 1, 2026.

For further details, visit the PHCC website, [www.penderharbour-community.club/raise-the-roof-donations](http://www.penderharbour-community.club/raise-the-roof-donations).



submitted

The Rotary Club of Pender Harbour recently handed over a huge cheque for the 'Raise the Roof' campaign, a fundraiser to rebuild the aging roof of the Pender Harbour Community Hall. From l-r: Marlene Cymbalist and Alain Catteau accept the donation on behalf of the P. H. Community Club from Rotary president Ian Grant and Rotarian Jon Paine. The \$10,000 donation was raised from the club's recent Show & Shine at the Legion on Aug. 10 and online 50/50 draws.

October 2025



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**DELICIOUS DINNER:**  
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**TICKETS: \$65**  
Available @ Pender Harbour Legion  
and Groundwaves.

## CFIB report on on inefficiency misleading



*Leonard Lee  
Area A director, SCRD*

You've read the headline:

"SCRD is BC's 'least efficient' regional district says national business association."

The scathing accusation is made in a recent Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses report, "Bureaucracy Over Basics: An Examination of Regional District Spending," which was emailed as a news release to newspapers in the province.

The submitted article either wasn't fact-checked or the *Coast Reporter* editor opted for sensationalist copy over accuracy, including such lamentations as, "the SCRD... is massively overspending" and "there is a lack of

accountability in the regional district system, meaning bureaucracy and red tape can continue to grow unchecked."

I could choose to ignore the misleading and sometimes blatantly false content in the published news release, but this spreads misinformation and I value the accuracy of information.

Most regional districts consider the CFIB study used to support the CFIB claims as seriously flawed, and the conclusions CFIB reaches are not supported by the statistics contained in its own report, e.g. regional districts taking too long to provide services which in fact they do not offer, such as business licences.

The report states that SCRD administrative expenses rose by a high percentage, which is true, but the report also shows that we have the

fourth lowest administration expenses of all 27 BC regional districts examined and we're in the middle of the pack for per capita administrative costs.

That didn't show we were the "least efficient," so they pointed out that our total expense budget per capita is the highest of any regional district but neglected to explain why it was a good or bad thing.

It's a good thing because we partner with our municipalities and assume responsibility to deliver emergency management, recycling, green waste, solid waste, recreational facilities and more, which eliminates duplication of effort and inefficiencies.

To evaluate administration efficiency, rather than comparing the spending of regional districts to provide its services with other regional



## Sunshine Coast Regional District

[www.scrd.ca](http://www.scrd.ca) [info@scrd.ca](mailto:info@scrd.ca)

Egmont / Pender Harbour  
Area A Director Leonard Lee  
[leonard.lee@scrd.ca](mailto:leonard.lee@scrd.ca)  
604-212-0406



### Board and Committee Meetings

**Committee of the Whole**  
October 9 at 9:30 a.m.

**Regular Board**  
October 9 at 1:00 p.m.

**Electoral Area Services Committee**  
October 16 at 9:30 a.m.

**Regional Hospital District**  
October 16 at 1:00 p.m.

**Committee of the Whole**  
October 23 at 9:30 a.m.

**Regular Board**  
October 23 at 1:00 p.m.

Board and Board Committee meetings are held in person in the Sunshine Coast Regional District Boardroom at 1975 Field Road, Sechelt, BC, online via Zoom, and live-streamed to the SCRD YouTube channel.

Zoom and YouTube links are available on the Agenda page of the SCRD website at [www.scrd.ca/agendas](http://www.scrd.ca/agendas).

### Waste Reduction Initiatives Program

We are seeking applications for the Waste Reduction Initiatives Program.

This program is in place to provide funding to community groups and associations, non-profit societies, registered charitable organizations, SD46 and SD93 and school groups for projects that contribute to waste reduction or diversion of materials from the landfill.

**A total of \$7,500 is available.**

To learn more about the program, see past project summaries and to download a copy of the Criteria & Guidelines and Application Form, visit: [letstalk.scrd.ca/wrip](http://letstalk.scrd.ca/wrip).

All applications must be received by midnight on **Monday, October 24, 2025.**



districts providing similar services, it focused on overall administration expenses and the per cent increase from 2018 to 2023.

Although administration expenses don't directly create infrastructure and services, they are essential to their smooth operation and include salaries and expenses of executive officers, administrative support, board remuneration and expenses, accounting, finance services, human resources, staff training and development, professional fees, insurance, office supplies and more.

Many directors agree with some of the statements made in the report, such as reinstating the auditor general for local government, focusing on operating costs, doing a better job of finding efficiencies, merging teams, balancing services and implementing clear key performance indicators with measurable impacts.

I also agree, and the SCRD has provided a number of news releases and public disclosures to support and update the public about our efforts.

A 2023 SCRD news release announced that an organizational review was being undertaken and that no staff increases would even be considered.

By Feb. 5, 2024, staffing increases were being deferred to 2025, pending implementation of the 2024 organizational review

On July 25, 2024, in a corporate and administrative services semi-

annual report, it was disclosed that the internal review of organizational structure and leadership was concluded in Q1 2024, and that its recommendations were being implemented to support efficient and effective service delivery.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The CFIB report recommends ensuring internal oversight mechanisms that include clear KPIs.

A KPI is an tool used to define whether an organization, team or employee is meeting a predefined goal to determine if a current course of action is succeeding as intended.

Common government KPIs include measurements of how quickly services are provided, how well departments meet their budgets, how efficiently resources are used, how satisfied are taxpayers and how well projects are completed on time and within budget.

The SCRD already uses KPIs in our various departments, and they are publicly reported approximately every quarter of every year, such as the most recent one on July 24 at our committee of the whole meeting.

The SCRD has multiple projects underway to ensure we have established clear service levels and to measure success in meeting them, including our evolving corporate work plan, transit service expansion with

BC Transit, a parks service review and an infrastructure service review.

Our directors are also taxpayers, which is one of the strengths of our local government structure; we all want our tax dollars to be wisely spent, and ensure proof is available to show they were spent effectively and efficiently.

KPIs are the best tool to ensure that happens, and we're using them.



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# **FIREWORKS**

**Halloween Night** (weather permitting)

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Come on out with the whole family for a great evening of entertainment, hot dogs, hot drinks and a bonfire at Seafarer's Millennium Park, the best viewing spot in all of Pender Harbour!**

***Please support this event by buying a raffle ticket!***

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**\$2 each or**  
**3 for \$5**

**The P. H. Volunteer Fire Department thanks the donors and those who purchased raffle tickets. Without your help the fireworks display would not be possible.**



## SCRD gets a fail for their waste disposal options

Editor,

Kicks to the person who dumped four sheets of drywall at the entrance to the Klein Lake trail across from Dan Bosch Park.

Bigger kicks to the Sunshine Coast Regional District for not accepting it at all at the Pender Harbour dump, for not accepting drywall manufactured prior to 1990 at the Sechelt dump and for charging \$1,000 per tonne (10 times the rate in the Lower Mainland) for newer drywall.

What does the SCRCD think the lazy or people of limited means will do?

The SCRCD also refuses to accept

styrofoam from docks.

Hello! "Sunshine Coast."

Instead, they tell you:

"For larger-scale commercial or industrial materials like dock foam, contact the Ocean Legacy Foundation directly for disposal options, as it's not accepted at the depot."

This "not our problem" policy is directly responsible for people dumping these things in the bush.

Look around — there's a lot of bush — it's not like anyone is going to get caught dumping illegally.

If the SCRCD cared about the environment, they would encourage convenient, affordable disposal of these items.

Last time I checked, they still permit drywall in new homes.

Talk about hypocrisy.

Cheryl Springman  
Ruby Lake

## photojournal



Jennifer Peters

On Sept. 7, this group of volunteers made up of Rotary Club of Pender Harbour members and family and friends of the 1st Gibsons Scout Troop came out to do a major clean up of the Scouts Canada-owned Camp Burley Scout camp on Mixal Lake. According to Jennifer Peters, Rotary member and Scout leader, 'As a focused team they tackled accumulative storm damage and overgrowth, creating a safer, tidy camping experience for our scouts.' Peters told the *Harbour Spiel* that she takes her son to Gibsons for the scouting experience because there is no longer a scout troop in Pender Harbour.

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Brian Lee and Darlene Fowlie photos

The electrical storm that lit up the Strait of Georgia on Aug. 31. Photos taken at Ruxton Island in the southern Gulf Islands.



## The end of our community gardens?

Editor,

Pender Harbour has been blessed by the beautiful gardens surrounding the community hall in Madeira Park.

They exist thanks to the vision, hard work and generosity of Don Fraser, who not only created them 25 years ago, but also personally did most of the labour and continued to fund their upkeep.

That era has now come to an end, and the cost of keeping the gardens alive is estimated at \$35,000 per year.

Over the past year, the Pender Harbour and Area Residents Association has explored every option we could think of.

We first considered relying on annual donations, but it quickly became clear that small contributions of \$10 or \$20 would not add up to the tens of thousands needed each year.

Donations might help in the short term, but they cannot be counted on year-after-year to cover such a large expense.

We then turned to the idea of volunteer labour; no organization has stepped forward, and only a handful of people offered to help.

The truth is that these gardens require the steady hand of a professional gardener.

After decades of care, their scale and complexity cannot realistically be managed by occasional volunteer efforts.

Finally, we pursued a more formal solution — a modest property tax increase to be managed by the SCRD.

For six months, we circulated petitions in Madeira Park and Garden Bay, seeking signatures from half the households in order to take the first step in an “alternate approval process.”



Don Fraser

Without funding for the Madeira Park Community Gardens, we risk a return to early 2000s Madeira Park, before the gardens were installed.

Despite our best efforts, we collected only a fraction of the signatures required.

We are frustrated to say that every avenue we tried has reached a dead end.

The gardens cannot maintain themselves, and without reliable funding or another group stepping forward to take responsibility, they will inevitably fall into decline.

That would be a loss not only to

the P. H. Community Hall but to the spirit of Pender Harbour itself.

The time for hoping someone else will solve this is over.

If the community values these gardens, it must find a way to secure their future — before the hard work and generosity that created them is lost to weeds and neglect.

Peter Robson

President, P. H. and Area Residents Association

*Pender Harbour Seniors Housing Society  
Outreach Healthy Meal Program*



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## The future of the community gardens is at risk

Editor,

For the past five years, I have had the privilege of maintaining and caring for the Community Hall and Bargain Barn gardens.

It been my joy to nurture them and I know how much they mean to all of us.

Unfortunately, the private funding that supported this work is no longer available and despite efforts to secure backing from local organizations, no solution has been found.

Reluctantly, I will be putting the gardens to bed this fall and waiting for new funding to materialize.

The Madeira Park Community Gardens are a source of pride for residents and a warm welcome to visitors.

They were originally brought

to life through the dedication of Don Fraser, who gave generously of his time, leadership and resources so that our town could enjoy these vibrant, flourishing spaces.

I understand that the Sunshine Coast Regional District has advised that one way to secure reliable funding is through a community referendum that would add a very small fee to our local property taxes.

We need to send a widely-supported petition to start this process in order to create a sustainable fund to maintain our shared green spaces.

Until such a mechanism is in place, or another private donor comes forward, we risk losing the gardens that add beauty to our community, support local businesses by drawing foot traffic and stand as a living legacy

of Don Fraser's vision.

The gardens cannot simply remain as they are.

They are living spaces — without skilled, ongoing care, they quickly become overgrown and lose the beauty and welcome we all cherish.

These mature gardens require professional maintenance; they are far too large and complex to be sustained by volunteers alone.

I do not want to walk away, however I cannot afford to work without fair compensation, or take on the task of securing funds.

I am committed to returning once proper funding is in place and I believe that, together, we can ensure the gardens continue to thrive.

Terri Scott  
Lead garden steward

## obituary

### Diane White

NOVEMBER 18, 1933 — AUGUST 6, 2025



Diane White (formerly of Pender Harbour), age 91, died on Aug. 6 at Trillium Hospice Lodge in Parksville.

She was born in London, England on Nov. 18, 1933.

The world lost a remarkable

woman.

She's remarkable because she moved to a different country, on a different continent.

And then, she moved all over that country, the second largest in the world, without a moment's thought.

She's also remarkable because she lived with the same man, Dave White of Madeira Park (1935 -2010), for over 50 years.

She lived through a world war, recessions, births, deaths, moon landings and, more personally, boat trips, cruises, Mexican trips gone wrong, Hawaiian trips gone right, many many friends and numerous bottles of wine.

White was a regular at the Pender Harbour Legion, and was a long

time member of the Pender Harbour Power Squadron in their beloved boat, *Highlander*.

She was the mother of two very grateful children and is survived by her son Chris White and wife Bridget of Calgary and daughter Donna Barton and husband Reid of Qualicum Beach.

She is also survived by three grandchildren, Chris Barton and girlfriend Michelle of Vancouver, Stephanie Barton and boyfriend Jonny of Parksville and Nora Pickett and husband Jordan of Calgary.

She is also survived by her loving brother Graham Sinclair of Wraybury, U.K.

She will be sorely missed.

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

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## **PHYSICIANS: (604) 883-2764**

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## P. H. Health Centre opens new primary care wing

The Pender Harbour Health Centre is proud and excited to announce the opening of our newly renovated "Primary Care Wing" at the Health Centre.

After four months of renovations and installation of new medical and office equipment, the Primary Care Wing opened to patients on Tuesday, Sept. 9.

The new Primary Care Wing project has created two new treatment rooms, two new office spaces, a virtual care and counselling space and a new accessible wash-room.

Upgrades have been made to air quality, privacy and confidentiality, accessibility and comfort.

The new wing is also equipped with the latest medical and office equipment to improve patient care and help us to attract health-care professionals.

The Pender Harbour Health Centre would like to take a moment to acknowl-



edge those trades and businesses who supported us to complete this renovation.

We first would like to thank SPANI Developments, their crew and their lead contractor, local community member John O'Reilly.

We would also like to thank Mobius Architecture, Olsen Electric, Legacy Plumbing, Solution Based Hazmat, Sunco, Custom Flooring and Kym's Painting. Also, many thanks to the team at the PHHC.

This project would not have been possible without the financial support of our partners and our community.

We would like to give a special thanks to the Mey family, the Sunshine Coast Healthcare Auxiliary and the generous donors to the "Health in the Harbour" fundraiser.

We look forward to welcoming new providers and hearing about our patients' experiences in their new space.

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A reminder that a public boat launch ramp is no place to play. On Aug. 22, this trailer came loose and rolled down the ramp at the Madeira Park government wharf. Unluckily, it had the boat still attached. But, luckily, there were no kids on the ramp at the time. According to one witness, children were playing on the ramp 15 minutes earlier.



submitted

Wilfredo Valdez is all smiles after winning \$13,375 in the Sechelt Hospital Foundation's first ever 50/50 draw on Sept. 12. The other half of funds raised (\$13,375) will go towards supports for the Sechelt Hospital including equipment, facilities, special projects and staff development needs. The next draw will take place Dec. 12.



## P. H. MUSIC SOCIETY COFFEE HOUSE

The P. H. Music Society presents this month's School of Music Coffee House on Friday, Oct. 10. Playing are Brothers in Farms and Tim Bitz Rannart.

Doors (Pender Harbour School of Music) open at 7 p.m. and music starts at 7:30 p.m. There is a suggested \$10 donation for entry at the door.

## PENDER HARBOUR GARDEN CLUB

The Pender Harbour Garden Club is thrilled to present our very own Sandy Matches of Kleindale, on Monday, Oct. 27 at the P. H. School of Music in Madeira Park from 1 to 3 p.m. Proprietor of Handy Sandy Exterior Design, he has designed and installed gardens along the Sunshine Coast for over a decade. With a career mainly in graphic design, Matches also worked in Vancouver for a landscape designer for three years, doing garden installations and renovations. He has gardened and collected specimen plants since he was a kid. Matches will be presenting "Beds and between" and answering your garden related questions. Membership fees are \$20 for a calendar year or \$5 drop in.

## PENDER HARBOUR WOMEN'S CONNECTION

The Pender Harbour Women's Connection welcomes Claire Monnier, owner of local Pilates studio, Practical Movement on Tuesday, Oct. 14. Monnier is a vibrant woman who spent many years in pain. This pushed her to discover her passion — humans being able to move pain free and enjoying life to its fullest. She will share some background history of Pilates and how it can help you. She loves to help people of all ages and will have some of her equipment to try out. Her students range in age from 5 to 85 so if you've ever wondered about Pilates or are curious as to how you can age better, come on out.

The PHWC's guest speaker on Tuesday, Oct. 28 asks: "Does your space evoke your style or that of the previous owner?"

"Have you wanted a more organized space with a new colour scheme, but you don't know where to start?"

Traci Lint, of TLC Consulting, has a proven technique for decluttering that works. She also specializes in colour schemes both inside and outside. Come pick up tips that will help your autumn home reflect you more clearly.

Join us Oct. 11 and 28 to learn ways we can enhance our lives. Please obtain or renew your \$15 membership which is vital in helping fund our activities. Doors open at 9 a.m. and speakers start at 10 a.m. Drop-in fee is \$4, refreshments included, at the P. H. School of Music.

# ORGANIZATIONS DIRECTORY

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- Egmont & District Volunteer Fire Department.....(604) 883-2555
- FLAIR Cancer Support Group.....(604) 883-0660
- FOKUS (10:30 a.m., Fridays @ PHHC).....(604) 740-1151
- GRIPS (Recycling Society) .....(604) 883-1165
- Garden Bay Sailing Club.....(604) 883-2689
- Girl Guides (Guides, Sparks and Embers).....(604) 883-2819
- Harbour Artists .....(604) 883-2807
- Harbourside Friendships (Thur. 10:30 -1 p.m.).....(604) 883-9900
- Health Centre Society .....(604) 883-2764
- Health Centre Auxiliary.....(604) 741-2646
- InStitches (last Thursday of month, 10 a.m.).....(604) 740-1151
- Lions Club, Egmont.....(604) 883-9463
- Lions Club, Pender Harbour (1st & 3rd Tues.).....(604) 883-1361
- Men's Cancer Support Group.....(604) 883-2393
- P. H. Aquatic Centre Society.....(604) 885-6867
- P. H. and Area Residents Association.....(604) 883-9205
- P. H. Blues Society.....(604) 741-1186
- P. H. Choir (7 p.m., Tuesday).....(778) 227-8430
- P. H. Community Club.....(604) 883-9900
- P. H. Community School Society .....(604) 883-2826
- P. H. Garden Club.....(604) 883-9798
- P. H. Golf Club .....(604) 883-9541
- P. H. Hiking Club (8:30 am, Mon. & Wed.).....(604) 883-2274
- P. H. Library .....(604) 883-2983
- P. H. Living Heritage Society.....(604) 883-8065
- P. H. Music Society (bookings) .....(604) 883-9749
- P. H. Piecemakers (quilters).....(604) 883-2573
- P. H. Pipe Band.....(604) 883-0053
- P. H. Power & Sail Squadron.....(604) 883-2086
- P. H. Ramblers (hikers, every Tues. a.m.).....(604) 883-1191
- P. H. Volunteer Fire Dept (Wed. evening).....(604) 883-9011
- P. H. Women's Connection (2nd & 4th Tue.).....(604) 883-0444
- Rotary Club (noon Fri. RC Legion No.112).....(604) 883-2843
- Royal Canadian Legion No. 112 .....(604) 883-2235
- RCM SAR Coast Guard Auxiliary, Unit 61 .....(778) 240-3151
- Ruby Lake Lagoon Society .....(604) 883-9201
- Skookumchuck Heritage Society.....(604) 883-9994
- S. C. Health Care Auxiliary (2nd Wed., 1:30 p.m.).....(604) 741-8413
- Seniors' Housing Society .....(604) 883-2819
- Serendipity Child Care Centre.....(604) 883-2316
- Sunshine Coast Better At Home.....(604) 989-6171
- Sunshine Coast Women's Outreach Services .....(604) 741-5246
- Wildlife Society (3rd Tues. PHSS) .....(604) 883-9853

# Fire SAFETY DAY

Everyone is invited for a free lunch and a presentation on fire safety.

Presented by volunteer firefighters of the Pender Harbour Volunteer Fire Department.



**Thursday,  
Oct. 23**

**10:30am - 1pm**

**Pender Harbour Community Hall**

**Seniors  
Helping  
Seniors**

**PENDER HARBOUR  
SENIORS INITIATIVE**

Sponsored by:  
**Smart Fund**



**HARBOURSIDE  
FRIENDSHIP  
PROGRAM**

Sponsored by:  
**P. H. Health Centre &  
P. H. Health Auxiliary**

**FOR INFORMATION  
OR TRANSPORTATION,  
CALL MARLENE:  
(604) 883-9900**

## Seniors' activities for October!

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

In the Pender Harbour Community Hall. Lunch will be served at 12pm. Cost: \$10 pp.

**Oct. 2 – Tour of Campbell House.** Meet at Community Hall at 10:30am. Lunch will follow in the Community Hall after tour.

**Oct. 9 – Music with Joan & Ted Woodard.**

**Oct. 16 – Armchair travel to Borneo.**

**Oct. 23 – Free lunch and fire safety presentation by P. H. volunteer firefighters.**

**Oct. 30 – No gathering this day.**

.....  
**POWELL RIVER ROAD TRIP: Tuesday, Oct. 28**

A shopping trip to Powell River departing on the 8:20am ferry and return on the 4:35pm ferry. Cost is \$20 to help cover the transportation costs. Please call to reserve a seat.

.....  
**CARPET BOWLING: Wednesdays, Oct. 1, 8, 22 & 29**

At the Pender Harbour Community Hall, 1-3 pm. Cost \$3. (No bowling Oct 15.)

.....  
**CHAIR YOGA: Mondays & Fridays, Oct. 3, 6, 10, 17, 20, 24, 27 & 31**

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

.....  
**CHAIR YOGA: Wednesdays, Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29**

At the Sarah Wray Hall from 11–12pm. Improve your balance, strength & flexibility with gentle moves with Carole Logtenberg or Kristin Tracey. Cost: \$3.



# PENDER HARBOUR COMMUNITY SCHOOL

## Pickleball

**When:** 5:30-7:30  
Monday, Tuesdays,  
Wednesday & Thursdays

**Where:** Pender Harbour  
Secondary School Gym

**Who:** All Ages

**Cost:** \$5.00 Drop in Fee  
Discount for full term  
membership

## Youth Night Drop In

**When:** Oct 24, Nov 14 & Dec 19  
5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

**Where:** Pender Harbour  
Community Hall

**Who:** Students grades 6-12

**What:**

- Games
- Arts & Crafts
- Snacks & Dinner
- Movies

## Outdoor Movie

**When:** Date and Time TBA  
Check out our Facebook page  
for details

**Where:** MPES Field

**Who:** Everyone

**Cost:** Visit our Facebook page  
for movie options and to  
submit your vote

HARBOUR LEARNING CENTRE HOURS:  
Tuesday to Friday  
9am to 3pm  
phcs@dccnet.com

5012 Gonzales Road  
PO Box 232  
Madeira Park VoN 2Ho  
604.883.2826



Pender Harbour  
Community School

[www.pendercommunity.ca](http://www.pendercommunity.ca)

## PENDER HARBOUR AQUATIC & FITNESS CENTRE

[www.scrd.ca/pender-pool](http://www.scrd.ca/pender-pool) • 604-885-6867



Registration for Swim Lessons starts on  
Monday, Oct. 6 at 7am



### REGISTER NOW FOR OTHER FALL PROGRAMS!

Aquatic leadership, exercise & fitness programs and more!

Visit: [www.scrd.ca/recreation-registration/](http://www.scrd.ca/recreation-registration/) for more information.

### HOURS OF OPERATION

#### POOL AND WET AREAS:

Monday & Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday & Sunday
7am to 1pm 3:30pm to 8pm	7am to 8:30am 3:30pm to 8pm	7am to 1pm	7am to 8:30am	10am to 4pm

#### WEIGHT ROOM:

Monday to Wednesday	Thursday & Friday	Saturday & Sunday
7am to 1pm 3:30pm to 8pm	7am to 1pm	10am to 4pm

### MYPASS DROP-IN ACTIVITIES:

Admission is included with your MYPASS, or pay the drop-in rate when you come:

- Adult (18 - 59 years): \$7.35
- Senior (60+ years): \$6.30

#### MYPASS MIX IT UP

Thursdays, 9am

#### MYPASS LAND MEETS WATER

Tuesday & Thursday, 10:30am  
(Thursday classes start Oct. 9)

#### MYPASS AQUAFIT

Tuesday & Thursday, 9am

A huge thank you to everyone for your patience and understanding with the delay in fall swim lesson schedules and the changes to the fall facility hours of operation.



PENDER HARBOUR  
AQUATIC & FITNESS  
CENTRE

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

On lower level of  
P. H. Secondary School:

13639 S.C. Hwy.

604-885-6867

[www.scrd.ca/recreation](http://www.scrd.ca/recreation)

# pender harbour tides ~ october 2025

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:



October	1AM	2AM	3AM	4AM	5AM	6AM	7AM	8AM	9AM	10AM	11AM	Noon	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
Wed 01	10.2	9.1	8.0	6.8	5.9	5.2	4.9	5.1	5.9	7.2	8.8	10.5	12.0	13.2	13.7	13.7	13.3	12.6	11.9	11.2	10.8	10.8	11.0	11.2
Thu 02	11.3	10.9	10.0	8.8	7.4	6.1	5.2	4.8	4.9	5.8	7.3	9.1	11.0	12.6	13.7	14.0	13.8	13.0	12.0	11.0	10.3	10.0	10.2	10.7
Fri 03	11.2	11.5	11.4	10.6	9.3	7.7	6.3	5.2	4.7	4.9	6.0	7.8	9.8	11.8	13.3	14.2	14.2	13.5	12.3	10.9	9.7	9.0	9.0	9.6
Sat 04	10.5	11.4	12.0	12.0	11.2	9.8	8.1	6.4	5.2	4.8	5.2	6.6	8.6	10.8	12.7	14.1	14.5	13.9	12.7	11.0	9.3	8.1	7.6	8.0
Sun 05	9.1	10.5	11.8	12.7	12.7	11.9	10.3	8.4	6.7	5.5	5.2	6.0	7.6	9.8	12.0	13.7	14.6	14.4	13.2	11.3	9.2	7.4	6.3	6.2
Mon 06	7.0	8.7	10.6	12.3	13.4	13.5	12.5	10.9	8.9	7.2	6.2	6.1	7.1	9.0	11.2	13.2	14.4	14.7	13.8	12.0	9.6	7.2	5.4	4.6
Tue 07	4.9	6.3	8.5	10.8	12.8	14.0	14.1	13.1	11.5	9.6	8.0	7.1	7.3	8.6	10.5	12.5	14.1	14.8	14.4	12.8	10.4	7.7	5.2	3.6
Wed 08	3.1	3.9	5.8	8.4	11.1	13.3	14.5	14.6	13.6	12.0	10.3	8.9	8.3	8.8	10.1	11.9	13.6	14.7	14.8	13.7	11.5	8.7	5.9	3.6
Thu 09	2.2	2.2	3.3	5.6	8.4	11.2	13.5	14.8	14.9	14.0	12.6	11.0	9.9	9.6	10.1	11.4	12.9	14.2	14.8	14.3	12.7	10.2	7.3	4.5
Fri 10	2.5	1.5	1.7	3.2	5.6	8.5	11.3	13.6	14.9	15.0	14.2	13.0	11.8	10.9	10.7	11.3	12.4	13.6	14.4	14.5	13.5	11.6	9.0	6.3
Sat 11	3.8	2.1	1.4	1.8	3.4	5.7	8.5	11.2	13.4	14.7	14.9	14.3	13.4	12.4	11.7	11.5	12.0	12.8	13.6	14.1	13.9	12.7	10.7	8.3
Sun 12	5.8	3.7	2.3	1.8	2.3	3.8	6.0	8.5	11.0	13.0	14.4	14.7	14.4	13.7	12.8	12.2	12.0	12.2	12.7	13.3	13.5	13.0	11.9	10.1
Mon 13	8.0	5.9	4.1	3.0	2.6	3.1	4.4	6.3	8.5	10.8	12.8	14.1	14.6	14.4	13.9	13.1	12.4	12.0	12.0	12.2	12.5	12.6	12.3	11.3
Tue 14	9.9	8.1	6.4	4.9	3.9	3.5	3.9	5.0	6.7	8.7	10.8	12.7	14.0	14.6	14.5	14.0	13.2	12.3	11.6	11.3	11.3	11.6	11.8	11.8
Wed 15	11.2	10.2	8.8	7.2	5.8	4.8	4.4	4.6	5.6	7.2	9.2	11.2	13.0	14.2	14.7	14.5	13.8	12.8	11.7	10.7	10.2	10.2	10.6	11.1
Thu 16	11.4	11.3	10.7	9.5	8.1	6.8	5.7	5.2	5.3	6.3	7.9	9.8	11.8	13.4	14.5	14.8	14.3	13.2	11.9	10.5	9.4	9.0	9.1	9.8
Fri 17	10.6	11.3	11.6	11.3	10.3	8.9	7.6	6.4	5.9	6.1	7.1	8.7	10.6	12.5	14.0	14.7	14.6	13.7	12.2	10.5	9.0	8.0	7.8	8.3
Sat 18	9.3	10.5	11.5	12.1	11.8	11.0	9.6	8.2	7.1	6.6	6.9	8.0	9.7	11.6	13.3	14.4	14.6	13.9	12.5	10.7	8.8	7.4	6.7	6.8
Sun 19	7.8	9.2	10.8	12.0	12.6	12.4	11.5	10.1	8.7	7.7	7.4	7.9	9.1	10.8	12.5	13.8	14.4	14.0	12.8	10.9	8.9	7.1	5.9	5.6
Mon 20	6.3	7.7	9.5	11.3	12.6	13.2	12.9	11.9	10.5	9.2	8.4	8.2	8.9	10.2	11.8	13.2	14.0	14.0	13.0	11.2	9.1	7.0	5.5	4.7
Tue 21	5.0	6.2	8.1	10.2	12.1	13.4	13.7	13.3	12.2	10.9	9.7	9.0	9.1	10.0	11.3	12.6	13.5	13.8	13.1	11.6	9.5	7.3	5.4	4.2
Wed 22	4.1	4.9	6.5	8.7	11.0	12.9	14.0	14.1	13.5	12.4	11.1	10.1	9.7	10.0	10.9	12.0	13.0	13.4	13.1	11.9	10.0	7.7	5.7	4.2
Thu 23	3.5	3.9	5.2	7.2	9.6	11.8	13.6	14.4	14.3	13.6	12.5	11.3	10.5	10.3	10.8	11.6	12.5	13.0	13.0	12.1	10.5	8.4	6.3	4.5
Fri 24	3.4	3.3	4.1	5.8	8.0	10.4	12.6	14.0	14.6	14.3	13.5	12.5	11.5	10.9	10.9	11.3	12.0	12.6	12.8	12.3	11.0	9.1	7.1	5.2
Sat 25	3.9	3.2	3.5	4.7	6.5	8.8	11.1	13.0	14.2	14.6	14.2	13.4	12.5	11.7	11.2	11.3	11.7	12.2	12.5	12.3	11.3	9.8	8.0	6.2
Sun 26	4.7	3.7	3.4	4.0	5.3	7.3	9.5	11.6	13.3	14.3	14.4	14.0	13.3	12.5	11.8	11.5	11.6	11.9	12.2	12.1	11.5	10.4	8.9	7.2
Mon 27	5.7	4.5	3.8	3.8	4.6	6.0	7.9	9.9	11.9	13.3	14.2	14.3	13.9	13.3	12.5	11.9	11.6	11.6	11.8	11.9	11.6	10.8	9.6	8.3
Tue 28	6.8	5.6	4.7	4.2	4.3	5.1	6.5	8.3	10.3	12.0	13.4	14.1	14.2	13.9	13.3	12.6	11.9	11.5	11.4	11.4	11.4	11.0	10.2	9.2
Wed 29	8.0	6.8	5.7	5.0	4.7	4.8	5.7	7.0	8.8	10.6	12.3	13.6	14.2	14.2	13.9	13.2	12.4	11.6	11.0	10.8	10.8	10.9	10.8	10.4
Thu 30	9.5	8.5	7.3	6.3	5.5	5.2	5.3	6.1	7.6	9.3	11.2	12.8	13.9	14.4	14.3	13.6	12.7	11.6	10.7	10.1	9.9	10.1	10.4	10.7
Fri 31	10.7	10.3	9.4	8.2	7.1	6.2	5.7	5.8	6.7	8.1	10.0	11.8	13.4	14.3	14.6	14.1	13.1	11.7	10.4	9.3	8.7	8.8	9.3	10.1





Christine Alexander photos

The 'Homecoming: A Raise the Roof Gala' fundraiser on Sept. 6 featured live music by Petunia and the Vipers and raised over \$10,000 for the Pender Harbour Community Club roof and hall updating project. It was also a fun night for all.



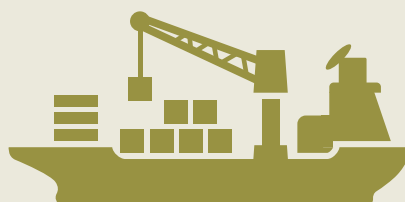
# SKOOKUMCHUCK VIEWING TIMES OCTOBER

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

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

1. 2:18 PM +L
2. 2:40 PM +XL
3. 7:50 AM -L, 3:25 PM +XL
4. 8:58 AM -L, 3:59 PM +L
5. 9:54 AM -L, 4:29 PM +L
6. 10:40 AM -L, 4:43 PM +L
7. 11:41 AM -L, 5:03 PM +L
8. 12:37 PM -L, 5:20 PM +L
9. 1:30 PM -M, 5:55 PM +L
10. 8:14 AM +XL, 2:21 PM -M
11. 9:13 AM +XL, 3:15 PM -M
12. 10:17 AM +XL, 4:14 PM -S
13. 11:23 AM +XL, 5:38 PM -S
14. 12:28 PM +XL
15. 1:29 PM +XL
16. 2:23 PM +XL
17. 8:28 AM -L, 3:08 PM +XL
18. 9:27 AM -L, 3:51 PM +XL
19. 10:19 AM -M, 4:16 PM +L
20. 11:07 AM -M, 4:34 PM +L
21. 11:59 AM -M, 4:47 PM +L
22. 12:37 PM -M, 5:02 PM +M
23. 1:16 PM -M, 5:24 PM +M
24. 1:57 PM -M, 5:53 PM +M
25. 8:36 AM +XL, 2:40 PM -S
26. 8:33 AM +XL, 3:26 PM -S
27. 9:07 AM +XL, 4:17 PM -S
28. 9:48 AM +XL, 5:27 PM -S
29. 10:42 AM +XL
30. 1:11 PM +L
31. 1:20 PM +L

These are estimates only and not intended for navigation.



## CANADIAN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

**41,548,787**

Canadian population (as of April 1).

**7.1%**

Canada's unemployment rate (as of Aug. 1).

**1.7%**

The 12 month (as of July) change in Canada's consumer price index. The CPI measures changes in the prices of goods and services, indicating how prices for things like food, housing and transportation are changing.

**-0.4%**

Canada's "Real GDP by expenditure" drop in the second quarter of 2025 following a gain of 0.5% in the first quarter.

**-0.7%**

Total imports of goods decreased 0.7% to \$66.8 billion in July.

**0.9%**

Canada's total exports of goods increased 0.9% to \$61.9 billion in July.

**\$4.9 billion**

Canada's trade deficit in July. Canadian exports rose for the third consecutive month, narrowing our trade deficit with the world and increasing its trade surplus with the United States. (After falling by 11.2 per cent in April, exports have increased by 3 per cent since then, leaving export levels still significantly lower than before the trade war.)

~ Statistics Canada (Indicators)

## OCTOBER WEATHER

### TEMPERATURES (MERRY ISLAND)

Our average daily high temperature in October is 12.8 C and our average daily low is 8.5 C, giving us a mean daily temperature of 10.7 C. Our average first-frost date (at sea level) is Oct. 30. The highest October temperature recorded was 21.1 C (Oct. 1, 1975); the lowest October temperature recorded was -0.4 C (Oct. 31, 1984).

### PRECIPITATION (MERRY ISLAND)

October has an average of 115 hours of bright sunshine and averages 16 days with measurable rainfall and a total of 108.8 mm for the month. The highest October daily rainfall recorded at Merry Island in October was 62.2 mm (Oct. 21, 1963). The Canadian record for the greatest rainfall in a 24-hour period is 489 mm (Ucluelet BC, Oct. 6, 1967).



## OCTOBER ASTROLOGY

**LIBRA: September 22 – October 23**

Libras seek perfection and harmony and passionately believe in fairness and equality. You are diplomatic, charming, stylish, self-expressive, and spontaneous. Bad

news this month: the Sun will be transiting your 12th house until Oct. 17. Like any pesky house guest, this will impact your love life. Just be patient and be vigilant in all matters pertaining to personal relationships and you should be OK. Try to avoid coffee during this time and ignore the irritation that swells up in you every time your significant other says, "Oh yeaahhh?"

**SCORPIO: OCT. 24 – NOV. 22**

Scorpios are highly sensitive and compassionate, with a fierce pride and determination. People born under this sign are

considered to be dynamic and extreme in their opinions. This month, the presence of Pluto in your sign indicates rebirth and renewal. It's time to change your astral underwear and prepare for what comes next. What that is won't be clear until Oct. 7 when an event occurs that will change your life and set you on an exciting new path. Avoid pets during this time.

## BC BESTSELLERS

## For the week ending Sept. 20

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. Decolonization and Me: Conversations about Healing a Nation and Ourselves** by Phyllis Webstad, Kristy McLeod (Medicine Wheel Publishing)
- 2. John Horgan: In His Own Words** by John Horgan, Rod Mickleburgh (Harbour Publishing)
- 3. Inquisitive Raven** by Richard Wagamese, illustrated by Bridget George (Douglas & McIntyre)
- 4. The Cost of a Hostage: A Lane Winslow Mystery** by Iona Wishaw (TouchWood Editions)
- 5. Whitewater Cooks The Food We Love** by Shelley Adams, Conner Adams (Alicon Holdings)
- 6. Remember Who You Are** by Leona Prince, Gabrielle Prince, illustrated by Sara General (Orca Book Publishers)
- 7. Indigenous Rights in One Minute** by Bruce McIvor (Nightwood Editions)
- 8. Swimming Holes and Beaches of Southwestern British Columbia** by Alex McKeen & George Harwood Smith (Greystone Books)
- 9. The Animal People Choose a Leader** by Richard Wagamese, illus. by Bridget George (Douglas & McIntyre)
- 10. Rufous and Calliope** by Sarah Louise Butler (Douglas & McIntyre)

~ Association of Book Publishers of BC

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- Oct. 1 ~ **Cory Cavalier, Don Macdonald and Lyn Watters.**
- Oct. 3 ~ **Maureen Parrott.**
- Oct. 6 ~ **Rick Higgins.**
- Oct. 7 ~ **Sharlyne Niemela.**
- Oct. 9 ~ **Jolaine Percival.**
- Oct. 10 ~ **Daryl Hegyi, Mitch Jones, Katrina Woodard, Val Silvey and Kate Daniels.**
- Oct. 11 ~ **Bruno Cote and Sarah Silvey.**
- Oct. 12 ~ **Bricin Lyons.**
- Oct. 13 ~ **P. D. Smith and Judy Sim.**
- Oct. 14 ~ **Nicole Forsyth.**
- Oct. 15 ~ **Courtney Hanna, Kaiden Bosch and Richard Norrish.**
- Oct. 16 ~ **Ursula Hardwick and Dane Hanna.**
- Oct. 17 ~ **Peter Vaughan and Leo Wilen.**
- Oct. 18 ~ **Karen Stiglitz, Tommy Gamble, Sandy Matches, Tessa Rand and Cody Honeybourne-Kincaide.**
- Oct. 19 ~ **Doug Hardwick.**
- Oct. 20 ~ **Lonny Edwardson and Doug Richardson.**
- Oct. 22 ~ **Susan Foreman, Katheryn Kelly, Alys English and Mark Clay.**
- Oct. 23 ~ **Diane Dennis.**
- Oct. 24 ~ **Roxanne Gregory and Larry Honeybourne.**
- Oct. 25 ~ **Kerry Rand.**
- Oct. 27 ~ **Dave Malcolm and Cindy Rayko.**
- Oct. 28 ~ **Eric McDermott and Rob Metcalfe.**
- Oct. 29 ~ **Colleen Silvey and Nicholas Silvey.**
- Oct. 30 ~ **Donna Johnson**
- Oct. 31 ~ **Richard Mills and twins Savannah & Sawyer Cote.**

## Raincoast Chronicles 25: *Mámata goes fishing*

*Excerpted from *mámata goes fishing* by Alan Haig-Brown, Harbour Publishing, 2025. Reprinted with permission by the publisher.*

### CHAPTER TWO: 'SALMON SEINE'

In my high school, the kids of fishermen were admired when they returned to class in the fall a month or so late and often driving a fancy car.

Suddenly I found myself about to join this elite group, though I would not be returning to school in the fall.

But fishing, even then, was not all about fancy cars.

Vicki's uncle Buddy Roberts did own a nice new Ford Edsel the day that he set out to cross over from the Mainland in the tide-churned and wind-whipped waters off Cape Mudge, at the southern tip of Quadra Island.

Buddy also had a wife and several children.

As a boy, I had heard of the horrific shipwrecks in these waters, but this was all made real when, in the springtime of 1960, a memorial was held for Buddy.

His body was never found, and only ragged bits of his boat ever came ashore.

The memorial began in what had been the one-room school in the village at Cape Mudge.

There were several speakers, but there is only one that I remember.

Speaking in the K<sup>w</sup>ak<sup>w</sup>ala language, which I do not understand, Chief Billy Assu, then in his nineties, uncoiled his aging frame to stand tall and erect.

I understood that he spoke of the powerful tradition of the Liḡ<sup>w</sup>ilḡax<sup>w</sup> people on the surrounding waters.

He used his cane to strike the floor for emphasis.

I further understood that I was in



Alan Haig-Brown/Vicki Assu Robbins

The *San Jose*, the boat the author crewed on during his first year, here taking on fresh water while tied to a bluff at Knox Bay. The 77-foot seiner was built by Jirokishi Arimoto in 1928. Inset: Herb Assu at the wheelhouse of his family seine boat, the *Departure Bay No. 3*.

the presence of powerful people who lived on powerful waters.

In a token acknowledgement of the traditional potlatch gift-giving ceremony, at that time much weakened, two or three oranges were distributed to each guest.

Young people were assigned to pick up the dozen or so large wreaths and lead us in a solemn procession through the length of the village to the dock.

They then led us down to the flat, where we all boarded Harry Assu's classic seiner, the *W No. 8*, and Ivan Dick's beamy *Eva D II*.

Tied together, the two boats idled

out into the swift running flood tide in Discovery Passage, a short distance off the village.

Once there, the wreaths were dropped from the stern to be carried southward toward the tide rips off Cape Mudge one by silent one.

For all of us standing on the decks of those two seiners, it was a solemn, moving ceremony.

It was a sea-silence that I would come to know more of, and one that I would never forget in all my time at sea.

That first summer, we fished salmon with the 77-foot *San Jose*.

I learned that the boat had



belonged to Herb's father, Dan, until he drowned when he drove his car off a wharf.

Her hull was newly painted green to signify that she now belonged to the Nelson Brothers fishing company.

But the company, owned by two Norwegian immigrants, saw mutual advantage in having the Assu family run the boat.

Herb also owned the smaller 57-foot *Departure Bay No. 3* (DB No. 3), which was skippered that year by Art Chickite, who, like Herb and his family, came from Cape Mudge village of the We Wai Kai people, members of the Liḡwíldaŋw nation.

The *DB No. 3* was built by Jimburo Sawada on Nanaimo's Newcastle Island in 1928 for the Japanese Canadian twin-seine herring fishery.

This was a technique that these fishermen had brought from their homes in Wakayama Prefecture.

Many years later, my Japanese-speaking wife, Ananya, and I would discover a pair of such boats on a beach near the Wakayama town of Mio, from which many had immigrated to Steveston.

The original owner of the *DB No. 3*, Ryutaro Kita, also salted the herring for export to Japan.

Like so many other Japanese Canadian vessels, the *DB No. 3* was confiscated by the Canadian government following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

She was sold by the Canadian government into a fishing company fleet, and Herb bought it from there.

I was told by older crewmen that *DB No. 3* was a seized Japanese Canadian boat, but it would be decades before I was able to trace the full story.

In high school, the Indigenous guys, with their good looks and with money from summers spent commercial fishing, were the leaders of the

"cool" group.

I knew and occasionally hung out with them but didn't have that level of cool.

I soon saw more of that group, as several were members of the Assu/Roberts family that I had married into.

As the child of immigrants — my mother from the U.S. and my father from the U.K. — my cousins were distant ideas.

Now, through marriage, I became part of an extended family with dozens of relatives, old and young.

The *San Jose* was very much a family boat.

Herb was the captain.

His wife, Leoda "Mitzi" Assu, cooked three big hot meals daily with the diesel-fed stove in our compact galley.

Herb's brother-in-law, Jimmy Mitchel, was the deck boss.

He was in his forties, moody, and could be impatient with greenhorns like me.

He also possessed a wealth of

knowledge, which he doled out when he saw fit.

It was Jimmy who taught me to splice the heavy four-strand manila purse lines that we used.

Over the decades, I have added to Jimmy's teachings.

Company-owned boats were painted distinctive colours: Canfisco used black hulls and reddish cabins, BC Packers had black hulls and buff cabins, while Nelsons had green hulls and white cabins.

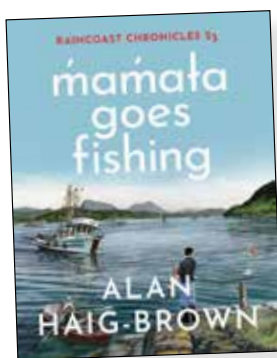
When a fisherman bought a boat, he usually painted it all white.

One day I observed to Jimmy that a particular white-coloured boat must be privately owned.

"Just 'cause it's painted white don't mean he owns it," Jimmy said bitterly.

It was an important intro to corporate debt control of so-called "independent fishermen."

I was to become more conscious of what I would call "corporate debt bondage" in the fishing industry.



In *Raincoast Chronicles 25*, Roderick Haig-Brown recounts his formative years as a deckhand in the 1960s and early '70s on a fishing boat run by the We Wai Kai family he married into as a teenager. The history of commercial fishing and of British Columbia itself, in all its twisting relations with Indigenous peoples, is mirrored in Haig-Brown's vivid account of life aboard, where "there are no typical days" despite the tightly choreographed tasks and immense local knowledge required by this ever-risky business.

#### About the author:

Alan Haig-Brown learned to swim in the 1950s, among the humpback salmon in the Campbell River. He seined salmon and herring until 1973 and served for 11 years as co-ordinator of Indigenous education in the Cariboo-Chilcotin. Haig-Brown became editor of the *West Coast Fisherman* in 1986 and later founded *The West Coast Mariner* and *The West Coast Logger*. His award-winning books for Harbour Publishing include *Fishing for a Living* and *The Fraser River*. He lives in New Westminster and Bangkok, Thailand.

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## community calendar

Calendar listings are provided free of charge by the Harbour Spiel. Send information to [editor@harbourspiel.com](mailto:editor@harbourspiel.com) by the 15th of the month.

# OCTOBER

Thu. Oct. 2.....Harbourside Friendships (tour of Campbell House) - P. H. Community Hall, 10:30 a.m.

Sat. Oct. 4.....Thanksgiving ham/turkey meat draw and pie auction - Royal Canadian Legion 3 p.m.

Fri. Oct. 3.....Live Music with Eddy Edrik - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 6:30 p.m.

Sun. Oct. 5.....Pender Harbour Fall Faire - P. H. Community Hall, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sun. Oct. 5.....Live music (Half Cut and the Slackers) - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 2 p.m.

Mon. Oct. 6.....Full moon

Mon. Oct. 6.....Pender Harbour food bank pickup - P. H. Community Church, 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon

Thu. Oct. 9.....Harbourside Friendships (music with Ted and Joan) - P. H. Community Hall, 10:30 a.m.

Thu. Oct. 9.....SCRD committee of the whole - SCRD boardroom, 9:30 a.m.

Thu. Oct. 9.....SCRD regular board - SCRD boardroom, 1 p.m.

Fri. Oct. 10.....Live Music with Eddy Edrik - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 6:30 p.m.

Fri. Oct. 10.....School of Music Coffeehouse - P. H. School of Music, 7 p.m.

Sun. Oct. 12.....Live music with Mad Cow - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 2 p.m.

**Mon. Oct. 13....Thanksgiving Day**

Tue. Oct. 14....P. H. Women's Connection w/ Claire Monnier (Pilates) - P. H. School of Music, 10 a.m.

Thu. Oct. 16....SCRD electoral services committee - SCRD boardroom, 9:30 a.m.

Thu. Oct. 16....Harbourside Friendships drop-in (armchair to Borneo) - P. H. Community Hall, 11 a.m.

Fri. Oct. 17.....Sunshine Coast Art Crawl (three days) - various locations, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fri. Oct. 17.....Live Music with Eddy Edrik - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 6:30 p.m.

Sat. Oct. 18.....Royal Canadian Legion 112 Ladies' Night - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 5:30 p.m.

Sun. Oct. 19.....Live music with CGR Trio - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 2 p.m.

Mon. Oct. 20...Pender Harbour food bank pickup - P. H. Community Church, 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon

Thu. Oct. 23....SCRD committee of the whole - SCRD boardroom, 9:30 a.m.

Thu. Oct. 23....SCRD regular board - SCRD boardroom, 1 p.m.

Thu. Oct. 23....Harbourside Friendships drop-in (fire safety/lunch) - P. H. Community Hall, 10:30 a.m.

Fri. Oct. 24.....P. H. Community School youth drop-in (Grades 6-12) - P. H. Community Hall, 5 to 9 p.m.

Fri. Oct. 24.....Live Music with Eddy Edrik - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 6:30 p.m.

Sun. Oct. 26....P. H. Music Society Concert Series "Over the Moon" - P. H. School of Music, 2 p.m.

Sun. Oct. 26.....Live music with Matchbox Bluze - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 2 p.m.

Mon. Oct. 27....P. H. Garden Club presents Sandy Matches - P. H. School of Music, 1 p.m.

Tue. Oct. 28....P. H. Women's Connection w/ Traci Lint - P. H. School of Music, 10 a.m.

Tue. Oct. 28.....P. H. Seniors Initiative Powell River road trip, via the 8:20 a.m. ferry

**Fri. Oct. 31.....Halloween**

Fri. Oct. 31.....PHVFD Halloween fireworks display - Madeira Park government wharf, 7:30 p.m.

Fri. Oct. 31.....Live Music with Eddy Edrik - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 6:30 p.m.

Sat. Nov. 1.....Halloween Howl Dance and Costume Extravaganza w/ Joe Rotundo - RCL 112, 7:30 p.m.

Harbour Spiel Trivia Answers:    1. **b**       2. **c**       3. **d**       4. **a**       5. **a**       6. **b**

*"Hating people is like burning down your own home to get rid of a rat."*

*~ Harry Emerson Fosdick*





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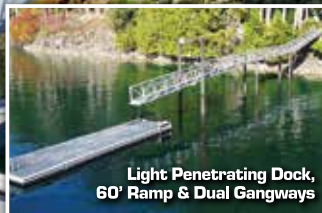


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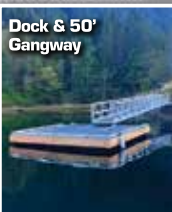
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Before



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