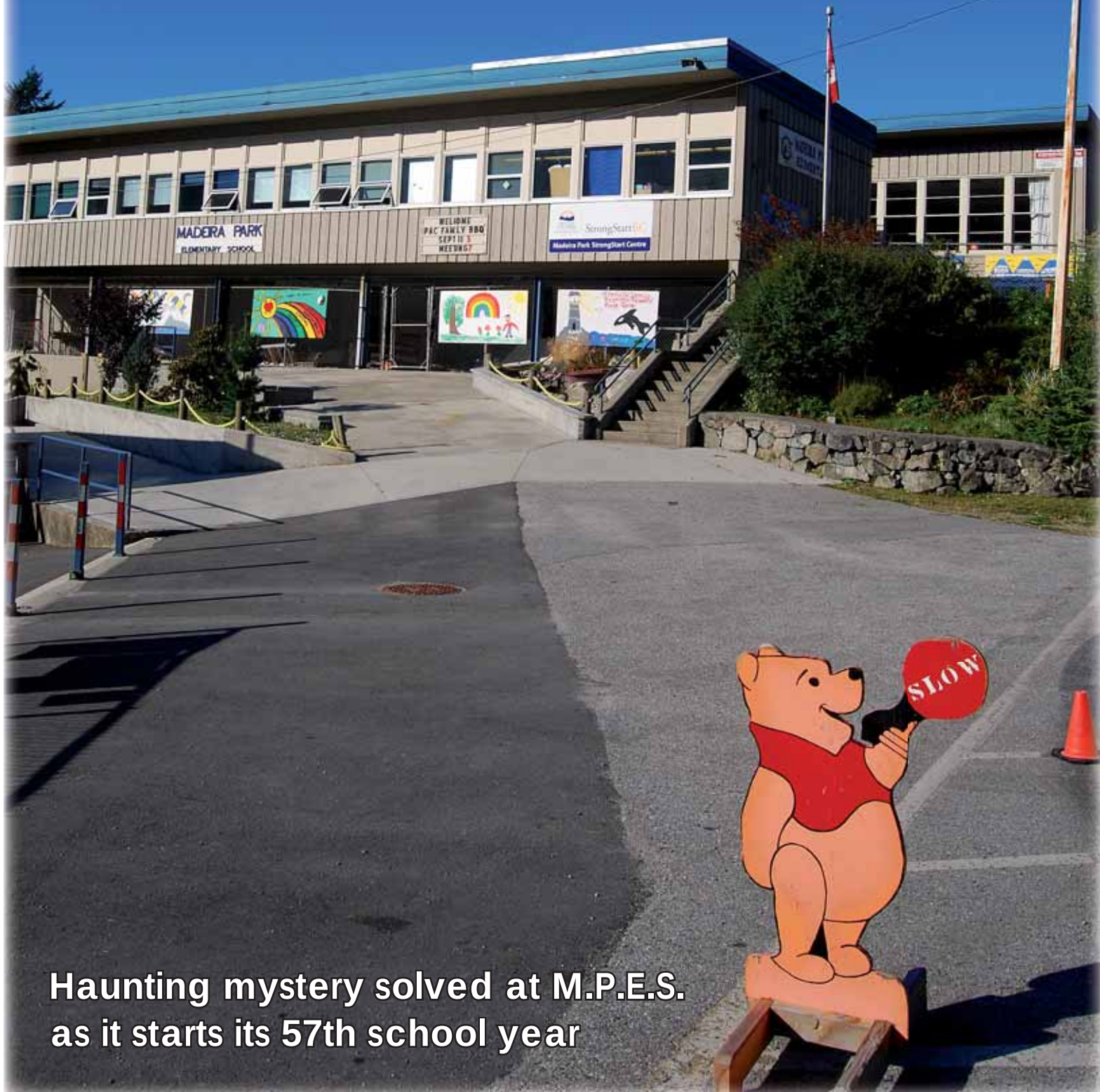


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*The
Independent Voice of
Pender Harbour & Egmont
since 1990.*

HARBOUR SPIEL

OCTOBER 2008
ISSUE 214



**Haunting mystery solved at M.P.E.S.
as it starts its 57th school year**



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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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EDITORIAL

Will a contender please step forward?



By Brian Lee

I first had an inkling there must be an election coming when I drove by the White property on Francis Peninsula Road and noticed some colourful NDP orange and green “Dana Larsen” signs displayed prominently on the lawn. Frank’s on the ball, I thought — they were the first signs I’d seen anywhere.

Later (it might have even been that evening), I turned on the news to see Mr. Larsen with 25 joints in his mouth followed by video of him driving through an LSD trip smoking a joint he’d wisely rolled before dropping.

Frank’s signs were gone the next day.

Soon after, I noticed our current MP, the embattled ex-Liberal and current Green Party hero, Blair Wilson’s signs. They looked like they were made by a kindergarten class with lime coloured mistints and hand-cut stencils.

Apparently others agreed with me because Saturday morning revealed ditches full of the mangled sign carcasses. (Note to future candidates: don’t post your signs at ground level outside the Grasshopper Pub.)

Conservative candidate, John Weston’s signs fared a little better. His took their share of casualties too but, a week into the signage battle, I started noticing them high in trees, obviously nailed with the help of a big ladder. Score one for the Conservatives.

As all these shenanigans played out, I was left wondering who our Liberal candidate was. I suppose I could consult a newspaper but signs are, like, easier to read so I waited.

After a week went by and no Liberal or NDP signage appeared I became suspicious and, like any good journalist, I turned to the internet for answers.

The top three Google search results for “Liberal riding Sunshine Coast” turned up three web sites claiming Blair Wilson was my Liberal candidate. I was pretty sure that was wrong so I looked way down until I found a different name.

It turns out that the man chosen to lead Pender Harbour and Egmont’s Liberal interest into Ottawa is none other than the Mayor of Squamish, Ian Sutherland.

But could I vote for someone who doesn’t even have signs out? Even the guy on acid had more savvy than that.

Speaking of which, some more Google sleuthing turned up a new NDP candidate, Bill Forst.

This guy actually lives on the Sunshine Coast so I called our NDP riding association phone number (886) listed on an NDP web page.

A recorded message told me I could press “1” to leave a message for Forst’s wife, Pat, or call another number if it’s an emergency. No mention of either his name or the NDP. I hung up.

I’ll vote Obama.

About the new format: You may have noticed the *Harbour Spiel* looks different this month. It’s now printed on a different type of press. The previous printing method produced a very high quality product but didn’t make it economical to print more copies or to add colour. The *Harbour Spiel* is now a little smaller (8” x 10.5”) but thicker (52 pages, 10 colour) and is now distributed to 400 more households from Egmont down to Halfmoon Bay (Leaning Tree Road and Copper’s Green). I hope you enjoy it and thank you for your continued support. — Brian Lee

SPIEL PICKS

EIGHTH ANNUAL FALL FAIRE — OCTOBER 4

Come out to the annual celebration of the harvest. Exhibitions of produce, baking, floral arrangements and more plus a Bouncy Castle, an artisans' show and sale, live entertainment. Come milk Hilda the Harbour Heifer, take a hay-ride and enjoy some fish and chips at the Legion afterwards followed by their Saturday Meat Draw. Events shared between Madeira Park Centre and P. H. Legion. Support this event by purchasing a raffle ticket, on sale until the afternoon of Oct. 4.

P. H. POWER AND SAIL SQUADRON PRESENTS: OKTOBERFEST — OCTOBER 18

Come out to the P. H. Community Hall for a night of traditional Bavarian food, beer, wine and dancing with a live band. It's presented by Pender Harbour Power and Sail Squadron. All proceeds in aid of the Pender Harbour Abbeyfield House. Saturday, October 18th, 2008 P. H. Community Hall, Madeira Park. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$30.00 each available at Harbour Insurance and Harbour Spirit.

EGMONT HERITAGE CENTRE PRESENTS: BC 150 WITH JEAN BARMAN — OCTOBER 18

Author Jean Barman will visit the Egmont Heritage Centre again this fall to read from her new book, *British Columbia, Spirit of the People*. This lovely coffee table book captures the history and beauty of BC. Ms. Barman will sign her book following the reading.

P. H. MUSIC SOCIETY PRESENTS: JINJOO CHO — OCTOBER 19

When 17-year-old South Korean violinist Jinjoo Cho finished her performance at the 2006 Montreal International Musical Competition "the public stood motionless, spellbound by the power and uniqueness of what had just occurred." With the help of Festival Vancouver's Outreach program, we are able to bring her to Pender Harbour with her accompanist Justyna Maj. Oct. 19, 2 p.m., P. H. School of Music.

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Pender Harbour SCRD satellite office opens

The Area A satellite office for the Sunshine Coast Regional District opened on Sept. 15 but it looks like it may take some getting used to.

Despite the fact the office will save an hour drive down the coast, it hasn't been well utilized in its first two weeks of operation.

"I've had two people in," said Pender Harbour SCRD receptionist Kelly Kammerle.

"I've had someone come and drop off their building plans and had someone phone regarding subdivision setback requirements."

The official opening for the new SCRD office isn't until October 22, giving staff some time for a trial run.

A full-time staff member in Pender Harbour will provide information and assist in directing direct inquiries to the appropriate sources at the main office in Wilson Creek.

Besides an informational resource, the office will provide a meeting place for appointments with building inspectors, planning staff and other SCRD personnel.

Complicated processes like subdivision applications and building permits often involve multiple trips, hindering Area A residents' access to SCRD services.

Area A Director John Rees started petitioning for the new office in 2005 when the SCRD moved from Sechelt to its current location in Wilson Creek.

He presented the case that Area A needed an office because of distances required to travel, the separation from local government, the volume of applications and the issue of added emissions.

Eventually his proposal got the

attention of the board to support a pilot project.

"For the last six years, Area A has led the Sunshine Coast in building permit applications and subdivision applications... actually we've probably had half of the building permit applications over the last six years," Rees said.

"So all of those folks are travelling pretty good distances to get their information from the regional district."

Rees adds this is a pilot project and will be watched closely.

"The more it's used, the more the regional district will respond."



Songs for Abbeyfield

A fundraising concert
for the Abbeyfield House
Building Fund

Sunday
12 October 2008
2:30 pm

Three voices - one common cause.
Award-winning folk music legend Penny Lang, Sunshine Coast
Festival of the Performing Arts vocal award recipient Edmund Arceo
and accomplished mezzo soprano Celia Howard
singing their favourite songs for Abbeyfield.
Piano accompaniment by Edith Troup and Joy McLeod.

St. Andrew's Anglican Church
12856 Harbour View Road, Madeira Park

Tickets \$20

Available at Copper Sky Gallery & Café and at
Harbour Insurance, Madeira Park

Wolves seen carrying off pet in Kleindale

Pet owners are being warned after a wolf snatched a pet in Kleindale on the morning of Sept. 6.

Frank and Joka Roosen's two Pomeranian/Maltese sisters were out playing on the mudflats of the salt marsh in front of their house.

"I heard yelping and went out to check," said Joka Roosen.

"I called them and only one came."

Roosen said that when she went to check on the other dog she saw two wolves with one carrying away Goldie.

Her husband Frank said he saw another wolf come back two days later.

It's the first time he's ever heard of wolves in the 35 years that he's

lived in the area.

Sunshine Coast Conservation officer Murray Smith said that, if this was a wolf attack, it would be the first one he's heard about.

"We only had a few wolves as of a couple years ago," said Smith.

"When I say few, we had like four that were known and had been seen."

Smith says the wolves he knows about were spotted around the Half-moon Bay area and doesn't suspect this incident indicates an overall increase in the local wolf population.

"It's a really new phenomenon and the proof will be in the pudding to see if it continues."



Mocha, a Pomeranian/Maltese, poses for a photo in front of the spot where her sister was killed by wolves a week earlier.



PENDER HARBOUR AQUATIC & FITNESS CENTRE *HEALTH IN MOTION*

SPECIAL EVENTS!

- **Splashin' Sneakers 'n' Snacks: No School!** Come and play at the pool noon-3 pm, Friday, Oct. 24. \$2 admission, includes a light snack.
- **Swamp Monsters!:** Tuesday Oct. 28. 6:30-9 pm. Crazy spooky fun! Crocodile wrestling, treasure hunts and more!
- **Thanksgiving Swim:** Sunday Oct. 12 2-5 pm. Bring a donation of a non-perishable food item for the Food Bank and family admission is ½ price.

FITNESS NEWS!

- **NIA** begins Wed., Oct. 8, 5:30-6:45 pm.
- **Group Personal Training for 55+ :** 6 Wednesdays beginning Oct. 22, 9-10:15 am. (Pre-registration required for both programs.)

PH AQUATIC SOCIETY AGM:
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23 7PM,
PHSS

For our complete schedule of swim times and fitness classes visit us on the web at WWW.SCRD.CA under Services.

(604) 885-6866

Real estate auction nets automatic sales at Sakinaw Ridge

Local developers watched closely as five properties within the Sakinaw Ridge development near Irvine's Landing were auctioned on Sept. 3.

Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers hosted about 80 people at Richmond's River Rock Casino for the event and they were joined by 70 people online plus another 20 or 30 who took part in Edmonton via live simulcast.

The auction was unreserved meaning there was no minimum bid and all properties would go to the highest bidder regardless of price.

"That makes it pretty exciting and I think it makes it very fair for the crowd," said Kim Shulz, corporate communications manager for Ritchie Bros.

"They go to the property or house or whatever we're selling and decide for themselves how much they want to pay and then on auction day bid accordingly."

The five properties were part of the 29-lot, 70-acre first phase of the Sakinaw Ridge development.

Two oceanfront parcels, both just over 1.5 acres, sold for \$470,000 each while two larger ocean view lots of 2.49 and 3.55 acres respectively sold for \$230,000 each. A fifth 5.58 acre lot sold for \$145,000.

Developer David Milne of BGD Holdings Ltd. said he got the results he expected.

"We would have liked to get a little higher but, at an auction like that, everybody's there for a deal," said Milne.

"I think some people got some decent deals."

Milne said he decided to pursue the auction sale as an alternative to dropping prices or increasing market-



map courtesy of Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers

At a recent real estate auction at River Rock Casino, Lots 1 and 2 sold for \$470,000 each, lots 3 and 4 for \$230,000 and lot 5 for \$145,000.

ing expenditures.

Before the auction, only 11 of the 29 lots had been sold.

"The strategy was twofold. It wasn't just to sell lots but it was to build awareness because we have a lot more lots to sell there," Milne said.

Milne says he couldn't say when development might start on the 310-acre, second phase of the Sakinaw Ridge property.

He told the Spiel that the auction

attracted a lot of people to the subdivision this summer and there has been one sale since with a couple more possibly in the works.

Milne said he has no plans to hold another auction sale in the immediate future but will consider it depending on how the real estate market moves.

Area A Seniors' Housing Outreach Healthy Meal Program



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I know our customers will enjoy the applesauce!

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DON'T MISS THE P. H. VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL

FIREWORKS

Halloween Night

**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

Tickets are available at the IGA, S.C. Credit Union, Liquor Store, Oak Tree Market, Rona, P.H. Diesel, Copper Sky Cafe, Harbour Insurance, Java Docks or from your favourite Pender Harbour Firefighter. Winners are drawn Halloween night at the fireworks.

ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS THE PHVFD FIREWORKS DISPLAY FUND.

PRIZES:

- 2.5HP Mercury 4-stroke outboard motor - Madeira Marina
- \$400 value gift certificate - SCCU
- Satellite radio - Remax
- His and hers watches - Marina Pharmacy
- \$200 value gift certificate - Pender Harbour Diesel
- \$200 value gift certificate - IGA
- \$200 value meat package - Oak Tree Market
- \$200 value boat gas - John Henry's Marina
- 3/8" Drill and \$100 - Rona
- Circular saw - Harbour Insurance
- \$100 value gas gift certificate - Prudential Sussex Realty



Employment centre set to open outreach branch in Madeira Park

Starting Oct. 8, the Sunshine Coast Employment Centre will offer an outreach centre in Madeira Park every Wednesday until Dec. 10.

The employment centre will be open for four hours per week in the Madeira Park Community School building and will provide an extension of the employment services offered in the Sechelt office.

Operated by M. Magas and Associates, the outreach centre is a government funded pilot project that may continue if there's sufficient interest.

The SCEC provides free employment services, support and information to individuals.

"Basically, we're employment coaches," says Joanne Sankew who

works in the Sechelt office but lives in Pender Harbour. Sankew said they decided to start the pilot project after she began noticing clients hitchhiking to Sechelt to access their services.

The office will be open Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.. For more information, call (604) 885-7443 or visit www.scces.ca.

Area A director race uncontested so far

There are many rumours flying around about who might be willing to take a shot at the Area A Director's position, but so far there's only one confirmed candidate.

Egmont's Geoff Craig confirmed in September his candidacy for the local government election slated for Nov. 15.

Craig is the current chair of the Area A Advisory Planning Committee and has been heavily involved with the Egmont Heritage Centre.

The nomination period doesn't close until Oct. 10 so it is possible the position will be contested.

Outgoing director John Rees has held the position since 2002.

Last week, a local newspaper reported that Rees was throwing his endorsement behind nominee Craig.

Rees later stated on a local online bulletin board that, when asked about Craig, he told the reporter "He will make a good candidate."

"If that amounts to an endorsement then so be it," he said about the incident.

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SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT



1975 Field Road, Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A1
www.scrd.ca
Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8:30 - 4:30

(604) 885-6800 (tel)
(604) 885-7909 (fax)

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Thursday, October 2, 2008

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

Thursday, October 9, 2008

- 1:30 p.m. Infrastructure Services Committee

Thursday, October 16, 2008

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

Thursday, October 23, 2008

- 10:00 a.m. Special Infrastructure (Watershed) Committee
- 1:30 p.m. Community Services Committee

Thursday, October 30, 2008

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

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 and can be reached at 604-883-2243.

AREA A ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION

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

Wednesday, October 29, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
Pender Harbour School of Music.

OFFICIAL OPENING - SCRD SATELLITE OFFICE – AREA A

Join us for refreshments on October 22, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. for the Official Opening

On September 15th, 2008, the SCRD opened a satellite office in Madeira Park at 12828 Lagoon Rd. The office is open from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday. Services include:

- full time staff providing information and directing inquiries to the right person or source at the SCRD;
- water services staff available five days a week.
- Building Inspectors, available by appointment;
- Planning staff, available by appointment;
- building permit applications and other forms available on site; and
- secure drop off location for plans, applications and other documents.

SOUTH PENDER HARBOUR WATER SYSTEM CUSTOMERS

Water levels are low in the supply lakes for the South Pender Water System due to the dry weather. Please comply with the current Stage 2 water restrictions:

ODD numbered addresses sprinkle on **odd** dates

6:30 – 8:30 P.M. ONLY

EVEN numbered addresses sprinkle on **even** dates

6:30 – 8:30 P.M. ONLY

Please practice water conservation methods for all other water use. Your co-operation is appreciated.

www.scrd.ca

Firebug at the Pender Harbour High School

A series of suspicious fires has RCMP asking the public for their help to find the culprit(s).

A teacher at PHSS discovered a student's school bag on fire in a change room at approximately 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday Sept. 16.

Though some of the student's clothing and schoolbooks were burned, no one was injured and the building wasn't damaged.

The second fire occurred on the next day when, at approximately 2:45 p.m., another teacher put out a small

fire in a garbage can at the back of the school. Again, no one was injured and the building wasn't damaged.

On the morning of Sept. 19, a smoke detector was activated in the school, alerting staff and students to a fire started in a garbage can in the hallway.

A student pulled the trash bin outside before the fire was extinguished by a teacher. No one was injured, nor did the school itself sustain any damages.

PHOTOJOURNAL



Sue McDonald photo

Jack Crabb carved this wooden sculpture of a cormorant and donated it to the Fall Faire raffle. Crabb has donated many of his carvings over the years and the evidence is everywhere throughout Madeira Park. His carvings have become part of the town's character and it when you start counting them up, you realize there's a lot of them. Jack suffered a stroke recently and is in the hospital recovering but his wife Helen says she's optimistic he'll be home soon, carving.

8th Annual

FALL FAIRE Saturday, October 4th

HARVEST EXHIBITION

11-3:00 p.m. P. H. Legion.
Competitions for: Garden Produce, Preserves, Baking, Cookie Decorating, Floral Arrangements and more. Entry forms at the Community School & Harbour Spirit.

HARVEST AWARDS

3:00 p.m. Preceded by the famous Pender Harbour sampling, by donations to our Food Bank.

FOR THE KIDS

Bouncy Castle and Boat Building, Outside the Community Hall.

ARTISANS SHOW AND SALE

10-4 p.m. at the Community Hall.
See the best of local artists/artisans. Call Peggy: 883-9007

MORE EXHIBITIONS

Live Entertainment - Legion
Quilt Show - School of Music
Amateur Photo Contest- P. H. Legion

MORE CONTESTS

Meet Hilda the Harbour Heifer & pit your skills against the fastest mechanical cow-milkers in Pender Harbour

MORE GREAT FOOD

Enjoy a special Fish & Chips Lunch at the Legion followed by the Meat Draw at 3:00 p.m.

MORE FUN

Hayrides between all venues!

MORE INFO

For more info, call Carol Krych, Fall Faire chairperson: 883-9844

FALL FAIRE RAFFLE

1st prize:

Weekend retreat for two at Salt Spring Spa Resort

2nd prize:

Fused glass by Maggi Hampson

3rd prize:

Carving by Jack Crabb

4th & 5th prizes:

Gift certificate for The Restaurant at Painted Boat.

Tickets on sale until Oct. 4.

Rees attempts to tie up loose ends before leaving office



*By John Rees
SCRD Director,
Area A*

SCRD SATELLITE OFFICE IN MADEIRA PARK

Mark October 22 at 11 a.m. on your calendar for the official opening of this new facility (formerly the SPHWD office on Lagoon Road).

Light refreshments will be served and you can talk to staff about the range of services that will be available

locally for residents, in addition to the water system information and service.

This initiative started a number of years ago about the time the SCRD offices moved to the top of Field Road at Wilson Creek. At that time my return trip became 84 kilometres and 1.5 hours in travel time, and that's from Madeira Park. For other areas such as Garden Bay and Egmont you can add another hour and 50-75 kilometres to the return trip.

This geographical separation certainly made it difficult for taxpayers here to access and fully understand available services.

For this reason alone, the move is logical but local residents will also be able to gather information on land planning (including mapping and uses), building inspection and bylaws etc.

In return for the taxes we pay locally I have always been of the opinion that we should get a few jobs back to help develop and sustain the community.

At the moment, we do have employees at the pool and the landfill but this new office facility will possibly bring a few more good jobs from our local government.

Sadly, we do not have federal or provincial jobs here. Maybe that's a question to ask those politicians who will knock on your door soon looking for your support, so that they can then disappear for another four years.

This service is a start. As we grow in Area A I can see our staff here grow along with us.

Over the next several years the debate about incorporation will come up again.

I can tell you at this time that whatever form of local government we end up with here, we will not get better service from staff than we currently have at the SCRD. Keep in mind, staff do not make policy, they simply implement board decisions made by elected officials.

I came to politics with a business background and, at first, I found government procedures frustratingly slow and cumbersome. In business, you make a decision today and implement it tomorrow. Not so in government.

There are so many procedures in place to protect the taxpayer that seemingly simple initiatives take for-



PENDER HARBOUR LIONS CLUB

**The Pender Harbour Lions Club
needs new members!**

The Lions simply generate funds to give to local people and community organizations. Recently, funds have been given to the health centre, Abbeyfield project, several student bursaries and several people in need. Funds are generated by profits from pancake breakfasts, renting out the Lions' Hall and park, firewood sales and other activities.

The Lions are a non-political and non-religious organization with both men and women as members. It is part of Lions International (lionsclubs.org) which is the worlds largest service organization with about 44,500 clubs and over 1.4 million members in 201 countries.

But the Pender Harbour Lions membership is down and needs more members to be able to sustain the current level of activities.

The Lions own the Lions' Park in Kleindale which is a magnificent piece of property with a meeting hall, childrens playground, trails and the soon to be ready Lions' Sports Field which is funded and operated by the SCRD. Come up and take a look!

If you feel like volunteering a small amount of your time then please contact John Forward (883-2564), Charlie Park (883-0453) or Peter Benjafield (883-1108) for more information.

ever to complete.

It did not take me long to adjust, understand and support the system and, with the help of a great staff, from top to bottom (I will miss them all), I honestly feel that our area has made some modest progress over the last six years.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Over the next couple of months I will be attempting to finalize a few of the more complex issues that currently come under the heading, "work in progress."

AREA A FORESHORE APPLICATIONS (DOCKS)

Briefly — our local government has been boxed out of discussions between the provincial government and the Sechelt Indian Band for the last five years.

It now appears that the provincial government is trying to resolve First Nations and non-aboriginal concerns on this matter and have implemented a process around the province — wait for it — with the exception of the Pender Harbour area.

As a result, I have requested and obtained a meeting with the SIB and SCRD in an effort to try to resolve this longstanding moratorium and to shape an agreement that would be acceptable to the province, First Nations and involved residents.

The meeting will take place in mid-October and I will keep you posted.

REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY

All Sunshine Coast politicians will be wrestling with the mechanics and cost of this strategy over the next

several months.

It is a huge undertaking and, possibly, a necessary initiative but I have reservations about the unknown deliverables, particularly for this area.

A similar RGS is currently being completed by the Squamish Regional District and we have been informed at the SCRD that it took four to five years and cost more than \$1 million.

My concerns on this issue are the length of time to complete with a disproportionate cost to this community under the existing funding formula.

I am on record at the SCRD as follows: That we in Area A would support a commitment on an RGS providing that it was funded on a more equitable plan, eg. population.

Also, due to the time period required of four to five years, I've proposed that the SCRD board support an application to the province for a phase one study on incorporation for Area A to run concurrently with

the RGS.

At this time the province's position is that an Area A study would have to wait until an RGS was completed. My opinion is that this is a totally unfair decision, and easy to overcome since an RGS on the Sunshine Coast may never be completed.

COMMUNITY BUS

We're making good progress and hope to have something more definitive by next month's column.

LINE PAINTING ON LOCAL ROADS

I wonder how that happened?

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL ADDITION

First contracts will be let this fall and foundation work on this \$40-million project will start in January with completion scheduled for spring 2011.

I have enjoyed working on the governance committee for this project but will have to stand down soon.



Jolly Roger Inn
Family Restaurant & Lounge

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LUNCH & DINNER: 11 am - 8 pm
SUNDAY BREAKFAST: 10 am - 2 pm

CLOSED OCT. 5 - NOV. 6

Re-opening Nov. 6!

~Reservations required~
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On the trail of squished snails: A visit to the Madeira Park



The Grade 1 class at Madeira Park Elementary on their first full day of school.

By Brian Lee

I was in.

It was over a year ago when I made my first attempt to get inside the walls of the Madeira Park Elementary School in order to finally solve the mystery of what actually happens on the first day of Grade 1.

I'd severely underestimated the security of this organization. Stumped by media release forms and criminal record checks, I watched September 2007 pass by unwitnessed. It only made me more suspicious and

strengthened my resolve.

First, I had to convince the administrator that I was a serious journalist looking to report on the happy playtime of the first day of school. My instincts told me there was a story more sinister here but nothing could have prepared me for what I was about to find.

When I walked in, everything seemed pretty normal: happy kids singing and freshly made crafts hanging from a wall more colourful than Skinny Jimmy's car.

As I eyeballed the room for a

clue, my eyes were met by the steely gaze of the Grade 1 teacher, Mrs. Lansimaki. The cat and mouse game had begun.

After introductions, the class went outside and Mrs. Lansimaki divided the class of nine into groups of three. I knew I had to get the kids away from the teachers to get them to talk — and talk they did.

First up were Amelia Gray, Raven Ramsay-Caddell and Emma Noel.

"Is that a cellphone?" asked Emma, pointing to my digital recorder.

"Yeah. It's a cellphone," I lied.

Not wanting to spook them, I started out with some easy questions to break the ice.

"How was your first day of school?" I asked casually.

"It was very short." Emma quickly replied. This kid knew how to play the game. I wasn't getting anything here so I moved on to Amelia.

Something to Squirrel away?

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Elementary on the first day of school

“What was your favourite thing about the first day of school?”

“The art we did. One art we did a tree with leaves on it and then we did a square with a piece of paper and you had colours on it and then you can make it into a puzzle.”

I wasn’t buying this smokescreen either so I asked Raven how his day went.

“We getted to play with the trucks,” he said. Emma added that Amelia also played with the trucks.

Trucks... could that be it? But before I could pursue this with another question, they were off about how Amelia and Raven were best friends.

“We were best friends until we was a baby,” said Raven.

“Well, how do you like your new teacher?” I asked, hoping to gain back control.

“She’s really nice,” said Emma quickly.

“You’re good,” I thought seeing straight through that adorable blond facade.

Obviously, someone had got to them first. They weren’t giving up anything and the frustration crackled in my voice.

“So is there anything else you can tell me about your first day of school?”

“I seen her underwear,” said Raven pointing to Amelia.

I was done with these three.

“OK, get outta here.”

I was starting to think maybe the Grade 1 class really was just a bunch of innocent little kids.

But mine was a waiting game and the next group revealed a crack in their underworld code that would soon be their downfall.



Suspect Group 1: Amelia Gray, Raven Ramsey-Caddell and Emma Noel



Suspect Group 2: Julia Massullo, Ella Nya Goulette and Jade Sheldstad.



Suspect Group 3: Derek Ewen, Brayden Zayshley and Tiana Seabrook.

continued on page 16

Snails (cont.)

(continued from page 15)

This time up, Mrs. Lansimaki sent over three girls: Ella Nya Goulette, Jade Ann Shelstad and Julia Massullo.

I started out with the basics again and asked how their first day of school went.

“Perfect!” chirped Ella Nya.

“Great!” echoed Jade.

My shoulders sank with the realization that they too had been coached in their answers but I pressed on.

“How about you, Julia?”

“We didn’t get to go to gym,” she said emphatically. “All we had to do was stay in the classroom and colour.”

I smelled blood.

“Was that good?”

“Not really.”

Julia wasn’t playing their game.

She continued, “I was holding a snail in my hand like that and I just let go for a second and I accidentally sling-shotted it.”

This confession seemed to shatter the secret bond of sisterhood and the girls started singing like canaries.

“Me and my two friends, one was not in my class and one was, and we chased some big kids because they were bullying,” said Jade in a staccato burst.

“They bullied you on your first day of school? I asked.

“They didn’t bully me because it was my first day. My two friends



Emma tries to distract the interviewer with a spider. The spider survived, unharmed — the snails weren’t so lucky.

helped me chase them and they thought they were the bear team and one of our friends, who was a little boy in our class, he was in the bear team by accident because this morning we saw some snails and the boys were trying to kill them with big rocks,” said Jade.

“That was Brayden and Kyle from Grade 2. But we tried to protect them.”

My mind was swimming with the implications of what was unfolding before me.

“How many snails do you think you saved?” I asked, my voice rising.

“Twenty nine hundred,” said Julia, just a little too quickly.

“So, you counted them?” I asked sensing a fib.

“Just one was dead,” said Jade.

“I crushed two,” piped Julia, a little bit insulted.

“I thought it was just the boys who were crushing the snails?” I chided back.

(Giggles from Julia)

Sensing Julia’s mistake, Jade

tried to cover for her friend. “Well, the rest were all right.”

Clearly there was a cover-up taking place and I needed to talk to the boys.

Armed with this new information, I felt confident I’d get the answers I was searching for from the last three, Derek Ewen, Brayden Zayshley and Tiana Seabrook.

Remembering that fishing is 90 per cent patience, I again started with the easy stuff.

“How was your first day of school?”

“I played on the adventure playground,” said Brayden. “It was awesome!”

“I liked doing the stuff that the teacher says,” said Derek.

“I played in the kitchen,” said Tiana. “I made some toy pizzas and stuff and then we’d pretend to eat them.”

They were starting to open up so I continued,

“What did you learn today?”

Braden jumped in first.

“We learned how to, like, play in

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a different way and talk in a different way. It was really fun!”

But he wasn’t done.

“I like playing with the kindergartens and helping the kindergartens because when they can’t do something the Grade Ones help them.”

“They didn’t come today or yesterday. They’re coming next Tuesday,” Tiana added.

“There’s going to be 12 kindergartens with us because there’s not enough kindergartens,” said Derek.

The picture was getting a little clearer. Apparently, Grade 1 kids recruit from these “kindergartens.” It’s a training ground. But for what?

Using a little interrogation technique I pulled from “Law and Order,” I blindsided them with what I already knew.

“Well, the other girls were telling me something about some snails...”

That’s all it took for them to turn on each other like sharks in a pool full of fish guts.

Tiana spilled first.

“There were some snails up there and Julia was squishing them,” she said.

Braden jumped in. “...and me and Kyle were like, trying to hit them down off there.”

“... and I was trying to save them because they had a couple of baby ones” Tianna added.

“We were trying to kill them and then we were playing habitat up there,” said Braden.

“Hab-attack?” I asked, confused.

“Habitat,” he corrected.

“It’s where you catch them and you put them in something and then you build a home for them in a shady spot.”

Do you squish them after that?

“I don’t because they’re cute.”



The Hobbit-sized halls of the elementary school often surprise former students who remember the building’s interior being ‘bigger.’

said Tiana.

I believed her. Another innocent kid caught up in something beyond her control.

Kyle from Grade 2 seemed to be the puppet master but had clearly become the scapegoat.

“I tried to squish them with Kyle. He started it first, then I did it. Then I stopped and Kyle was still doing it.” said Brayden.

Snails.

I’d better call Scully.

Something didn’t fit and I couldn’t put my finger on it. Something else was directing these innocent children to slaughter snails.

I went inside the school to have a look around. It was empty and eerily

quiet. Just the far-off echo of a teacher shuffling papers in a classroom down the hall.

As I walked down the Hobbit-sized hallway towards the gym, I glanced into the room to see who the busybody was. I was shocked.

“She’s new... and *cute*,” I thought.

But I was here to solve a mystery greater than love so I pressed on.

I was looking for something out of place. Something to explain the confessions I had just heard.

I went into the gym — I don’t know why — and, as I scanned the walls for a clue, I froze.

There, perched six feet up the

(continued on next page)

Snails (cont.)

(continued from page 17

wall from the stage floor, was the door to “Nelly’s Room.”

Since way back, every kid who went to the Madeira Park school was familiar with the lore. The twisted stories of some unknown evil lurking in the odd storage compartment, tucked away in the gym wall like a secret attic.

I shuddered with the realization of what I had to do as I walked up the steps onto the stage.

The Madeira Park Elementary School was built in 1952 but the gym was added later. No one really knows anymore why the designers of the gym included a large storage space with an access door six feet off the ground.

It may have been an after-thought. A void that could be utilized.

Ted Roberts started teaching at the school in 1982 and remembers being told Nelly was a secretary who had worked in the school and the room was where she put her stuff.

“I don’t remember anything specifically about why it was called Nelly’s Room other than it was haunted,” said Roberts.

Roberts says he sometimes used Nelly’s Room as a prop to relieve the boredom in class.

“I might have spread a little bit of BS,” he said.



What evil lurks behind the door to Nelly’s Room? I owed it to the snails to find out.

“When I got to Madeira, I kind of took a free hand embellishing the haunted story and I added a few little bits to it like there were claw marks on the door because someone was locked in there over the summer.”

Roberts was also my teacher in Grade 5 and his confession stunned me.

I thought back to everything else he might have taught me. What could I believe?

I recalled how another teacher once told me that the ubiquitous BC coastal name “Malaspina” came from the spread of syphilis from native women to early spanish explorers.

Mal - a - spina.

Sore penis.

It took a history degree to sort that one out. It turns out Malaspina was the name of an Italian nobleman who was an officer in the Spanish Navy, exploring the coast in 1791.

I liked Mr. Harrison’s story better.

My gut told me there’s an embryo of truth here so I listened as Roberts continued.

“Sometimes, when I had little kids in there I’d kind of go ‘If you wait and listen carefully, you can hear the scratching’,” Roberts said.

“Later on, Eddie Lee locked Jason Gregory in there and Jason Gregory, in trying to push his way out, fell from that door which is about six feet above the stage and broke his arm. Then his Mom sued the school board at which point I stopped talking about Nelly’s Room, not wanting to get dragged into court.”

But, did he really fall or did some malevolent spirit push him?

The only way I was going to find out was to go up and confront Nelly herself.

I quietly unlocked the padlock securing the entrance and, as I gingerly pried open the door, the rusty hinges let out a slow, wailing moan.

Well, she knows I’m here.

I hoisted myself up into the unlit chamber and fumbled for a light switch that wasn’t there. I started to panic, imagining my hands roving over some horribly disfigured face.

I quickly hopped out and flicked on the light switch near the entrance to stage right. I took a deep breath and climbed back up.

The light made everything clearer and less ominous than before. Crammed into the stale compartment

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was a jumbled maze of gym mats, set equipment and high-jump bars that blocked my way.

As I contorted my frame enough to squeeze past a high-jump mat, there before me was... the severed head of some poor soul, trapped here all these years, waiting for me to tell his story.

This wasn't Nelly. It was one of her victims.

The low humidity of Nelly's Room had turned the head into a dried, shrivelled ball with a texture like that of painted papier mâché.

Locked in the final moments of panic's grip, his bulging eyes confirmed the source of Ted Robert's stories of phantom scratching. There was no mistaking his was a horrifying death.

I let myself out quickly, locking the door securely behind me, lest I too fall victim to the evil lurking in the walls of the Madeira Park Elementary School gymnasium.



It's hard to say how long this unfortunate student had been in here but the scratch marks on the inside of the door tell of a very unpleasant end.

Information

for Sparks, Brownies and Guides

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Brownies & Guides: Michelle 883-9722

To become a leader or to help with minor bookkeeping: Linda-883-2819

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The Pender Harbour Music Society wishes to thank everyone who made the 12th annual Jazz Festival such a great success:

Festival Director *Barry O'Hara* and his organizational wizards, *Chris Andersen, Paul Nattall, Carole Rubin, Janet Thomas* and *Maureen Wright*.

The *team leaders* for handling thousands of logistical details at each venue.

All of *the volunteers* without whom it just doesn't happen.

The *local businesses* who hosted events, especially *Motoko Baum* of Motoko's Gallery and *Ron Johnston* of the Garden Bay Pub and Marina who also helped with the advance organizing.

The generous sponsors who provided cash and/or in-kind contributions:

- *Sunshine Coast Credit Union*
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- *BC Ferries*
- *IGA Marketplace Madeira Park*
- *Marina Pharmacy*
- *Tom Lee Music*



The Pender Harbour Health Centre received some fresh new signage with its new logo recently. This sign at the corner of Hwy. 101 and Francis Peninsula Road and another at the entrance to the health centre were made by Tom Talarico of Garden Bay. The logo was donated to the health centre by local graphic designer Edmund Arceo.

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Time to chews...



By John Wade

**Hi John,
I have a troubled
cocker spaniel.
He is 2 ½ years
old and has been
destructive since day
one, but only when he is alone.**

**He is a very obedient dog when
we are home or outside playing, is
very good-natured with other dogs,
and very good with kids but, when I
leave, he becomes very anxious and
destroys anything and everything.**

**I can't even run outside for 30
seconds without him getting upset
and barking and crying.**

**I've tried crating him but he
gets so anxious that he's soaking
wet from sweating and licking his
paws and ears by the time I get
home and take him out.**

**On Monday when I came
home from work he had destroyed
my curtains, leather couch, big area
rug, three pairs of shoes, two pil-
lows, a bunch of tea towels and his
leash.**

**He was in the crate when I left
the house but somehow broke the
door of the crate right off. We're
not happy and he is obviously not
happy but we don't know if we can
part with him.**

**Is there anything we can do?
Sarah G.**

Dear Sarah,

Separation anxiety is the most
troubling of all behaviour problems.

For the average dog owner's life-
style, treatment is rarely successful, at
least to an extent that brings true relief
to either dog or owner.

Separation anxiety is normally
the end result of the way a dog is



Is there anything more evil than a troubled cocker spaniel?

socialized or not socialized before 12
weeks with a genetic influence thrown
into the mix.

If a dog has continuous ongoing
contact with humans before 12 weeks
of age it becomes imprinted with that
expectation and there's no changing it.

It happens with parrots too. Peo-
ple pay all kinds of attention for the
first while and then the novelty wears
off and the parrot spends the rest of its
life plucking its feathers out.

Ways to deal with anxiety range
from giving the dog a few drops of
various naturopathic preparations to
prescription anti-anxiety medications.

I haven't found one more effec-
tive than the other and, in fact, most
not that effective at all but it can't
hurt to try. I've never had anyone tell
me their dog was cured as a result of
either approach.

Behavior modification treatments
include desensitizing the dog with
recreating the "I'm leaving" behavior
(like key shaking etc.) enough times
that the anxiety leading up to depar-
ture is extinguished.

In true separation anxiety cases,
dog owners learn this is pretty superfi-
cial advice. Even if were to work all it
means is that the dog isn't anxious as

you're going out the door.

With true anxiety cases, once
you're gone I've never met a dog so
dumb that it wanders around the house
afterwards going, "I know there still
must be a human in here somewhere!"

What can you do? Well I sup-
pose, try the medication and the stan-
dard behavior modification strategies
which respectively you can get from
your veterinarian and some dog train-
ers, but usually the dog's best bet is to
find it another home where its owners
can provide the contact the dog needs
to feel secure.

It's hard to do as most house-
holds are like yours — people have to
leave the house for significant parts of
the day.

That said, it's worth consider-
ing because the anguish the dog feels
when you leave is not something I
would want to endure were I in its
paws.

Pawsitively Yours,
John Wade

*If you have questions for John,
send e-mail to: johnwade@johnwade.ca
or visit his website at www.johnwade.ca.*

October is Early Years Awareness Month

By Sarah Pond,
ECD Community Facilitator

The Sunshine Coast Early Childhood Development Planning table is launching an early years awareness campaign in October.

It's designed to educate our community about the importance of early childhood and to highlight the vitality of the many local early years programs and services.

During October's Early Years Awareness Campaign, several events are planned in conjunction with our regular early years programs.

One highlight of the month is the annual Child Care and Parenting Conference: Exploration and Discovery 2008.

This popular conference is an event for child care providers, parents, ECE professionals and community members featuring diverse workshops with a keynote speaker and lunch.

The event is brought to you by the Sunshine Coast Child Care Resource and Referral Program.

It's intended to promote, educate, and increase community awareness of child development needs and issues and to establish networking, professional development, and child care advocacy opportunities on the Sunshine Coast.



photo submitted

'The first six years of a child's life can determine the outcomes of the adult he or she will become.' Friends Lucia Pond and Henry Rose considering a career in ice cream.

You may register for the Oct. 18 conference by calling (604) 885-5657.

Many other initiatives are planned for October's Early Years Awareness Campaign.

The campaign is being delivered by the Sunshine Coast ECD Planning Table in partnership with the Understanding the Early Years Initiative, funded by Human Resources and Social Development Canada.

For more information about anything related to the Early Years on the Coast, please visit www.ecdcoast.wordpress.com or contact Sarah Pond,

ECD Community Facilitator: (604) 740-7884 or ecd@dccnet.org

THE EARLY CHILDHOOD YEARS

The first six years of a child's life can determine the kind of adult he or she will become. Unless you are this child's parent, why should you care about her early years?

The answer is simple; the solutions are complex.

The period up to age six represents a window of opportunity that, if capitalized on, will result in many positive benefits for the future of individual children, families and our society as a whole.

There are great benefits to investing in early childhood development — benefits for communities, for families and for the young children themselves.

Studies demonstrate that children flourish in communities where resources for families and children are available.

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When children are cared for and nurtured in their first six years, the results can be tremendous.

As they grow into teens, they are less likely to drop out of school, abuse drugs, have health problems or be involved in crime.

In fact, for every dollar invested in early childhood services at least \$2 are saved in later social costs — and for vulnerable children the return is up to \$7 or more.

By investing resources in the early years, and preventing problems early rather than trying to fix them later, we avoid having to pay down the road in social costs and in human suffering.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT ON THE SUNSHINE COAST

Did you know that the Sunshine Coast has an Early Childhood Development Table?

The Sunshine Coast ECD Planning Table is a local group of professionals whose work in some way

impacts families with children under six.

The group includes parents, SCRD, School District No. 46, Ministry for Children and Family Development, Vancouver Coastal Health, United Way, the SC Credit Union, child care administrators, community school co-ordinators and other ECD professionals.

Our ECD Planning Table exists to champion, develop and implement our community's Early Childhood projects, plans and initiatives serving every community from Langdale to Egmont.

By supporting children and families, we can create a better community for all. On the Coast, 1,400 children are under six years old. They represent our future. The extent of Early Years events and services on the Coast is growing and the partnering between providers, funders, educators and families continues to expand and strengthen.

OBITUARY

Victor D. Dubois

MARCH 5, 1949 — SEPTEMBER 14, 2008

It is with extreme sadness that we announce the sudden passing of our beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend.

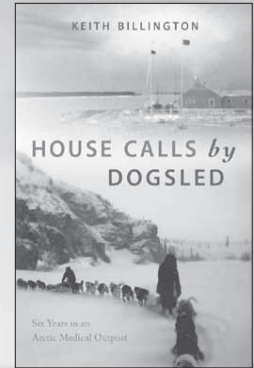
Vic is survived by his loving wife of 40 years Sally, son Justin (Christi), daughter Nicole, granddaughter Morgan and many family and friends.

Vic was born in Pender Harbour.

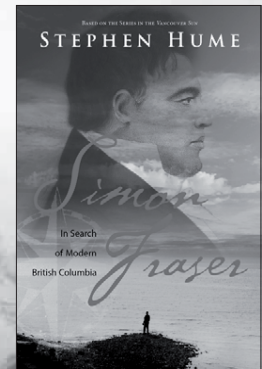
He is predeceased by his parents Len and Marlene and sister Darlene.



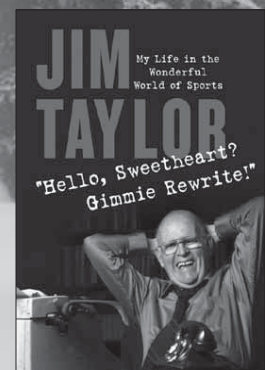
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By Jim Taylor

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photo submitted

Alfie Lajlar of Crossroad Grill presents Linda Curtiss of the Pender Harbour Abbeyfield Society with a cheque for \$1,700. The money was raised at Crossroad Grill's 'Rodz and Hogz Roadfest' on Sept. 13 that featured a show and shine with a beer garden, the band 'Altered' and salmon barbeque provided by Off the Hook Seafoods. A 50/50 draw was held to raise money for two couples who recently lost their homes to fire: Bill and Sharon Jones and Linda and Dan Stark. The winner was Kerry Rand who pocketed \$358.

LETTERS

Beware the wolf pack at Oyster Bay

Dear Editor,

For nearly 10 years we have reared two little Pomeranian/Maltese puppies since they were just 5 weeks old.

They were two little sisters who treated each other like they were one.

Goldie and Mocha we called them and they did everything together.

The care they took of each other is unbelievable and cannot be put into words.

They cleaned each other's eyes and ears out and all other caretaking you can think of.

Last Saturday morning two wolves stalked them and snatched little Goldie who only could scream

her last time and was carried away by those two monsters.

Two days later they came back. These are not coyotes, believe us.

We had never seen a wolf right here. But now we get reports that a whole wolf pack is around here!

Why was that not made public?

Do we have to wait until those beasts are snatching babies, sleeping on your lawn? Reports have come in about cats and kids missing.

Where is our so-called conservation department?

Conserving wolves? Elk ?

This is getting darn scary.

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'Welcome to Pender Harbour — Expect longboarders on our roads'

Dear Editor,

I am glad you have brought the subject of the longboarders to the forefront in a recent issue of the Spiel.

I have long been frustrated about the negative outlook that a good portion of the Sunshine Coast has adopted towards these young people.

I have listened to the complaints and I do see some of the negatives as they are stated but I also try to weigh the facts and I am having a hard time not siding with the riders.

Our society as a whole has come forward to "adopt a greener society" — can you get any greener then riding a longboard to and from all of your intended destinations?

I have found that a fair number of the younger generation (and some of the older) can only afford to drive so-called "beaters" and with the ability to ride longboards the emissions for said vehicles is eliminated.

I know a number of people who use their longboards as a mode of transportation to and from work as well as for pleasure.

Every May long weekend, Pender Harbour is host to the largest longboard race in the world.

Our local economy benefits from thousands of dollars the event brings to the Sunshine Coast, not to mention the publicity that comes with the event, bringing people from all over the world at other times of the year to visit our paradise.

Several of our local riders have participated in the Push For The Cure campaign, which is an annual fund-raising event for Breast Cancer.

This event is fully sanctioned by the Canadian Breast Cancer Society and has helped raise over \$100,000.

The riders are true to the cause and promote it all year long, not just on the event weekend.

I would venture to say that if we look at the statistics from 10 years ago and compare the petty crime, you would find that there has been a drop in our area.

Some of the kids that may have otherwise been delinquent are now not only occupied but determined to be one of the best on their longboard.

We are a unique community on the Sunshine Coast and we have several young people to be proud of.

Ryan Dempster is a leader in his sport and we hear of him every day.

How many Harbour residents realize that we have the current No. 1 longboarder in the world right in Pender Harbour.

Scott (Scoot) Smith, Rylan English, Sandy Charleton are just a few of our local boys that compete at a professional level and travel all over the world to maintain their standings.

Scott is so far and above the rest at this point in the year that he is virtually uncatchable.

This sport is quickly becoming world-renowned and consideration for recognition is in the works.

I support the people who choose to longboard and, although I know there are a few that have a lack of respect (isn't there everywhere?), the majority are good people who have found something that they enjoy.

I have yet to see any kind of group that doesn't have its "bad eggs" and to consider all under the same would be a huge fault on our



part.

I agree that they need to be more cautious when riding at night. A fear of mine is that one of them gets badly injured or killed while doing what they love.

I ask of all the longboarders that they respect the communities of the Coast and wear your helmets.

I welcome friends, family and tourists to the Sunshine Coast but please, EXPECT longboarders on our roads.

Lori Friesen

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Powell River-Sunshine Coast



phone: 604-741-0792
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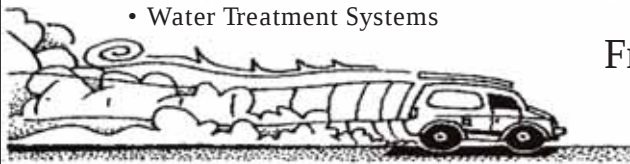
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Youths responsible for the Pender Hill fire offer apologies

The following letter is a result of the Sunshine Coast Restorative Justice Program, written by the four youths responsible for the Pender Hill Fire on July 23.

To the community of Pender Harbour,

We would like to offer an apology to all the people affected by the Pender Hill fire. We are very sorry; however, we realize that saying "sorry" does not make up for what has happened. Each of us has an individual apology we would like to share:

Youth 1. I made a poor decision without considering the possible outcome of my actions. There is no way to make up for what has happened, but I would like you to know I am doing things to help out in the community. This experience has affected my life. I have become much more cautious and think about my actions and how they can affect people. I am truly sorry.

Youth 2. I am genuinely sorry to all the people I have affected. I deeply regret my foolish decision and have learned a tough but valuable lesson. This has taught me to think things through more thoroughly and think about what the end consequences could be, and whom it could affect. Please except this as my sincere apology and be reassured that this will



A water reservoir at the peak of Pender Hill after the fire retardant air drop on July 23.

never occur again.

Youth 3. First of all, I would like to give my sincere apologies to everyone that was affected by our actions. We are all trying our best to make it up to these people by helping and volunteering in the community. We all learned a huge lesson to really think twice before doing anything. We would also like to thank everyone that was involved in putting out the fire.

Youth 4. I extend my sincere apologies for all those who were affected by the fire on Pender Hill. I was one of the four boys that is to blame for the forest fire that caused

so much pain and grief. I wish this incident would have never happened and I would like the community of Pender Harbour and all those that were affected to know that I will be giving back to the community to the fullest as much as I possibly can and I will be working hard to compensate some of the damage that was caused. From this experience I have learned that the actions that I make affect everyone around me. Please accept my deepest apology.

We would like to thank the police department for responding so quickly to our '911' call.

Also we would like to give special thanks to all the firefighters, and forestry department who risked their lives to put this fire out.

You acted quickly and for this we are so very thankful.

Thank you to all the volunteers involved in the Community Justice Program of the Sunshine Coast for all your time and energy.

We really appreciate it.

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HELP WANTED

- **We need a "volunteer" cook** for the Harbourside Friendship Group which meets every Thursday at 10:30 am at the Music School. Contact Sharon at (604) 883-3552 or sfhalfor@telus.net

WORK WANTED

- **Fall yard cleanup,** garages, basements, attics cleaned out, dump runs, errands, etc, Middlepoint to Egmont, Alex 604-741-1572

HARBOUR SEALS



Free and easy! Approvals or disapprovals! — **Keep it short.**

Send to: editor@harbourpiel.com.

You must include your full name and a telephone number for confirmation.

A sincere Harbour Seal of Approval to **Chris Ford** for taking time out to leave your busy schedule and home in paradise to come to the island. You have helped me to build me a beautiful cabin at "All Our Relations Sanctuary." I am forever grateful.

Dee Macauley

A Harbour Spiel Seal of Approval to **Alfie Lajlar and all his helpers at the Crossroad Grill plus Greg Falls of the Coasters Car Club** for putting on a great Rodz and Hogs meet on Saturday, Sept. 13 and for donating the proceeds to the Pender Harbour Abbeyfield House.

Marg Penney

A Harbour Seal of Approval to **Dr. Rick Smalley** for the rescue of Kobe. It's a pleasure to know we have a caring vet in the community who'll drop what he's doing to save the life of our dog.

Kobe and the Forsyths

A Harbour Seal of Approval to all the **volunteers and vendors** at the 2008 Rodz and Hogs Roadfest. Special thanks to **Heather Brown, Off the Hook, Stuart, Sandi, Greg and Coast Car Club** and everyone who came out to take part. We couldn't have done it without you.

Alfie, Ruth and Francis Lajlar
Crossroad Grill

A Harbour Seal of Approval to all the **ladies of the Pender Harbour Golf Club** for making our Field Day so much fun. You will be blessed with good karma.

Wendy Haddock

A Harbour Seal of Approval to all you **volunteers**, both planned for and those commandeered for duty that day, for tirelessly working to assist us in presenting the Saturday afternoon venue for Jazz Festival 2008 at Pender Harbour Landing! And another to the **Jazz Fans** — we hope you enjoyed the day — thank you for coming!

Teresa Sladey/P. H. Landing

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Low maintenance... I want it. How do I get it?

*By Jim Rutherford
(assisted by Nolan & Krystal)*

Many people today can be pressed for time, so a bit of planning can go a long way in saving time and money.

Whether your garden is new or established, don't despair. Make your nursery person a friend so they recognize you and can remember some details of your garden. They have a wealth of knowledge to share, and likely will, but their time is valuable too so don't waste it. Keep your questions on point and your wallet in hand.

Perhaps an easy guideline to consider is this: The more formal your approach, the more time and work you have to put in.

Perhaps the size of the garden is not the issue — it's the amount of grass that will have to be cut, irrigated or not.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith on Dames Road in Irvines Landing have left most of their property natural with just raised beds to define and bracket the front yard. Not bad for a veteran

on his second hip replacement.

WHY NOT REDUCE ANY GRASSED AREA GRADUALLY?

An old, but flexible garden hose laid on the ground will give you an outline of the shape before you start.

No matter what, vegetation will sooner or later start under, in or over the mulch-covered landscape fabric. Gravel doesn't break down and has a fairly neutral pH, whereas bark mulch (from evergreens) is heavily acidic and wood chips (from deciduous trees) will decompose rather quickly to be basic (pH +7).

CONTAINERS

Grouping containers gives you better visual appeal and less time spent watering.

Bigger in this case is better. Large containers offer more soil for a better reservoir of moisture.

Perhaps each season introduce another small size (inexpensive) blooming shrub or perennial into your containers. No more annuals. Don't go through the panic of planting at the right time and expense each year of planting beautiful plants that the frost is going to kill.

Start with some centre height in your container, then mid-size and something trailing over the edge.

Draw a picture and have some fun.

PATIO MATERIALS

Flagstone patios and walks are beautiful but non-professional jobs can crack — with weeds not too far behind. A delightful solution to cover up these blemishes are the many creeping herbs available at the nurs-

ery.

A final solution, if you can afford it, is a professionally poured exposed aggregate or stamped concrete patio. If you're young at heart, go for the stamped, because it makes dancing easy and you won't trip.

Here's a start and stop method that's not hard to do.

Lay out a pattern for your needs with pressure treated 2x4's. Plan your grid in squares you plan to pour in a day aiming for a slope of a half-inch every eight inches.

Plain old navy jack used to pour cement foundations works fine as an exposed aggregate.

It's true you can seed the top with 3/8" pea gravel for a better look but the random crushed gravel washes out to look just fine.

A five to one mix of navy to cement is superior and will carry a lot of weight. That concrete mesh reduces the possibility of cracks and should float in the pour. Obviously now is the time to put in any post saddle you have planned for. A post saddle will define a boundary for a fence or a landing railing.

A three foot by three foot pad is comfortable for one person to pour in a day with a wheelbarrow for mixing.

Screen off your mixture with a nice straight six-foot long 2x4.

Depending on the weather, temperature and humidity, wait a couple of hours and start to wash out the surface with a fine spray on your hose.

Have another glass of wine and then another sprinkle. When you see a gray cream wash off, be gentle and continue to rinse until you see gravel appear.

That's a start.

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photo submitted by Sue Kammerle

Rowboat jousting in the Pender Harbour Regatta, likely taking place sometime in the late 1950s. The regatta hosted swimming and speedboat races, log birling, a greased pole race, gillnet setting and picking races, a decorated boat parade, diving contests and even had a regatta queen.

It's believed this contest took place in front of the little beach beside the Madeira Park wharf parking lot. The building in the background is the old Madeira Park School that still stands in the property adjacent to the current school. For many years it served as the Kindergarten classroom until the new wing of the current school was built sometime in the late 1970s.

Ruthlessness is the key to banishing clutter: Alan's top 10 tips to



By Alan Stewart

Whether you are selling your house or not, remember that less is often more.

This past weekend, my wife Paola and I attended a party in Vancouver and we were dumbfounded with just how immaculate and organized our hosts' home was. It was inspirational.

After speaking with a number of other guests at the party, I confirmed that I wasn't alone in feeling organizationally inadequate.

Research shows that people today buy way more stuff than ever.

Retail sales of home furnishings increased by more than 30 per cent from 2002 to 2008.

In 1975, the average home was 1,075 sq. ft. compared with over 2,100 sq. ft. today. And, even with all that extra space, we still don't have room to store everything.

Here are some helpful tips that may help you organize your home:

1. PRETEND YOU'RE GETTING READY TO MOVE

It's time to pare down. If you had to move, would you take it with you? Do you really need three hair dryers? Or what about all of those books; do you really need to keep all of them? The reading room in Madeira Park



would love to share your books with others. Donate what you don't need.

2. KEEP ONLY WHAT YOU LOVE

Ask yourself, do you really have to keep it? If not, go ahead and get rid of it. Put more focus on using the things that bring you happiness. And what do you do with the other stuff? For valuables, try an online auction site, a consignment shop, or the local classified section – and don't forget how popular garage sales are on the Coast. For other useful items that may not have a lot of value, contact the Bargain Barn in Madeira Park or one of the thrift stores in Sechelt who would be glad to help you with leftover items or the Pender Harbour landfill has a "share shed" for items just too good to put in the dump.

3. THE BENEFITS OF LESS

Less stuff equals more time. With

less stuff, there's less to clean, organize and dust. With less stuff, your house looks uncluttered and cleaner. Let this motivate you.

4. LEARN TO LOVE CONTAINERS

Containers instantly add order to chaos, and are the secret weapon of organizers everywhere. Put all the kids' shoes in a tub, the newspapers in a bucket, fingernail polish in a basket, and so on.

5. EVERYTHING IN ITS PLACE

Yes, this is something your mother always said, but she was right. When everything has a place on a shelf, in a cabinet or in a bin, you'll avoid counter clutter and junk-filled drawers.

6. REMEMBER THE TWO-YEAR RULE

If you haven't used something



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organize your home

for two years, chances are you won't use it again. This particularly applies to clothes.

7. DON'T GET BURIED UNDER SENTIMENTALITY

Sure, it's nice to keep possessions you cherish, but do you really need your high school prom dress? If you are keeping your wedding dress, have it professionally boxed at a dry cleaners and put it in storage. What about your children's collection of stuffed animals? Keep one to pass on to the next generation, and then donate the rest.

8. ONE IN AND ONE OUT

If something new comes in the house, something old has to go out. This rule is pivotal to maintaining the simple, clutter-free existence you've worked so hard to achieve. This doesn't apply just to clothing – but to all the other things we duplicate in today's throw away society.

9. MAXIMIZE YOUR STORAGE

There are all sorts of helpful items these days that help you make the most of small spaces. Ottomans with removable tops are the perfect place to store toys, board games or extra bedding. And under-bed baskets are great for storing large or awkward items. Use over-the-door vinyl shoe organizers for shoes, kids' toys, or.... Use small stacking bins with drawers for first aid, medicine storage, or small craft items or tools.

10. ORGANIZE BY BITS

It's going to take awhile to go through your entire house. After all, it may have taken you up to 20 years to acquire all of your current clutter, so be easy on yourself. Try not to attempt

too much in one sitting. Start with one closet and give yourself a six-hour limit.

Once you've got your house in order, it's important that you stay on top of it. It really is a lifestyle choice, one that can become a habit if you

stick with it. Someone once told me that if it takes less than a minute to do, do it now. It's a great way to stay on top of the little stuff.

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

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SILENT THREATS

Oral cancer is an extremely dangerous and disfiguring cancer, it is diagnosed in 3,000 Canadians every year, and each year 1000 people die of it.

To screen for cancer, a dentist thoroughly checks the tongue, palate, gums, inside of the cheeks, lips, face and neck for any bumps or unusual sores.

Dentists know that a history of tobacco use by a patient warrants special attention to spot the disease processes early.

Although oral pain may be a sign that cancer is present, it is more predominately a sign of a dental infection and can have serious repercussions if left undiagnosed and untreated.

A decayed tooth can trigger an infection in the surrounding tissues.

These can crop up quickly and spread like fire through the mouth and even the rest of the body.

If a dental infection is not addressed promptly, it can spread into the deeper tissues of the neck and lead to obstruction of the airway.

It can also lead to such things as kidney damage, brain abscesses or heart-valve infections which require medical intervention to eradicate.

Diagnosing cancer and infections is just the beginning.

Dentists can also spot signs of gastrointestinal problems such as Crohn's disease, skin diseases, autoimmune diseases and more.

Even signs of diabetes may be seen in the mouth.

The mouth is full of blood vessels and nerve endings that exhibit colour changes, small sores and a change in saliva that a dentist can identify, sometimes with even just a look.

Visiting your dentist for regular check ups will lead to early diagnosis and treatment.

Your dentist can do much more than save your teeth and gums; he or she can save your life.

To learn more about your oral health and how it contributes to your total well being, make an appointment for a cleaning and a review of your dental health.

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Hypertension, aka blood pressure

Compiled by PH Health Centre Staff

Pender Harbour Health Centre, Elder College and Pender Harbour Aquatic Centre have teamed up to provide a fun, interactive and hands-on program to improve your knowledge and awareness of high blood pressure.

THE PROBLEM

Here are some facts about hypertension you can't afford to ignore:

- Your odds of high blood pressure are 90 per cent.
- "Normal" blood pressure may still raise your risk.
- You may be under treatment but out of control.

Blood pressure is a measurement of the force of blood against the walls of the arteries.

Blood pressure readings include two numbers, for example 130/80.

The first number is called the systolic pressure.

It is the force that blood exerts on the artery walls as the heart contracts.

The second number in the read-

ing is the diastolic pressure.

It is the force that blood exerts on the artery walls between heartbeats, when the heart is at rest.

Despite what a lot of people think, high blood pressure usually does not have any symptoms.

Often called the "silent killer," it increases your risk for heart attack, stroke, and kidney or eye damage.

Your risk of developing these problems increases as your blood pressure rises.

THE SOLUTION

Your escorted tour out of the land of hypertension includes:

- Cuisine ideas and tips from your personal shopping director
 - Activity consultant to help you explore your choice of recreational activities
 - Motivational speakers for goal setting
 - Choose from a variety of sports from golf to aqua fit
 - Life-long learning coaching
- Take home a new, refreshed and healthier you!

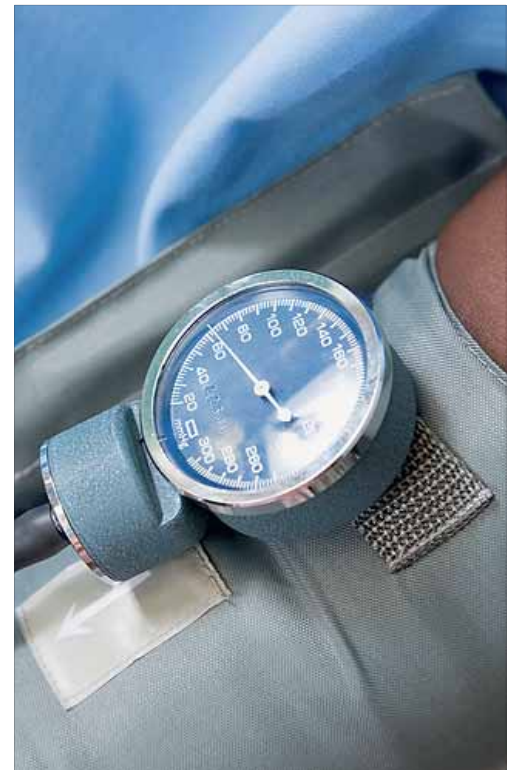
The "tour" will begin in the

board room of the Pender Harbour Health Centre.

There will be three sessions; Tuesdays, Oct. 7, 21 and Nov. 4, from 1 to 3 p.m. The program is limited to 20 people.

To register, contact the Elder College registrar at 604-885-9310.

The cost for the "tour" is \$30.



26 WEEKS TO FAMILY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS - October

Week 21. Get a large bucket with a tight-fitting lid to use as a toilet, and put it with your emergency kit. Use the bucket to store other emergency tools like an axe, a folding shovel and rope.

Week 22. Add some freeze-dried or foil pouch food products like meats, soups, vegetables and stews.

Week 23. Add a pocket knife (Swiss army style), cutlery, a whistle and a spare set of house and car keys to your container.

Week 24. Keep a leash or pet carrier near your kit and add a three-day supply of pet food.

BIRTHDAYS

Oct. 01 ~ **Cory Cavalier and Lyn Watters.**

Oct. 03 ~ **Maureen Parrott and John Farrer.**

Oct. 04 ~ Happy anniversary to **Roy & Paula Vickers.**

Oct. 07 ~ **Marlene Kracklauer.**

Oct. 08 ~ **Harold Clay.**

Oct. 09 ~ **Norm Caron and Jolaine Percival.**

Oct. 10 ~ **Daryl Hegyi, Mitch Jones, Katrina Woodard, Rick Higgins, Val Silvey and Kate Daniels.**

Happy anniversary to **Rod & Kelly Kammerle.**

Oct. 11 ~ **Bruno Cote.**

Oct. 12 ~ **Alison Stoutenburg and Bricin Lyons.** Happy anniversary to **Merv & Sunny Charboneau.**

Oct. 13 ~ **PD Smith and Judy Sim.**

Oct. 14 ~ **Nicole Forsyth.**

Oct. 15 ~ **Courtney Hanna, Kaiden Bosch and Richard Norrish.**

Oct. 16 ~ **Ursula Hardwick, Dane Hanna and Terri Welander.**

Oct. 17 ~ **Peter Vaughan.**

Oct. 18 ~ **Karen Stiglitz, Tommy Gamble, Tessa Rand and Cody Honeybourne-Kincaide.** Happy anniversary to **Joyce & Seig Garbers.**

Oct. 19 ~ **Doug Hardwick and Hans Schroeder.**

Oct. 20 ~ **Lonny Edwardson and Doug Richardson.**

Oct. 22 ~ **Pat Wood, Katheryn Kelly, Alys English and Mark Clay.**

Oct. 23 ~ **Bill Clayton and Diane Dennis.**

Oct. 24 ~ **Roxanne Gregory and Larry Honeybourne.**

Oct. 25 ~ **Doug Davis and 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 ~ **Jack Bowden.**

Oct. 31 ~ **Richard Mills and twins Savannah & Sawyer Cote.**

SEPTEMBER ASTROLOGY

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SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

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OF OCTOBER

THE DIPSOMANIAC



Back in the 1950s, an old bachelor lived in a house near Whiskey Slough. He had built it many years before and lived in it with his wife until she left him, it was said, for a fisherman from Sointula.

The old guy never remarried and instead turned to drinking. He had a still and made his own brandy. He'd make barrels of the stuff in his cellar, rarely aging it more than a month or so before it found its way down his thirsty maw. He got a pretty good name around Pender Harbour for his unripened hooch but kept one special barrel untouched. "Aging," he would say.

Years went by and the man became dark and depressed. He continued to drink harder and harder until one day he was found dead in his chair, a 1/4 bottle of brandy on the table beside him. He had no real friends or family so his estate was sold complete, exactly like the day he left this earth.

A young local couple bought what was an exceptionally good deal. He was also a fisherman and she a nurse at St. Mary's Hospital in Garden Bay. The house was in a horrible state but after a

month they had the place shining with a fresh coat of paint and all traces of the drunken old bachelor re-moved. The wife wasn't much of a drinker and insisted the last, very full, keg of brandy in the cellar be destroyed. The husband wouldn't hear of it and instead suggested they throw a housewarming party. The couple was popular and had many friends in the community who knew what to do with a full keg of liquor so she agreed.

If you've ever drunk with a bunch of fishermen, it won't surprise you that the party went on until the keg was completely dry, lasting well into the next day.

The wife waited for the husband to recover from his hangover before sternly suggesting it was time to remove the now smelly keg from the house. He tried to lift it and was surprised when the empty keg wouldn't budge so he took his saw and cut it in half.

There, inside the cask, was the dead body of the old fisherman's wife — perfectly preserved for all those years, in the brandy they had just consumed.

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 -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 highest snowfall was .2 cm (Oct. 31, 1984). The Canadian record for the greatest rainfall in a 24-hour period is 489 mm (Ucluelet BC, Oct. 6, 1967).

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• 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 Griffith Centre	883-9201
• Ladies Auxiliary to Legion Branch 112 (2nd Thurs. @ 1:30)	883-9173
• 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).....	883-0444
• 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)	883-2563
• 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 ~

P. H. VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT RAFFLE

Due to things like forest and house fires, PHVFD was late in getting the raffle that funds the annual Halloween fireworks mobilized this year and desperately needs to sell tickets. Support this annual tradition by purchasing tickets from your favourite firefighter or at the IGA, S.C. Credit Union, Liquor store, Oak Tree Market, Rona, P.H. Diesel, Copper Sky Cafe, Harbour Insurance, Java Docks. The draw will be on Halloween night at the fireworks display at the Madeira Park Wharf.

PENDER HARBOUR WILDLIFE SOCIETY

The Pender Harbour & District Wildlife Society is very pleased to have local author Michael Poole as the guest speaker at their next meeting. Poole is a retired documentary film maker, who worked both freelance and with the CBC for 30 years with David Suzuki producing many segments of the TV series "The Nature of Things." Poole will show a short film he made, "Return of the Sea Otters" and will also give a brief history of sea otters on the BC coast, and an update on their current status.

The meeting is at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 21, at the Pender Harbour High School. Everyone is welcome — there is no charge and refreshments will be served.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL AUXILIARY, (PENDER HARBOUR BRANCH)

We are planning our usual Christmas Craft Fair in November and also planning a silent auction for Saturday, April 11 — the Easter long weekend. We are always looking for new members so if you have any spare time, our hospital needs you. We have a lot of fun so check us out. Call Maureen Lee at (604) 883-2563.

WOMEN'S CONNECTION

On Tues., Oct 14, come to the Women's Connection gathering and sign up for our special outing on Thurs. Nov. 13 to the Annual Circle Craft Christmas Market at the Vancouver Convention Centre. The Malaspina bus will pick us up here and drop us right at the event.

June Malchoff of Nesbitt Burns with Rick Langford and Judy Summers will speak to about Estate and Tax planning and other financial issues for Women, at the Oct. 28th gathering. Doors open at 9:30 am and meetings run from 10 a.m. until noon.

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Golf season showing no signs of winding down



By Jan Watson

At the time of writing the weather is wonderful and it is hard to realize that the season is winding down.

was "Circus" and many of the golfers joined in the fun dressing up in various circus costumes. The weather was good and the day was a huge success. Playing the best two low net scores for each hole, the winning team was made up of Ruby Airth, Lori Wilson, Shelley Stunell and Pat Mostovich with 123, 13 under par.

Special congratulations go to Pat Hallborg who not only did most of the organizing but also broke 90 for the first time.

30-foot putt with his driver. The winning team was ultimately decided by the roll of the dice, Helen Crabb rolled a double six which took 12 off her team's score.

Sept. 8 saw six teams played and four teams ended with the same score of 37. After retrogression, the winners were Tom and Gloria Stibbs, John Jensen and Moni Langham.

Sept. 15 was the last one of the season and winners were Roy Erickson, Grant Hallborg and Jan Watson with 36.

MEN'S CLUB

Sept. 2 was a String Scramble; three feet of string if used at the right time can save a team a lot of strokes.

The winning team who used their string to the best advantage was Harry Hooper, Bill Jack and Rusty Ellis. Kps on #3 George Langham and #6 Rusty Ellis.

Sept. 9 was individual stroke play. Low Gross winner was Rusty Ellis with 77. Low Net winner for Flight 1 was Brian Orr with 68 and Flight 2 was John Maveety with 65. Kps on #3 Al Wendland and #6 Ron Needham.

FROM THE 19TH HOLE...

I don't say my golf game is bad, but if I grew tomatoes they'd come up sliced.

Author Unknown

On Aug. 28, the ladies had to predict what score they would shoot and the winner was Jackie Grant.

Sept. 4 was a game of skins with the winner Connie McGill taking six skins.

Sept. 11 saw a Three Putt Scramble and the winners were Bev Provost, Jackie Grant and Jan Watson with 75.

MONDAY TWILIGHT SCRAMBLES

On Sept. 1 there was a Jeanie special with nine teams. It was a fun event with different rules for each hole, one including putting with a driver. Brody Storoschuk drained a

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LADIES CLUB

On Aug. 21 the ladies held their annual "Field Day" with participants from the other golf clubs on the Sunshine Coast. This year's theme

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LIVE TO PLAY!



'Eat food. Not too much. Mostly plants.' — Michael Pollan stands



By Theresa Kishkan

Michael Pollan is an American journalist who has increasingly become known for his books about food. (His first books were more generally about nature and our place in it.)

Two recent books, *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* (Penguin, 2006) and *In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto* (Penguin, 2008), are a call to arms. He invites us to follow him on a journey to find out where our daily food comes from and to ask ourselves how and why we eat the way we do.

The Omnivore's Dilemma begins with Zea mays, the tropical grass that we know as corn. As Pollan tries to trace the industrial food chain that most of us eat from most of the time, he discovers the ubiquity of corn in

all aspects of the North American diet. It feeds not only cattle and poultry but increasingly even farmed salmon (who are being re-engineered to tolerate corn rather than the marine diet that sustained them for millennia). It sweetens soft drinks as high-fructose corn syrup; thickens, colours, preserves processed food products; waxes vegetables to give them a "healthy" sheen; whitens coffee; emulsifies frozen dairy products; and even helps to fill and bind vitamin pills.

It's a fascinating quest, though not pretty. Pollan delves into the science of growing corn and making meat. He talks to George Naylor in Iowa who has transformed the early 20th century farm of his grandfather, which grew a dozen species of plants and animals, to its current production of corn, largely for the military-industrial complex. Corn is a commodity here; the thrust of its production is towards "finding the people and animals to consume it, the cars to burn it, the new products to absorb it, and the nations to import it..."

Pollan follows the progress of an Angus steer, "534," from its pasture on a Dakota ranch to the feedlot in Kansas where it is fattened for its eventual final trip to the abattoir. Ani-

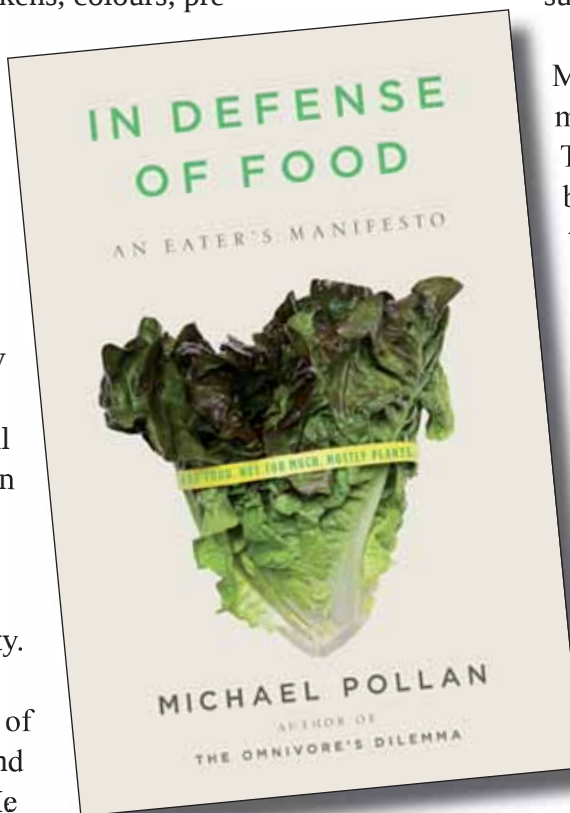
mal health and the use of feed additives including antibiotics, the nature of intestinal bacteria, the paradox of turning a ruminant into a machine to consume fossil fuels: these are some of the areas that Pollan investigates as a journalist and reflects on as a consumer.

From corn, Michael Pollan moves to grass. There is plenty of bucolic activity as the author helps to make hay and learns about the politics of sustainable farming from Joel Salatin of Polyface Farm.

Grass is a community of plants, "the foundation of the intricate food chain Salatin has assembled

at Polyface, where a half dozen different animal species are raised together in an intensive rotational dance on the theme of symbiosis." From field to consumer, the food produced at the farm is a part of a well-considered process.

Pollan also explores the phenomenon of what he calls Supermarket Pastoral, in which a shopper committed to organic foods feels that he is "engaging in authentic experiences". He visits a number of enormous California businesses devoted to producing and marketing organic food and wonders if industrial organic is "ultimately a contradiction in terms."



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up for food and offers some practical insight

The section on Earthbound Farms is particularly insightful.

The last section examines the possibilities of the shortest food chain of all: "What I had in mind was dinner prepared from ingredients I had hunted, gathered, and grown myself."

Admitting this is a stretch for him, Pollan goes into the forest to hunt a feral pig in California after first taking the hunter education course required by the state. His mentor is a Sicilian-born gourmand. What transpires is funny, inspiring, and a wonderful conclusion to a book that manages to impart a huge amount of information, much of it scientific and analytical, with wit, passion and clear-minded intelligence.

The *Omnivore's Dilemma* is both provocative and illuminating. I read Michael Pollan's next book, *In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto*, with high expectations. His passionate desire to expose the terrible consequences of our culture's reliance on industrial food production is admirable. Our willingness to follow weird trends and to believe preposterous claims baffles him.

So much of what the book proposes is rooted in common sense and we would do well to heed: "Eat food. Not too much. Mostly plants."

He suggests that our thinking about food has led us away from the principles of our grandparents — preparing nourishing food from simple local ingredients, taking our time with meals — to something else: an obsession with numbers and nutrients for which we need guidance by food experts. Our food is over-packaged and we are convinced we need lengthy charts and explanations to delineate its

potential benefits. It has not made us healthier.

"As long as humans have been taking meals together, eating has been as much about culture as it has been about biology," Pollan writes.

I think I agree with most of what he has to tell us in this book. But there is something humourless about its polemic.

Instead of offering narratives about the different ways humans produce food, procure and consume it, he suggests rules that ring with that expertise that he has been warning us about. It is a manifesto, after all. But the wise and witty guide of *The Omnivore's Dilemma* has become a little too insistent for the comfort of this particular reader.

Still, I'd recommend both books for their treatment of an important subject, one I believe ought to be at the top of the agenda, whether the debate is cultural or political.



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SONGS FOR ABBEYFIELD Sunday, October 12, 2:30 pm

A fundraising event for the Pender Harbour Abbeyfield Building Fund. Music by three talented singers performing their favourite songs. Award winning folk singer Penny Lang, Sunshine Coast Festival of the Performing Arts winner Edmund Arceo, and accomplished mezzo soprano Celia Howard. Tickets \$20.00

SOUP & SONG Saturday, October 18, 5:00 pm

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love grows here

Scott Smith wins Mary Hill, Eastbourne and maybe it all

He did it again. Twice.

Scott Smith has stunned the International Gravity Sports Association by winning back-to-back races.

After coming off a win and a string of podium finishes to maintain a solid lead throughout the 2008 World Cup season, Smith successfully defended the race he won last year — his first ever victory — at the Maryhill Festival of Speed in Washington.

Pender Harbour's Sandy Charlton came in 15th in that race with fellow team Green member, Rylan English posting a respectable 67th.

With 153 longboarders competing on the longest course on the world cup circuit, Smith proved his success isn't a fluke. He's fast.

Smith followed it up two weeks later in Eastbourne, England where he beat out 77 other riders for his third win in four races.

You would think that this victory would assure him of the overall World Cup title but it's not official yet. While he has dominated the tour all season, the IGSA points system heavily rewards attendance.

After finishing the first three



IGSA/Marcus Rietema photo

Smith (centre) celebrates with what looks to be a lampshade on his head after winning the 'Go Fast! Speed Days' event in Eastbourne, England.

times this season with two seconds place finishes, a third and a tenth, Smith has 2892.14 points.

His closest rival, Mischo Erban, hangs in there with 2310.36 points after one first-place finish, a third, three fifths, a seventh and a ninth.

With three world cup races to go, Smith looks poised to take it all but it's not a sport that forgives mis-

takes and a fall or a missed race could change everything.

Smith's next race takes place in in Brazil in late October.

There are two more big races after that. In November, Smith will compete in California before travelling to Capetown, South Africa for the final race of the season.

Catch a customer's eye.

Call 883-0770 to add colour to the Harbour Spiel.

13th annual Garden Bay Kids' Triathlon finds perfect weather

For the 13th year, the Iron Kids' Triathlon took place in Garden Bay for kids 16 and under.

The course consists of a 200-metre swim (160 metres for younger kids) in Garden Bay Lake, a six-kilometre bike and two-kilometre run.

The course eventually ends in downtown Garden Bay where all are treated to juice, hot dogs, medals and/or trophies.

The top male finisher was 15-year-old Chris Hadfield who completed the course in 38:23 while the top female was 12-year-old Maya Broeke who clocked in at 42:35.

The Janice Brown Memorial trophy, awarded to the athlete or athletes exhibiting exceptional "courage, determination and strength," was shared by Hadfield and Linnea Harder.

"Janice Brown was a teacher at Chatelech and an incredible athlete," said organizer Mokie Burnham.

"She fought cancer for about seven years, all the while competing and coaching kids."

The event was organized by Burnham and her husband Mike who started it following the death of their son from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

Local sponsors include the Sechelt Fish Market (Mike's business),



Trail Bay Source for Sports, Wren's Logo and John Henry's Marina.

"Lucy (of John Henry's Marina) has been an unbelievable generous soul," said Burnham.

This year saw a total of 17 kids competing but Burnham says they had as many as 70 kids taking part in the early years.

She says participation has been waning in the last few year, in part because of her hectic schedule and lack of marketing. But says she plans to make a renewed effort next year.

The Garden Bay Kids' Triathlon takes place every September on the first Sunday after school starts.

For more information call Mokie Burnham at (604) 885-4626.



Teammates Grace Stanhope and Maya Treuheit hoist Emma MacDonald after she finished the running portion.



Chris Hadfield and Linnea Harder shared the Janice Brown Memorial Trophy.



Rider finishing the bike portion prepares to tag teammate to start the run.

Place names of Pender Harbour and Jervis Inlet (Part I)

By Peter Trappitt

Ed. note (1993): In 1960, Al Lloyd commissioned Pender Harbour resident Peter Trappitt to research our local place names. Following is Part I of the original article, as written by Trappitt and distributed by Lloyd's Store as 'A Centennial Souvenir' in 1960.

WHEN THE WHITE MAN CAME

Historically speaking, the birth of Pender Harbour as a geographical location was 1860.

Prior to that year, the only chart showing the West Coast in any detail was that of Captain George Vancouver, issued in 1798.

But this early chart didn't show Pender Harbour. Tucked away behind its sheltering screen of islands, the Harbour was bypassed by all the earlier explorers.

Captain Vancouver missed it, although he and his intrepid crews, in

their two small, open boats, camped on the south end of what we now know as Francis Peninsula on their way up-coast to explore Jervis Inlet in June 1972.

THE ELUSIVE HARBOUR

Two years before, in 1790, Lieutenant Francisco Elisa of the Spanish Navy, sailed up from San Blas, a naval base about half-way down the coast of Mexico. He sailed the *San Carlos*, a tiny vessel called a snow (about the size of a modern seine boat) to Nootka on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

From Nootka, in 1791, he set out to explore what we now know as the Strait of Georgia. Elisa named the strait "Gran Canal de Nuestra Señora del Rosario la Marinera."

He sailed up the east coast of Vancouver Island, and so he too missed Pender Harbour.

At precisely the same time as Captain Vancouver was exploring Jervis Inlet, the Spanish Captains Galiano and Valdez were examining these waters in their schooners *Sutil* and *Mexicana*.

They named the Malaspina Strait "Brazo de Malaspina" after the famous Italian scientist and explorer, who was at that time in the service of Spain.

But Galiano and Valdez missed Pender Harbour too.

HARBOUR FINALLY DISCOVERED

In 1857, Captain George H. Richards, commanding the 500-ton, 60 horsepower auxiliary steam sloop *HMS Plumper*, was authorized to conduct a thorough survey of west coastal waters.

In 1860, he surveyed and named Pender Harbour in honour of the Master (Navigating Officer) of the *Plumper*, Daniel Pender.

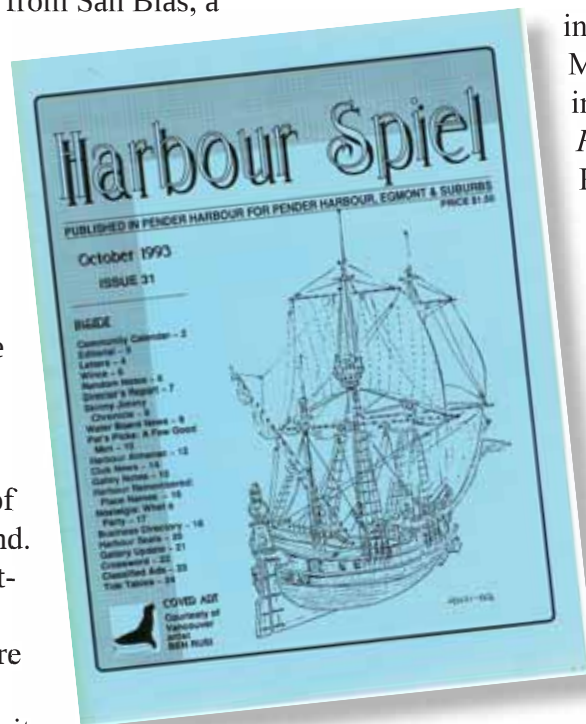
Pender, who came of a long line of West-of-England naval forebearers, retired from the British Navy in 1884 with the rank of Captain. He died in 1891.

Seven years later, Daniel Pender,

now Lieutenant Pender, RN, and in command of the chartered survey vessel *Beaver*, revisited the Harbour which bore his name.

He named Gunboat Bay, the quiet little cove on the north side of the Harbour just east of the Narrows, after the gunboats *Grappler* and *Forward*, which were stationed on this coast between 1860 and 1869.

Part II of Place Names of Pender Harbour and Jervis Inlet by Peter Trappitt will appear in the November Harbour Spiel.



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Scooting around the Harbour for five cents a kilometre

By Rick Harmer

A few months ago my wife, Ann, and I decided to improve our mileage, so we began talking about different ways to lessen our dependence on gas.

Hybrid? Seriously considered, but the cost was a prohibitive.

Smart Car? No. Too small. Way too small!

Horsedrawn conveyance? I thought that might excite Ann (endless horse poop for the garden), but me, I'm not a horse person and the animals know it. Plus adding the cost of feed, shelter and time to get to the ferry dock eliminated that idea.

So, we were left with what we feel was the best choice: a used Honda Element. It had reasonable mileage, amazing cargo capacity and overall utilitarianism.

At the same time, we also purchased a new Yamaha BWS scooter. It's what we call "The Bike and The Box" combo. With helmets and optional carrier, the bike came to about \$3,000.

Why a scooter? In Pender Harbour, from Middlepoint to the high school, the maximum speed is 60 km/h.

The 49cc scooter tops out at 65 km/h so, for most of the errands we run in this area, it's an ideal method



Rick Harmer photo

Ann Harmer on her 'Pender Harbour Hog.'

of transport. We restrict its use to dry days but with proper gear, it's possible to use it year-round.

Some will point and laugh at our Pender Harbour Hog, but with over 500 kilometres on it, we've spent about \$25 on gas. Insurance (the deluxe package from ICBC) came to about \$400.

So, you ask, how hard is it to drive? It isn't. Simple "gas and go" technology makes it easy to learn and to operate. In BC, this kind of bike needs no special licence, though that could change in the future.

Lessons? We're self-taught (I was a rider in my younger days) but would recommend lessons as they may be required in the future, along

with a road test.

The two-stroke engine does create some emissions, but after we've clocked 1,000 km, we can change to a synthetic oil, which is used by the European scooting community and which results in much less pollution. (We'll be using oil that smells like strawberries!)

So if you see a motorcycle mama putting down the highway, wearing a pink helmet and surrounded by the aroma of berries, give her a bit of space. (Why drive faster than 60 km/h around the Harbour, anyway?)

As for me, my smile is so wide when I'm riding, I'm going to need a windshield to keep the bugs out!

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The resurrection of the Pender Harbour Jazz Festival



It's what continues to make the Pender Harbour Jazz Festival unique. With a seafood grill manned by Off the Hook Seafoods and lots of room to stretch out, more than 500 people took in the Jill Townsend Big Band and the Anna Lyman Quintet at Pender Harbour Landing on Saturday afternoon.

Despite the shadow cast by disturbing weather reports, the 12th annual Pender Harbour Jazz Festival saw (mostly) good weather. Rain settled in late Sunday afternoon but by then, organizers were already calling the festival a huge success. Atten-

dance and revenues were both up from previous years and, other than the drunk wandering through downtown Madeira on Saturday shouting slurs, most agreed the lineup was terrific.

It was less than a year ago that the festival was in jeopardy after

Monty Rolston retired as president. Rolston was instrumental to the past success of the festival and shouldered a huge workload. It was unclear if there would be anyone willing to try to fill his shoes.

In stepped Barry O'Hara who, in February, agreed to lend his assistance. But O'Hara was immediately confronted with financial problems.

"When I started this job, the two main sponsors had bailed out," he said.

"Our main sponsor for years and years (Target Marine) — their business changed hands. They usually put \$5,000 into the thing and that money wasn't forthcoming."

O'Hara said that he lost another \$4,000 when the musicians union changed its structure and wasn't able to sponsor the main big band on Saturday afternoon. Suddenly the festival wasn't financially viable.

"Then the Sunshine Coast Credit Union got a hold of me and they doubled their money and they became the major sponsors," said O'Hara.



It doesn't get closer to the water than this. The Dylan Cramer Quartet was equal to the setting at Sunshine Coast Resort on Saturday afternoon.

"I was talking to Pender Harbour Landing and they decided to give me \$6,000 to finance the big band show so then we were in business."

A lack of volunteers was the next problem confronting the festival.

O'Hara said that a small group of about six volunteers carried the weight through the winter but O'Hara singled out one in particular.

"If Janet Thomas hadn't decided to help me do this, there wouldn't have been a jazz festival this year. She was the main volunteer."

O'Hara got an unexpected boost on Sept. 7 — a week before the festival — when he was surprised at a volunteer meeting when an unexpected number of people showed up.

Things were going well until a couple of mishaps occurred on opening day.

First, equipment manager Paul Hopkins fell while unloading equipment. At first it was suspected he had a broken leg but it turned out to be a soft tissue injury. Regardless, he was shipped to the hospital leaving an important position vacant.

This problem was compounded soon after when a shipment of equipment from Vancouver turned out to be missing three drum kits. Volunteers had to scramble to find local kits for musicians playing that night because another shipment wouldn't arrive until Saturday.

O'Hara has said from the start that he could only take over for a year which still leaves next year's festival in question.

One of the plans for future jazz festivals is to put more of the responsibility on the venues themselves to set up their shows.



The Bear Bay Trio (Barry O'Hara on sax, Coro Saress on drums and Chris Andersen on bass) entertained the crowd on a sunny and warm Sunday morning in the Madeira Park Shopping Centre.

After that he's hoping the Pender Harbour Music Society will take over some of the larger shows with the Pender Harbour Community Club possibly helping with the big shows at the hall.

With over \$10,000 in the bank for next year's marketing budget, O'Hara says that money isn't the problem if somebody kicks in the

manpower.

"You don't really need an overall guy like myself running it," he said.

I'm hopeful that they'll (P. H. Music Society) pick it up. If they don't pick it up somebody's got to pick it up because this festival can't go away. It's too big."

Oktoberfest

A Night of Traditional Bavarian Food, Beer, Wine

Saturday, October 18, 2008

P.H. Community Hall

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

DANCING • LIVE BAND

Tickets \$30 at Harbour Insurance and Harbour Spirit

Presented by: PENDER HARBOUR POWER & SAIL SQUADRON

All proceeds in aid of PENDER HARBOUR ABBEYFIELD HOUSE



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.

OCTOBER EVENTS

- Sat. Oct. 4.....8th Annual Fall Faire - P. H. Legion, 11 a.m.
 Sun. Oct. 5.....Larrie Cook and the Bluesmasters - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
 Tues. Oct. 7.....P. H. Community Club General Meeting - P. H. Community Hall, 7 p.m.
 Wed. Oct. 8.....Sunshine Coast Employment Outreach Office opens - P.H. Community School, 11:30 a.m.
 Fri. Oct. 10.....Local government elections nomination period ends
 Sat. Oct. 11.....Madeira Market - P. H. Community Hall, 10 a.m. - 2pm.
 Sat. Oct. 11.....“Raise the Roof” Seafood Buffet Dinner Fundraiser - P. H. Community Hall, 6 p.m.
 Sun. Oct. 12.....Joe Stanton - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
 Sun. Oct. 12.....“Songs for the Abbeyfield” - St. Andrew’s Anglican Church, 2:30 p.m.
 Mon. Oct. 13.....P. H. Food Bank Pick up - P. H. Community Church, 12 p.m.
 Tues. Oct. 14.....Federal Election Voting Day - various locations, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
 Tues. Oct. 14.....Women’s Connection Gathering - P. H. School of Music, 10 a.m.
 Fri. Oct. 17.....Wine in the Wilderness - West Coast Wilderness Lodge
 Sat. Oct. 18.....BC 150 Year - Egmont Heritage Centre, 2 p.m.
 Sat. Oct. 18.....Wine in the Wilderness - West Coast Wilderness Lodge
 Sat. Oct. 18.....Oktoberfest - P. H. Community Hall, 6:30 p.m.
 Sat. Oct. 18.....Soup & Song - St. Andrew’s Anglican Church, 5 p.m.
 Sun. Oct. 19.....Gaetan and the French Connection - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
 Sun. Oct. 19.....Jinjo Cho - P. H. School of Music, 2 p.m.
 Tues. Oct. 21.....P. H. Wildlife Society present “Return of the Otters” by Mike Poole - PHSS, 7:30 p.m.
 Wed. Oct. 22.....Area A Satellite Office Grand Opening - 12828 Lagoon Rd., 11 a.m.
 Fri. Oct. 24.....Splashin’ Sneakers ‘n’ Snacks - Pender Harbour Aquatic Centre, 12 p.m.
 Sun. Oct. 26.....Sunday Blues Jam - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
 Mon. Oct. 27.....P. H. Food Bank Pick up - P. H. Community Church, 12 p.m.
 Wed. Oct. 29.....Area A APC Meeting - P. H. School of Music, 7 p.m.
 Fri. Oct. 31.....PHFVD Halloween Fireworks - Millennium Park, 7:30 p.m.

FERRY DEPARTURES

Effective September 2 - June 29, 2009

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.bcferries.com for information on added sailings during peak periods.

Langdale

•6:20 a.m.
 8:20 a.m.
 10:20 a.m.
 11:00 a.m. (Apr. 10 & May 18)
 12:20 p.m.
 2:30 p.m.
 3:00 p.m. (May 14 / 15 only)
 4:30 p.m.
 5:00 p.m. (April 9 only)
 6:30 p.m.
 8:20 p.m.
 10:10 p.m. (Oct. 13 / May 18 only)

Horseshoe Bay

•7:20 a.m.
 9:20 a.m.
 10:00 a.m. (Apr. 10 & May 18)
 11:20 a.m.
 1:20 p.m.
 2:00 p.m. (May 14 / 15 only)
 3:30 p.m.
 4:00 p.m. (April 9 only)
 5:30 p.m.
 7:25 p.m.
 9:15 p.m.
 11:00 p.m. (Oct. 13 / May 18 only)

Earl’s Cove

*6:30 a.m.
 8:25 a.m.
 10:25 a.m.
 12:30 p.m.
 4:25 p.m.
 6:25 p.m.
 8:20 p.m.
 10:10 p.m.

Saltery Bay

*5:35 a.m.
 7:25 a.m.
 9:25 a.m.
 11:25 a.m.
 3:20 p.m.
 5:25 p.m.
 7:20 p.m.
 9:15 p.m.

Note: schedule differs slightly for Oct. 10 & 13, Dec. 24 & 26, Jan. 1 and May 18 -- see website.

♦ Daily except Dec. 25 & Jan. 1

* Daily except Sundays & Dec. 25





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"Opportunity is at Hand"



12854 Lagoon Rd. - Madeira Park
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"A Very Secret Garden"



4222 Irvines Landing Rd.
 Situated only a short walk from historic Irvines Landing and Lee Bay, this 2 storey 1510 sq ft family home would also make a great get-a-way!
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"Unobstructed Ocean View"



3938 Francis Peninsula Rd.
 Private ocean-area retreat ideally set on sun-drenched 1.5 Ac only 600' from pebbly beach. 3BR/3BA w/ in-law suite, & gourmet kitch. Zoning allows 2nd home!
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5166 Wesjac Rd., Madeira Park
 Compare your dream to this 3BR/2BA 1736 sq.ft. rancher on a peaceful cul-de-sac set on a 0.59 acre sunny level lot. RV parking with room for shop.
Offered at \$372,000

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SUNDAY JAMS

Oct. 5 - Larrie Cook and the Bluesmasters

Oct. 12 - Joe Stanton

Oct. 19 - Gaetan & the French Connection

Oct. 26 - Sunday Blues Jam

SPECIALS

Mondays: "All-U-Can Eat" SPAGHETTI - \$10

Wednesdays: Karaoke & Chicken Wings

Fridays: Meat Draws (Proceeds to P. H. Dragon Boat Club)

Saturdays: Prime Rib

Sundays: Eggs Benny (11 a.m. - 2 p.m.)