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FEBRUARY 2012
ISSUE 254



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Membership may be mailed to:
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For member card to be mailed to you, include a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Or Dropped off at:
Thursday Night Bingo or PHCC Monthly Meetings
(2nd Monday of the month 7:00 pm Sept-June).



Pender Harbour Blues Society presents



mardi gras

costume ball

Saturday

FEBRUARY 25

Pender Harbour Hall
Madeira Park

Doors: 8:30 pm
Music: 9 pm



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www.penderharbourbluesfestival.com

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The Independent Voice of Pender Harbour & Egmont since 1990.

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Editor

Brian Lee

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EDITORIAL

Fumbling with pre-information age antiques

By Brian Lee



A scary thing happened to me the other evening.

I was working on stuff to fill the space between the ads and had to look up some factoid — I think it was something about Burrard Inlet.

Google sent me to Wikipedia.

After a quick flash of the listing:

“Burrard Inlet is a relatively shallow coastal fjord...”

It was gone.

In its place was a black wall of no facts, obliterating my screen and leaving me with nothing but a giant “W” and this ominous message:

“Imagine a World Without Free Knowledge.”

A link below explained that Wikipedia would be blacked out for 24 hours. It was the Wikipedia community’s way of raising awareness about proposed legislation before the U. S. Congress that “could fatally damage the free and open internet.”

It was to last for only 24 hours but, because it happened on a school day, I predicted catastrophe.

Where would billions of students around the globe turn to plagiarize their assignments?

Where else could they find a concise paragraph on the arterial pathways of the fetal pig?

Or the population of Luxembourg?

Or, like, whatever.

Bored with the global implications of the disaster, I turned back to my own predicament.

Having no other choice, I scrolled down Google’s offerings to see if there was a possibility the intertube might still give up the answer. It did.

About seven items down was a link to the publisher’s website for a book called *Burrard Inlet: A History*.

That took me back. It also reminded

me that the old fashioned paper and binding version sat less than two arm lengths away on my bookshelf.

And it turns out this device holds an incredible amount of data.

But it was a little unwieldy.

After some fumbling, I remembered that its search functions were limited to an alphabetical index — in the back (which seems dumb).

And the font size couldn’t be boosted up so I had to squint to find anything.

But the worst part came when I actually found what I was searching for.

The book’s outdated cut and paste function made a big, gluey mess and I ended up having to retype everything anyway. But I got there.

I suspect most students these days have dispensed with these antiques of the pre-information age.

And though many will disagree, I don’t believe the quality of information has suffered that much because of it.

When I was in high school — and university — the quality of research assignments was dictated by the availability of (usually) outdated print resources.

When the deadline loomed, we just used what we had, whether it was a science journal published in 1968 or the Encyclopedia Britannica.

Teachers understood this and acknowledged the limitations of research material by marking accordingly.

As our dependence on the digital library becomes more entrenched, we may come to dismiss the mouldering stacks of print taking up space on our shelves.

But don’t toss them out just yet.

The humble candle faced similar scorn when its limitations were first exposed by the electric light.

But I suspect candlelight also reasserted its usefulness during the first “blackouts” when someone needed to find some information. In a book.

SPIEL PICKS

BLUEWATERS BOOKS PRESENTS RAY PHILLIPS AUTHOR EVENT - FEB. 6, 7 P.M.

Join Ray Phillips, for stories from his recent book *The Little Green Valley: The Kleindale Story* at the Pender Harbour School of Music on Monday, Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m. The book chronicles the Klein family and many others who helped shape the area now known as Kleindale.

P. H. BLUES PRESENTS THE MARDI GRAS COSTUME BALL FEATURING CANNERY ROW - FEB. 25. 8:30 P.M

The Pender Harbour Blues Society is fast gaining a reputation for throwing the best parties and this one will be a doozy featuring Cannery Row — the all-star lineup of Gary Comeau, Tim Hearsey and Chris Nordquist. Doors open at 8:30 p.m., music at 9 p.m. and there'll be prizes for the best costumes. Tickets are \$20 at the Garden Bay Pub, Copper Sky Cafe and Strait Music.

P. H. MUSIC SOCIETY PRESENTS LINDA LEE THOMAS AND JONATHAN GOLDMAN - FEB. 12, 2P.M.

Pianist Linda Lee Thomas, "Chamber Musician Supreme," and bandoneon player Jonathan Goldman of the legendary Canadian group "Quartango," have come together as a formidable duo, bringing unforgettable tango to West Coast audiences.



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PHOTOJOURNAL



Brian Lee photo

Some people paint. Some people sculpt. Some people's artistic talent involves waiting for a cold snap to spray water on bamboo bushes. Seen here are the artist's impressive results at a Narrows Road property on Jan. 20.

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**It ain't real
if it's not in the Spiel.**

Pender Harbour Fire seeks approval for purchase of new truck

An open house at the Garden Bay Firehall on Jan. 21 explained how residents will have a voice about whether they want to pay for a new fire truck for the Garden Bay Fire Department.

Both the Madeira Park and Garden Bay Fire Departments fall under the authority of the Pender Harbour Fire Protection District which roughly covers an area along the highway to the shore from the Pender Harbour Golf Course south to Wood Bay.

The PHFPD trustees circulated notices to residents in early January about their proposal to borrow \$364,000 for the purchase of a new fire truck.

They intend to replace two fire engines currently in use at the Garden Bay firehall by disposing of one and maintaining the other as a reserve.

It comes upon a recommendation by the Fire Underwriters Survey, an insurance advisory organization that grades an area's level of fire protection so insurers can develop premiums that fairly reflect the risk of loss.

The PHFPD notice states, "This grading is very important as it forms the basis for discounted fire insurance premiums that we currently enjoy."

One of the grading criteria is that each hall maintain a total water capacity of 1,500 gallons for responding trucks.

"In the past they used to allow us to add the water together from Madeira and Garden Bay to total 1,500 gallons," says Pender Harbour Fire Chief Don Murray.

"Then a few years ago they came and said, 'No, you guys have enough experience now —you need 1,500 in both halls.'"

Currently, Garden Bay's two truck capacity totals 1,350 gallons but the new truck would have a capacity



Brian Lee photo

The Pender Harbour Fire Protection District trustees have proposed replacing an aging fire engine at the Garden Bay Hall with a new one very similar to this 2006 Freightliner from the Madeira Park Fire Hall.

of 500 gallons while replacing one that can only carry 350 gallons.

That truck is also past the recommended age for an active fire engine.

"Trucks are good for 20 years as the first-out truck and then it's good as the second truck for another 10 years," says Murray.

"There's nothing wrong with either truck, really, but that's what the rules are in order to maintain our insurance rating."

In order to borrow the money, the trustees must receive the consent of landowners within the PHFPD in the form of an alternate approval process.

The process allows the proposal to proceed unless 10 per cent of landowners (roughly 300) register their opposition by filling out an AAP document by Feb. 24, 2012.

The cost of borrowing will be stretched over 10 years and, depend-

ing on the final interest rate for the loan, will cost landowners approximately \$3.50 to \$4 per \$100,000 of assessed property value.

The AAP forms are available at the Madeira Park Firehall on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon until Feb. 23.



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Seniors housing society enters 2012 with renewed enthusiasm

After suffering a period of deflated expectations and volunteer burnout, the Area A Seniors Housing Project has regrouped with a new name and a revitalized focus.

Linda Curtiss, chair of the newly rebranded Pender Harbour Seniors Housing Society, says the name better stated who they were.

"We just thought 'Pender Harbour' was more recognizable," says Curtiss.

"And we created a bit of a problem for ourselves by having our society called the Area A Seniors Housing Project and then introducing Abbeyfield House so people started thinking they were two different things."

Although their name is the most recognizable change to the non-profit society, it's not the most significant.

"We've actually gone through quite a metamorphosis in terms of people," says director Gil Yard.

"But the bottom line is that the people that are there — both new and old — are ones that believe very solidly that this is a project we want to see through, be it in terms of establishing seniors housing or be it in terms of establishing something else for seniors."

Since 1989, the volunteers have been actively fundraising towards



photo submitted

The recharged board of directors for the newly renamed Pender Harbour Seniors Housing Society. Back row (l-r): Anky Drost, Rick Harmer, Ed Hawkins. Front (l-r): Gil Yard, Linda Curtiss, Hans Wenger, Patti Gaudet. Besides the board, a number of other community members offer valuable expertise to the project on a regular basis.

their goal of delivering alternative housing for local seniors.

It was in response to what was identified as a growing trend for seniors being forced out of the community — either by lack of services or our local geography — after reaching a certain age.

"Supportive housing" generally

refers to providing accommodation and hospitality services like meals but not personal care.

An April 2006 Sunshine Coast Affordable Housing study identified supportive housing as one of the greatest needs on the Coast and projected a serious shortage for the future.

To that end, the Area A Seniors Housing Project landed on the Abbeyfield model and pushed forward plans to build on a lot they already owned at Lily Lake Village.

The Abbeyfield model included a live-in house co-ordinator who would provide two meals and a self-serve breakfast daily to 10 independent seniors.

The June 2007 issue of the *Harbour Spiel* reported that ground breaking for the project was intended to start in 2010.

But it didn't.

Proud sponsors of P. H. Seniors Housing Dinners for Donors campaign: 149 bricks sold!



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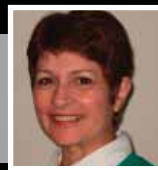
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Yard says that delay in making concrete steps forward is what contributed to some of the volunteers' burnout.

"Volunteer time is frustrating if you're not making progress. One of the things that brought us to the crisis was that we put our heart and soul into an application for close to \$1 million in stimulus funding from the federal government. We went to the 11th hour but, at the last moment, we got chopped," says Yard.

"I think it was just a matter of timing but it blew some of the wind out of our sails. I know it really frustrated me."

But as setbacks often do, it forced what was left of the group to reassess what they could achieve.

They looked to combine their efforts with the local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

The two groups share a number of board members and the Royal Canadian Legion shares a similar mandate to provide support for seniors.

It seemed like a good fit, says Yard, but the spark for their revitalization came early last year in the form of a meeting with the Royal Canadian Legion's housing expert, Dave McDonald.

The Legion already has a successful program to develop seniors housing projects across Canada and McDonald heads up efforts in Ontario and BC.

Curtiss says the first meeting was a revelation.

McDonald immediately zeroed in on their situation and identified the weak areas.

They went on to have three more meetings with McDonald and his guidance has revived the group's confidence and bolstered their enthusiasm

to continue.

But Yard says their first step forward will be to take a step back.

At their first meeting, McDonald noted the lack of a comprehensive survey assessing what the community considers is needed for seniors.

"When we started looking at things we realized that, even though we all believe that seniors' housing is necessary and wanted in Pender Harbour, we had no grassroots survey supporting that," says Yard.

"So, we have to cover that base for funding, if nothing else."

The directors hope to hire an experienced survey consultant soon and to be underway within a few weeks.

The results will help to determine how the group will then proceed.

Yard says that may still include the Abbeyfield project or an alternative housing project on the Pender Harbour Legion site.

"We want to be moving forward and it may not even involve housing,"

says Yard.

"There may be alternatives where we can better assist local seniors by expanding services like the healthy meals program."

The Area A healthy meal program delivers nutritious meals to isolated seniors who may not be able to cook for themselves or have the ability to do regular shopping.

Yard points out that programs like it provide a valuable service simply by dropping in on seniors to help alert medical services to health and safety issues.

The Pender Harbour Seniors Housing Society currently sits on \$381,000 in cash and assets.

That figure has decreased slightly reflecting recent dips in property assessment for the Lily Lake Village lot.

For more information about the Pender Harbour Seniors Housing Society, visit www.penderharbourseniors.org.



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John Ward West

JUNE 9, 1913 – JAN. 7, 2012

Some men build a good life.
Some men build a solid reputation.

Some men build a family and a circle of friends.

John West built all of the above, and in the process, he built a community.

Born in 1913 in Vancouver, he grew up on Nelson Island and in Vancouver.

John West worked as an apprentice wood worker at Robertson Sash and Door Factory (doing “bank jobs!”), a logger and a fisherman in his youth, and later worked as a commercial troller.

He was proud to be part of the “Fishermen’s Navy” during the Second World War.

John married Mary Griffith of Egmont and, later that year, he and Mary bought property in Egmont near the confluence of Agamemnon Channel, Jervis Inlet and Sechelt Inlet.

They built a house and began raising their three children Peter, Graeme and Heather.

This was before the road, when Egmont was water access only.

In 1949 John built a sawmill to begin cutting the lumber required for a new fishboat, the *Mary Ann W* which he finished in 1951.

Over the years he cut lumber for many of the homes in and around Egmont as well as more fishboats.

He operated on his property as Egmont Marine Ways and Sawmill.

John’s contributions and efforts on behalf of the village of Egmont are legend.

In 1953, when the BCFP Logging Camp at Brittain River was closing, John negotiated the purchase of the recreation hall, built by the loggers themselves.



The Egmont Community Club issued \$1 to John to complete the transaction.

The hall was cut in half, loaded onto two wrapped barges (logs, wrapped together with cables spiked into place to hold them), and moved to Secret Bay in Egmont.

It was winched up the hill and re-assembled at its current site.

In the mid-1950s Egmont Road was built, connecting the community with the Sunshine Coast Highway and the outside world.

John worked with the highways department to put in Egmont Road and later Maple Road and then to have them paved.

As president of the Egmont Community Club he was also instrumental in working with BC Hydro to bring

electricity to Egmont.

Tourists began to arrive and change the complexion of the town.

In 1965, West’s Resort grew out of the incredible sports fishing in and around Egmont at the time.

Each winter, John cleared more land, built a bit more onto the resort and extended the docks where many a fisherman came ashore with a prize catch.

John West was a hard-working man with a warm smile, a kind disposition and co-operative spirit that helped develop a family, a property, a business and a community.

John died on Jan. 7, 2012 in his sleep, in his bed, in the house he built on the most beautiful piece of property in the world — exactly the way he wished.

Sylvia Farley

JUNE 19, 1948 – DEC. 20, 2011



On Dec. 20, 2011 Sylvia Farley of Garden Bay, (formerly of Westlock and Edmonton, Alta.) passed away at the age of 63.

She is survived by her loving children, Angelle (Gil), Ben (Kelly), Adam (Keyara) and Nolan and by eight precious grandchildren, Tristan, Talen, Sam, Caden, Annika, Sullivan, Elden and Olivia.

She is also survived by her sister Vivian (Mike), brother in-law Doug and nephews Kirk, Todd, Chad and their families.

Sylvia was predeceased by her mother Bella, sister Maryette, father Raymond and brother Ray.

Sylvia was a warm and loving mother, grandmother and friend. She was also a wonderful artist.

She will be greatly missed.

A celebration of life was held on Wednesday, Dec. 28 at the School of Music Hall in Madeira Park.

Condolences can be forwarded to: devlinfuneralhome.ca.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Hop Scotch like 'torchlight procession marching down your throat.'



Glen Bonderud photo

The fourth annual Hop Scotch fundraiser at the golf course on Jan. 14 offered an excellent meal, fine beer and generous portions of over half a dozen rare Scotch whiskies. Of the 39 people attending 'most went out with smiles and a designated driver,' said one of the organizers.

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Glen Bonderud photo

Expert Dave Mochuk not only selected the variety of unique Scotch whiskys for the evening, he attended as well. Mochuk is seen here educating about the finer points of enjoying the spirit.

It's up to locals to build Coast's economy

I was recently reading your editorial in the December edition of the *Harbour Spiel*, "Economic development starts at home."

I found it interesting because in 2009 I wrote a research paper with a similar focus.

I was looking at the economic impact of retirees moving to a small community, such as Pender Harbour.

This was at a time when the housing market on the Coast was going strong and the economic repercussions of the crash in the U.S. housing market were considered to be relatively minor, if applicable at all.

The economy was booming and people were borrowing as if there was no tomorrow to get what they wanted.

I was interested in how business within a small community that is close to a metropolis, such as Vancouver, would fare among members of the community who were potentially less connected to it than those who had lived there for most of their lives.

I divided members of the community based on how many years they'd spent living in it and then went on to look at how they spent their money on various goods and services.

I chose three categories predictive of different spending habits: groceries, clothing, and appliances and electronics.

Groceries are a necessity.

We all must eat to survive, and as a past supervisor of mine at a grocery store was fond of pointing out, everyone needs to buy them.

Clothing is still very necessary to our daily lives but not as critical and more expensive, thereby limiting the frequency with which most people purchase them.

Appliances and electronics are less critical and more expensive than

clothes but one most people would have bought within the last few years.

The findings of the study indicated that the purchase of food remained primarily within Pender Harbour no matter how many years the respondent had spent living in the community.

Clothes were purchased on the Sunshine Coast, with no preference between Pender Harbour or the rest of the Sunshine Coast for people in either category.

The interesting finding comes with appliances and electronics.

There was a correlation between length of time spent living in Pender Harbour and individuals' tendency to buy appliances and electronics on the Sunshine Coast.

Simply put, people who had lived in Pender Harbour for awhile bought on the Sunshine Coast whereas those who had only recently moved or were temporary residents bought their appliances and electronics in Vancouver.

I unfortunately did not collect any data detailing seasonal movements of individuals since that was beyond the scope of my study.

It would have been interesting to answer the long considered question, "Where have all the people gone?" come the winter season in Pender Harbour.

From this study it is possible to draw two conclusions relevant to your editorial.

The first is that the Madeira Park IGA will never find itself out of business.

The second is that high-end retailers of goods on the Sunshine Coast have either become inefficient and too costly or have ceased to exist entirely.

Unfortunately, economic growth often relies not on the bread and butter industries such as grocery, but on

more expensive and higher-risk business ventures such as selling appliances and electronics.

Pender Harbour is not so much in need of investment as it is in need of jobs — jobs within the community providing an income to those who wish to consume goods in the community.

High-end real estate is a great way to make a quick buck but provides no long term opportunities for Pender Harbour to grow as a community.

A great way to create these kinds of jobs is industry.

Bring back local pulp and sawmills and expand the fish processing capacity of already existing factories.

Pender Harbour, much like the rest of Canada, must make do with what it already has: raw resources.

However, we can no longer afford to ship these goods overseas so that we may re-import them and buy them at a large mark-up.

Think globally, act locally.

Retirees have long been used as a target for focusing the frustration of the community for a lack of prosperity.

When they are around, they are not giving enough back to the community. When they are not around, it becomes their fault that the Sunshine Coast is lacking development.

Clearly, the findings of my study indicate that retirees are investing as much as they can in the local community, but it is we who are at fault because we are not giving them opportunities to spend beyond the basic goods and services which Pender Harbour can currently provide.

Niall Craddock

Vancouver

(formerly Pender Harbour)



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teers. If you are interested and can spare
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THE MAURO MEMO

Mauro and SCRD board begin budget review



By Frank Mauro,
Area A Director

SCRD BUDGET REVIEW (ROUND 1)

Now that the
holiday break is over,
we are in the midst of
Round 1 of the SCRD budget review.

The business of running a re-
gional district is becoming clearer by
the day.

In order to better understand
their goals and needs, I have met with
several groups in our area which are
funded by the SCRD.

The groups thoroughly briefed
me before presenting their cases to the
board.

These meetings were very help-
ful in preparing me for discussions
and budget setting.

I thank all those involved for
their hard work, dedication to their
goals and the thorough preparation of
their budget plans.

The main challenge in this year's
budget process will be to hold the line,
with so many demands on funding.

A cap has been set to limit in-
creases to the base budgets to a maxi-
mum of 1.5 per cent.

Prioritizing and making hard
decisions will be a requirement of all
directors.

SCRD COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

I am pleased to report that I have
been appointed chair of the infrastruc-
ture services committee.

This is one of the four main
standing committees and is respon-
sible for oversight and direction for all
infrastructure works such as utilities
(water and liquid waste), transporta-
tion (transit and ports), facilities,
energy and sustainable services (solid
waste, recycling etc.).

Based on the major infrastruc-
ture work presently underway in the
region and particularly in our area, I
am pleased with the appropriateness
of the appointment.

I have also been appointed to
the St. Mary's Hospital governance
(expansion) committee and the solid
waste plan monitoring advisory com-
mittee.

In addition to the day-to-day
work of the board, some major priori-
ties this next year will be:

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Work on the master plan is well
underway.

Public hearings have been held
and a draft is expected soon.

After review by the board, fur-
ther public consultation will be re-
quired before the final plan is issued.

The plan will provide the region-
al district with a comprehensive guide
to recreation requirements for the near
future.

SOLID WASTE.

A goal has been set to escalate
the diversion of solid waste to recy-
cling, from the current 50 per cent to
67 per cent by 2015.

Pender Harbour Seniors Housing Society Outreach Healthy Meal Program



HEALTHY MEALS MAKE FOR HEALTHY SENIORS.

Gift a meal plan for someone you care about.

Call Linda Curtiss (604) 883-2819 or Anky Drost (604) 883-0033.

process

The actions required to achieve this goal must be clearly defined and implemented.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL EXPANSION COMPLETION

This major project which will benefit the entire district is in progress and must be managed.

WATER UPGRADES

Several water main upgrades to the North and South Pender and

Egmont water systems are currently in progress as is a source assessment resource plan for the Chapman Creek watershed.

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Contract negotiations for the SCRD bargaining unit employees are yet to be finalized.

Due to the holiday break and budget priorities, there has been no progress to report on the intra-Pender

Harbour bus concept nor the private moorage applications issue.

I will be available to answer questions and concerns at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 18 at the P. H. School of Music in Madeira Park.

I will announce a time and place for a meeting such as this in each month's Memo.

Hopefully, an informal monthly question and answer session will help me better represent you.



Sunshine Coast Regional District

AREA A - ADVISORY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

The next meeting of the Egmont/Pender Harbour Advisory Planning Commission is on Wednesday, February 29 at 7:00 p.m. at Pender Harbour High School, Room 107.

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Winter Operating Hours:
Monday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Tuesday 8:30 am to 12:30 pm
Wednesday to Saturday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Sunday Closed ALL Day
Site Closed On: Statutory holidays from Thanksgiving weekend to Easter weekend.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: NORTH PENDER HARBOUR WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Are you interested in making a difference in your community? The SCRD is looking for area residents who would like to provide input on the planning and operation of the North Pender Harbour Water System. As a committee member, you will also be expected to act as a liaison between the Sunshine Coast Regional District and the water users in

the North Pender Harbour Water Service Area. Applicants must live in the North Pender Harbour Water Service Area.

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

Dave Crosby, Infrastructure Services.
1975 Field Road, Sechelt, B.C. V0N 3A1
Fax 604-885-7909,
dave.crosby@scrd.ca

The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2012. For more information, contact: Dave Crosby at 604-885-6821

AREA A - DIRECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Director Frank Mauro can be reached by email at frank.mauro@scrd.ca.

For more information:

1975 Field Road, Sechelt
BC V0N 3A1

T: 604-885-6800 F: 604-885-7909

Office hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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MEETINGS AT 1975 FIELD ROAD

Community Services Committee

February 2 at 9:30 a.m.

Infrastructure Services Committee

February 2 at 1:30 p.m.

Special Corporate and Administrative Services Committee - Round 2 Budget Review

February 13, 14, 15 at 9:30 a.m.

Planning and Development Services Committee

February 16 at 9:30 a.m.

Regular Board

February 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Corporate and Administrative Services Committee

February 23 at 1:30 p.m.

Regular Board

February 23 at 7:30 p.m.

Policing Committee

February 27 at 9:00 a.m.

Transportation Committee

February 27 at 10:30 a.m.

The Pender Harbour Community Club — 62 years and counting

By Brian Lee

In 1940, a group of Pender Harbour residents rallied together to form what is surely Pender Harbour's oldest organization.

Bill Pieper owned the Irvines Landing Community Hall which sat behind his resort on a rocky knoll above the road.

The building still stands as a private home but, back then, it was a popular community gathering place.

The problem was, Pieper couldn't figure out how to turn a profit with the building and planned to shut it down.

A number of locals banded together to form the Pender Harbour Community Club and were able to lease the building from Pieper until they secured another location

There were some familiar names associated with the first meetings: Bill Scoular, Ole Kleven, Hilda Reid, Maggie Wray and Clara Lee, the first secretary.

The Pender Harbour Community Club hosted dances, badminton matches, funerals and school concerts at the Irvines Landing site until the late 1940s when Pieper announced plans to sell the property.

Madeira Park was just starting to be developed but with its central location and availability of developable land, it looked to be the future hub of Pender Harbour.

When a real estate developer purchased the Gonzalves Property in Madeira Park and started carving it up, it's said that Hilda Reid was instrumental in persuading him to donate one of the centrally located lots to the community club.

The PHCC took ownership of the lot in 1949 and by the next year construction of the Pender Harbour Com-



Alice Haddock photo

Built over a swampy wet land, this is how the Pender Harbour Community Hall looked part way through its construction in 1950.

munity Hall was complete, largely through volunteer labour and donated funds (see sidebar, p. 15).

The building has been maintained by volunteers ever since.

One of those volunteers is Muriel Cameron who has tirelessly helped to organize, clean or manage the hall's finances since it opened.

Cameron is still an integral part of the club's board of directors, regularly organizing Thursday night bingos or swap meets.

The Pender Harbour Community Club has also benefited from recent efforts by people like Don Fraser and Stu Eggleton who gave graciously of time or money when the community hall needed it.

The building's exterior received a facelift and its foundation has been restored.

In 2006, Area A director John Rees was instrumental in getting an SCR D grant to replace the aging septic field. On top of that came the

landscaping we see today.

Over the past 60-plus years, The PHCC has housed Pender Harbour's first library and first playschool.

The hall has been used as a meeting space for almost all local youth groups: Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Girl Guides and teen nights.

It's hosted badminton, hundreds of dances and Thursday night bingo for a couple of generations.

At one time the club owned two billiards tables, roller skates and movie projection equipment — all to encourage the youth of Pender Harbour the use the hall.

Today the hall is still used for just about any local event from the Pender Harbour Jazz Festival to voting or weddings.

On top of this the club provides a building plus storage space in the hall to the P. H. Health Centre Auxiliary for the operation of the Bargain Barn Thrift Store.

It provides a direct benefit to-

ward their fundraising efforts for the P. H. Health Clinic.

Tenants of the club include the Pender Harbour community policing office which rents space on the backside of the building, and the very popular Triple B's Hamburger stand.

Every year, the society also provides a \$500 bursary to a Pender Harbour Secondary School graduate.

And the club wants to do more.

Future projects they are considering include restoring the interior of the hall to complement the exterior work that has already been completed.

That may include refurbishing the stage area and purchasing a better sound system while expanding equipment storage.

But the PHCC is suffering from decreasing membership and volunteer support.

They have recently hired a consultant to develop a maintenance plan for the next five to 10 years but whatever the results, the board needs to bring on more members.

In 2011, the PHCC membership (which is open to all residents of Area A) hit a low of 113 members.

Local events like May Day are already in jeopardy if the volunteers don't receive some help.

The Pender Harbour Community Club not only represents the area's heritage but holds a lot of potential to develop its future as well.

Membership in the PHCC costs \$5 per person and \$10 for families with children under 16 years of age.

General meetings are held on the second Monday of every month at 7 p.m. in the hall.

The annual general meeting will be held this month on Feb. 26 at 2 p.m., also at the hall.

Pender Harbour Community Hall History

By Brian Lee

*Excerpted from the Harbour Spiel
(Dec. 2006)*

Built almost entirely with volunteer labour and donated material, the hall sits on a former swamp that had to be filled before they could begin on the foundation.

The material used for filling turned out to be whatever was available, that being the ubiquitous tree stump and the odd car.

Norman Klein used a Cat to push six-foot stumps into the future building site only to watch them completely disappear into the soup.

In hindsight, it seems folly to build a town over a creek and swamp but it was the only clear meadow of its kind in the Harbour and had already evolved to become the favoured place for picnics and community events.

Local carpenter Nels Andersen was the only paid labourer on the project and directed its construction by local men (presumably between fishing seasons.)

Logs were felled nearby and milled at Reg Spicer's mill — located, not coincidentally, on Spicer's Road.

(It must have been nice to know that if you wanted to find out who lived in a certain area, all you had to do was look on the road sign because it was likely named after the family that lived there.)

Sawdust from milling the wood was dumped into the lagoon on Kent Road and is apparently responsible for a god-awful smell at low tide that, for some reason known only to science, seems to be getting worse.

The trussed roof was built from oversized rough-cut timbers crossing the entire 35-foot span of the hall.

Remodelled many times over the years, the hall underwent a major reno-

vation in the 1960s when the current kitchen and bar area were added.

As the only indoor surface of its time, the community hall became the local arena, recital hall, boxing ring, basketball court, roller skating rink and... shooting range. Really.

There was a gun club in which kids would walk over to the hall on weekends with their .22-calibre rifles for shooting practice.

It was supervised, of course, and they used metal targets to save the walls but it didn't stop a young Catherine McKinnon from once shooting a hole in the roof — a incident that, were it to happen today, would have Mounties and reporters crawling all over the place.

Underneath the hall was a crawl space where the local athletic club kept their baseball gear.

A wood door with a simple latch was all that was needed. Why steal if there was only one field to play on?

Boxing was really popular back then and, around the time Rocky Marciano dominated the heavyweight division, Harry Wise and Johnny Haddock ran a boxing club with a makeshift ring and trained kids to get their aggression out by slugging each other.

It worked too well and it's been said that the two of them were unwittingly responsible for whiskey-fuelled matches at every dance thereafter.

All kids loved the movie nights. There was no TV so Saturday movies were the hot ticket. Often 100 kids, more if it was a "duster," packed into the hall to watch what we now take for granted.

For older folks, the hall became a place to meet, dance and socialize.

Everyone has some kind of memory but Ted Lee summed it up for many:

"I learned to smoke and drink there."

The Legend of Deserted Bay (Tsoh-Nye)

By Al Lloyd

This story originally appeared in Al Lloyd's "Harbour Remembered" column in the Harbour Spiel, June 1996)



When I first came to Pender Harbour, a few native people still lived in Garden Bay.

Among them was Chief Dan Johnson and his wife.

They used to travel to the store and around the Harbour in a two-man dugout canoe.

She would be in the bow paddling, while he in the stern, his paddle athwart ships, with arms folded serenely and dignified as he scanned the water and the shore.

Once in awhile he would speak quietly to his wife and sometimes he would pick up his paddle and give a few quick strokes to correct their course.

I did not get to know Dan Johnson until I opened my store in Garden Bay.

He came in sometimes but was always quiet and reserved.

In time we became friends and he would talk of the old days, when many of his people lived at Garden Bay.

Most of his stories had a thread of humour running through them and

his eyes would sparkle as he told me of the fun they had, of the girls they chased, the tricks they played and how the Sehelts were converted to Catholicism.

Too often his stories were interrupted by customers but we had many good laughs.

One day he told me a story in a sad, quiet voice.

Gone was the sparkle in his eye and perhaps for this reason it remains very clear in my mind.

This is the story he told and I only wish I could use his own words but my memory will have to serve:

When the white men first settled on the coast, the native people were very interested in all the strange and different things he did.

We got great amusement from watching his everyday life; how he worked and especially how he amused himself.

Gastown was the only place on the lower coast where there were lots of white men and was a favourite place for white man watching.

The native families would travel by canoe and spend days and sometimes weeks watching with great interest and quiet amusement.

They watched how the white man worked and the tools he used.

They observed the food he ate

and the clothes he wore, they wondered about the houses he lived in, because you must realize that for the most part they had never seen any of these things before and they were totally different from the native ways they had always known.

Of particular interest was the white man's habit of drinking and getting into arguments and fights and sometimes ending up in jail.

Some of the native people tried this strange custom but the results were not too happy.

One other thing the white men brought was disease. Diseases like chickenpox, measles and smallpox.

The white men had been exposed to the diseases for generations and had developed some immunity and know-how to treat them.

Chickenpox and measles were called children's diseases and almost all white children had them early and were not very sick with them.

Smallpox was worse but not considered too serious.

But for the native people these diseases were very bad. Very dangerous.

They never had them before and did not know how people who caught them should be treated.

So, many of the people who caught smallpox were certain to die.

It happened that a group of people from Jervis Inlet were in Gastown when an outbreak of smallpox happened and when they saw people become very sick and covered with spots they decided that home was the best place to be

They gathered up their belongings and their children loaded them in their canoes and they headed up the inlet as fast as their paddles would drive them.

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Brian Lee photo

Deserted Bay, Jervis Inlet.

They did not know that they were carrying not only their belongings and children but the dreaded smallpox germs back to their families and friends at Tsoh-Nye.

Some little time after this, two men were fishing off Tsoh-Nye, and as they fished they thought it was funny that they could see no one on the shore or around the houses.

No sign of life at all.

They talked about this and their curiosity made them go into the shore to see what it was all about.

As soon as they put their boat on the beach, they had a bad feeling that something was very wrong.

They looked at the houses and

they just saw dead people and more dead people — all dead from the smallpox.

There were many houses but each one was the same — more dead people.

They were not afraid of smallpox as they had both had it so they looked to see if perhaps there was anyone still alive.

Just as they were about to give up, they heard a baby cry, very faint.

They looked and there at her dead mother's breast was a baby girl, hungrily trying to get milk.

They took the little baby and washed her in the salt chuck, wrapped her in clean clothes and took her —

the only living person in Tsoh-Nye — to Gastown to be cared for by her own people.

No native people went back to Tsoh-Nye for many years and it was called Deserted Bay and is still on the white man's map."

By the time Dan had got this far, his voice was very low and his eyes were sad from remembering.

The a ghost of a smile played over his face and the hint of mischief came back to his eyes and he said,

"That girl, she grew to be a beautiful lady, got herself a good man and had many children."

ORGANIZATIONS DIRECTORY

• Blues Society	883-2642
• Bridge Club	883-2633
• Chamber of Commerce, P. H. & Egmont.....	883-2561
• Christ the Redeemer Church	883-1355
• Coast Guard Auxiliary, Unit 61	883-2572
• Community Club, Egmont	883-9206
• Community Club, Pender Harbour	741-5840
• Community Policing	883-2026
• Community School Society	883-2826
• Egmont & District Volunteer Fire Department	883-2555
• GRIPS (Recycling Society)	883-1165
• Garden Bay Sailing Club	883-2689
• Guides, Brownies, etc.	883-2819
• Harbour Artists	883-2807
• Harbourside Friendships (Thur. 10:30 -1 p.m.)	883-9766
• Health Centre Society	883-2764
• Health Centre Auxiliary	883-0522
• InStitches (Last Thursday, 11 a.m., PHHC).....	883-0748
• Lions Club, Egmont.....	883-9463
• Lions Club, Pender Harbour (1st & 3rd Tues.)	883-1361
• P. H. Aquatic Centre Society	885-6866
• P. H. Cancer Support Group.....	883-2393
• P. H. Garden Club	883-9415
• P. H. Golf Club.....	883-9541
• P. H. Hiking Club (8:30 am, Mon. & Wed.)	883-2930
• P. H. Living Heritage Society	883-0748
• P. H. Music Society (bookings).....	883-9749
• P. H. Paddling Society	883-3678
• P. H. Pipe Band	883-0053
• P. H. Power & Sail Squadron (2nd Wed. 7:30 p.m.).....	883-9313
• P. H. Volunteer Fire Dept (Wed. evening)	883-9270
• Pender Harbour Choir (7:00 pm Tues)	883-9749
• Piecemakers (quilters, 1st & 3rd Wed. 10 a.m.).....	883-9762
• Reading Centre Society	883-2983
• Rotary Club (noon Fri. Garden Bay Pub)	883-2544
• Royal Cdn Legion 112	883-2235
• Ruby Lake Lagoon Society	883-9201
• Skookumchuck Heritage Society.....	883-9994
• St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary (2nd Wed.,1:30 p.m.)	883-2563
• Seniors' Housing Society (3rd Thur.).....	883-0704
• Serendipity Preschool	883-2316
• Sunshine Coast SHROOM.....	883-3678
• TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly).....	883-3639
• Wildlife Society (3rd Tues. PHSS).....	883-9853
• Women's Cancer Support	883-9708
• Women's Connection (2nd & 4th Tue.)	883-9313
• Women's Outreach Services.....	741-5246

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

P. H. CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

If you or a loved one is dealing with cancer and would like to be part of a local support group, please call Alex at (604) 883-2393. If you get the machine, please leave your name and a contact number and I'll return your call. We can meet once a month, at the Lions Hall or another venue if that is more convenient.

P. H. WILDLIFE SOCIETY

"Look out for turtles, amphibians and reptiles" presentation and P. H. Wildlife Society annual general meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the P. H. High School.

Join Dr. Michelle Evelyn for an enjoyable illustrated talk on the endangered western painted turtle and an update on the local efforts to enhance turtle nesting areas. Dr. Evelyn received her doctorate in conservation biology from Stanford University. She is a professional biologist and a program developer for the Iris Griffith Interpretive Centre.

P. H. WOMEN'S CONNECTION

Do wear something red to the Women's Connection Feb. 14 gathering — a celebration in honour of our 13th anniversary and Valentine's Day. The gathering on Feb. 28 will also be at the P. H. School of Music in Madeira Park and we are currently confirming some interesting guest speakers for these dates.

As always members, non-members and drop-ins are welcome. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. and gatherings are from 10 a.m. until noon. The Pender Harbour Reading Room will be open 12 to 3:30 p.m. on the Tuesdays the PHWC have their gatherings.

HARBOURSIDE FRIENDSHIPS

Harbourside Friendships meets every Thursday at the Pender Harbour School of Music starting with coffee at 10:30 a.m. Come and join us for fun, socializing, speakers and activities. Hot lunch is served at noon. For more information call Cathy at (604) 883-9766.

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Golf is good... for your health



By Jan Watson

Golf is a very healthy and active sport for people of all ages, no matter what their skill level might be.

It involves plenty of fresh air and exercise and, best of all, enjoyment.

Don't be put off by those people who take the game too seriously.

Like all sports it should be played for enjoyment and relaxation, so leave all the serious stuff to the professionals.

Yes, there are rules to learn but first of all just get out and play the game and have some fun, the rest can come later.

Unfortunately, a lot of people

forget that they had to begin at some point and they should really take a look in the mirror and think about their first efforts.

Ideally we should all take lessons before we even try to hit a ball but that is not always possible.

However, it's a good idea to take a lesson or two before you develop too many bad habits (I know I wish I had).

But at the same time I'm just happy to be out in the fresh air enjoying the exercise, appreciating the scenery and sharing the experience with good company.

It only takes one good shot to bring you back for another round of golf.

Golf is wonderful therapy to take your mind off problems and to relieve stress. Just think of the satisfaction at

venting your frustrations when you hit that little white ball.

If you are just beginning to play, don't be intimidated by the better golfers or the long hitters.

That said, it might be a good idea to choose a slower time to be on the course until you are more proficient and have more confidence.

Typically, the more serious golfers play in the mornings leaving the course quieter in the afternoon and evenings.

It's also cheaper to play later in the day as most golf courses have special "twilight rates."

Beginner golfers are often much slower so if you are holding up other groups it is only common sense to let them play through so everybody can enjoy their game.

Playing golf is like fishing — a great way to spend a few hours out in the fresh air.

And just like if you catch a fish, if you get a good golf score, consider it a bonus.

FROM THE 19TH HOLE

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs.

Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Kentucky back-country. As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and, being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions.

I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place.

I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play. The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man.

And as I played "Amazing Grace," the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low my heart was full.

As I was opening the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "Sweet Mother of Jesus, I never seen nothin' like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for 20 years."



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HARBOUR SEALS



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Send to: editor@harbourspiel.com.

Include your full name and a telephone number for confirmation. (Please keep them short.)

Harbour Seals of Approval to **Terry and Bev, the EMS and the Pender Harbour Fire Department**, who rescued me after my fall in Martin Cove and expedited my transfer by to Vancouver General Hospital. Also many thanks to friends and acquaintances who sent get well messages.

David Swann

A Harbour Seal of Approval to **Tom's Signs** for donating a sign for the Bargain Barn's side door.

Sharon Halford
Chair, Bargain Barn Thrift Store

A Harbour Seal of Approval to the **Harbour Authority of Pender Harbour** for not charging the Bargain Barn for rental on our sign at the Millennium Park.

Sharon Halford
Chair, Bargain Barn Thrift Store

A Harbour Seal of Approval and a big thank you to **everyone who contributed to our bake sales and supported the P. H. Community Club events during the year.** Your help is appreciated so very much and helps to keep the community hall operating.

Muriel Cameron
P. H. Community Club

A Harbour Seal of Disapproval to **all those folks who are tossing empty beer cans along McNeill Lake Forest Service Road** (and everywhere else on our hiking trails). Our hiking group picked up a full shopping bag of empties in a one-kilometre stretch during our hike. Who the heck are you and why do you think this is acceptable behaviour?

Maureen Wright
Pender Harbour Hiking Club

Harbour Seals of Approval to all the businesses and organizations who have given so generously in 2011. They are: **Marketplace IGA, Oak Tree Market, S. C. Credit Union, John Henry's Marina, P. H. Women's Connection, St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary (P. H. branch), P. H. Paddling Society, Sunshine Coast Dental Group, P. H. Rotary Club, Walk The Line Traffic Control, P. H. Bingo, and Harbourside Friendships.** Many individuals have given a lot as well.

Wendy Phillips
P. H. Food Bank

Harbour Spiel

Something to Squirrel away?

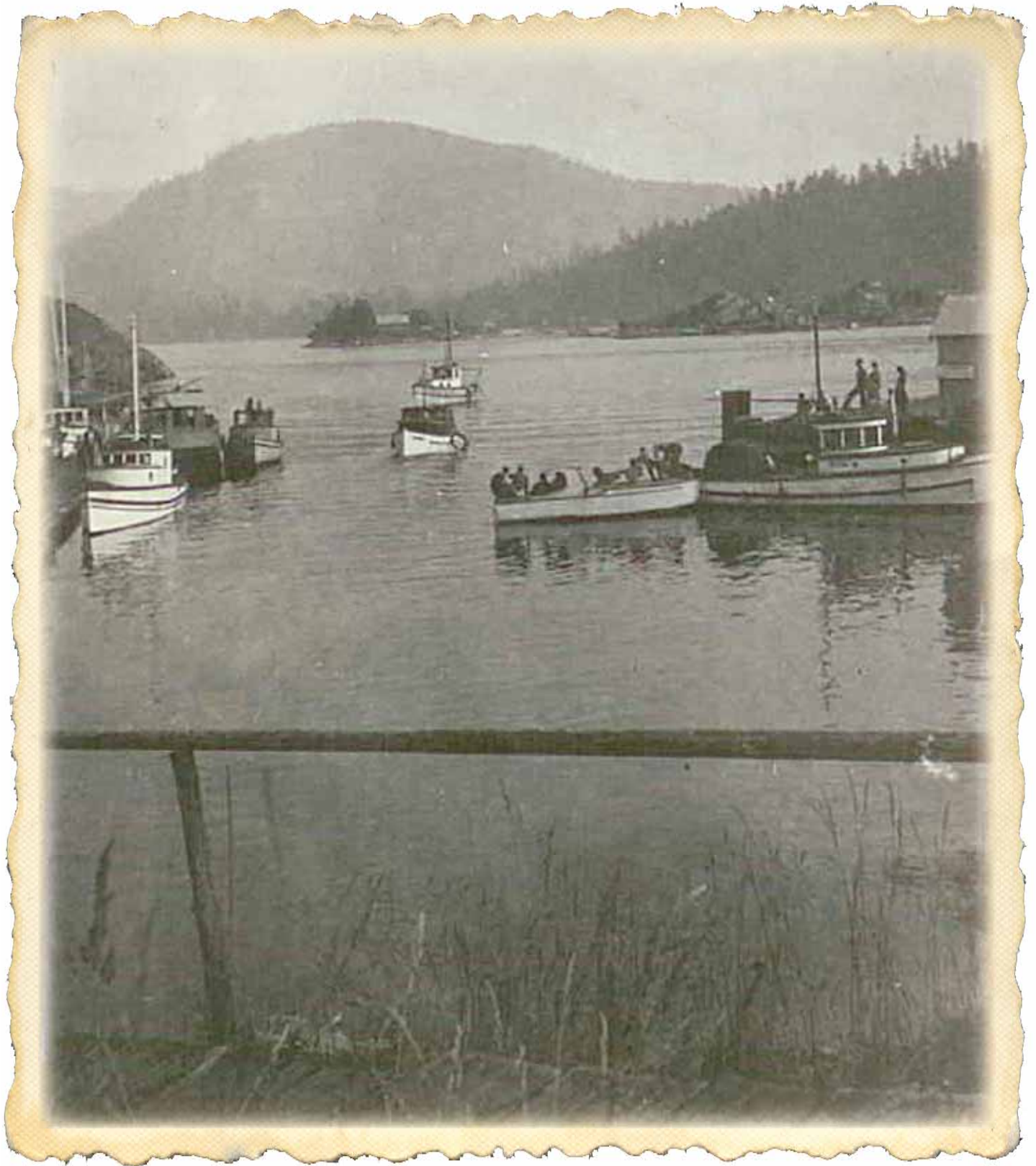
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Fred Brooks photo collection

Fred Brooks' family photo of a bustling afternoon in Irvines Landing circa 1945.

When does animal neglect become abuse?



By John Wade

Hi John,
My friend's
neighbor in Ottawa
has a Siberian Husky
that they neglect.

It is left outside
by itself 24/7 all year long.

This has been going on for
years and it breaks my heart when-
ever I visit.

Now my visits are fewer be-
cause it is too upsetting to me.

The dog is fed and watered but
the loneliness has to be seriously
detrimental to his well-being.

The humane society won't do
anything and tell me that as long as
the dog is provided with food, water
and shelter, it is not neglect.

I believe that starving any ani-
mal of companionship is abusive.

Do you have any suggestions
of who I could contact?

~ Beatrice

Hi Beatrice,

I'm about as far from being a
PETA supporter as Charlie Sheen is
from returning to "Two and a Half
Men" but I do consider sensory depri-
vation of a highly social species to be
more than neglect — it is abuse.

I'd go as far as saying it is cruel.

After I read your letter I took the



stock image

time to look up the vision statements
of some of the larger animal care
organizations, particularly those that
have been around a while.

They seemed sensible enough but
as much as I hate to be critical, their
vision must be impeded by some seri-

ous cataracts if, after a century's worth
of leadership, all we have offered to
us in situations like this is,

"If there's food, water and shelter
there's no neglect and there's nothing
we can do."

It shouldn't take a team of MBA



consultants to tell us that those antiquated vision statements have proven to be as useful as a shirt with a pocket sewn between the shoulder blades.

You're on our own for now so I have some suggestions.

They're not much but maybe something will work.

The first is to contact a Siberian Husky specific rescue in your area (or farther afield if you have to) and discuss it with them.

They may have some suggestions.

Be forewarned — they are always short on financial resources and foster homes — so they may be tapped out.

You might find them more responsive if you can raise some money to underwrite their taking the dog on.

In that case they might send someone by that person's house and say,

"Hey, I heard you have a Siberian Husky. I work with a Siberian Husky rescue and we're always looking for Huskys for people.

"Any chance you're looking for a home for yours?"

Even if the owners say no, they've planted a seed and opened the door.

Often these dogs are unlicensed so a couple of weeks later call whoever handles the dog licensing in your area.

They'll send someone by.

If the yard isn't clean (as it often isn't in these cases) they may write them a ticket, although it's more likely they'll issue a warning.

The dog owner might be more accommodating if the rescue called around this time.

Still no luck?

When there's a really cold snap they should call again as people that leave dogs in yards generally hate running out to feed and chip ice out of the bowl everyday.

You might be successful only to find they end up with another dog they will neglect.

I wouldn't let that stop you, just prepare yourself in advance for that possibility.

Pawsitively yours,
John Wade

e-mail John at: johnwade@johnwade.ca or visit his website at www.johnwade.ca

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How are you good to your heart? Come to the Pender Harbour Aquatic and Fitness Centre and fill in a heart with your name to be entered to win a prize! Your heart will be displayed in the lobby to help inspire others.

2 FOR 1 VALENTINE'S DAY

On Tuesday, February 14 bring along a friend for a swim or a fitness class and get a sweetheart deal.

CARDIAC RECOVERY PROGRAM

Beginning February 15, this six-week program is for individuals who have experienced a cardiac incident and are looking to get back on the road to recovery. The program includes topics on nutrition, recovery, exercise, as well as a 45 minute fitness class. To register, please contact Cathy Bergman at the

Health Centre, 604-883-2674 or Deb Cole at 604-885-6866.

SWIM-A-THON

On Thursday February 23, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. join us for a swim-a-thon with proceeds going to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

EASE INTO EXERCISE

Ease into Exercise is a six-week land based class for individuals who are waiting for joint replacement surgery or who are three months post joint replacement surgery. This class is also suited for individuals with stable heart disease, obesity, diabetes, or anyone who needs a carefully planned exercise program. A personal consultation prior to the first class is required. The consultations take place on March 5 and 9 for a fee of \$15. The six-week class is overseen by a certified personal trainer and will be held on Mondays beginning

March 12 for a cost of \$75. Space is limited, pre-registration is required.

RUN/WALK TRAINING CLUB

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START ME UP

Beginning on Tuesdays from February 7 to 28, 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m., Start Me Up is a beginner fitness program designed to get you started and feeling confident.

PRO-D DAY

There's no school on Friday February 17, so send the kids to the pool for an afternoon swim from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. for just a \$2. We'll be featuring games like KinBall, Water Walkway and more. A light snack will be provided.



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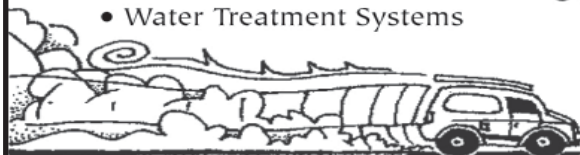
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Snow makes life interesting



By Alan Stewart

My wife and kids pop out of bed at this time of year and run to the window in hopes of our yard being blanketed in the downy white powder.

I, on the other hand, wake up and peel my right eye open in hopes of seeing nothing on the deck rail — a sign that I'll be able to make it into work.

"Just say no to snow!" is my favourite line these days and my kids all look at me like I'm the Grinch.

I get it. Like them, when I was a kid there was simply no better holiday than a snow day.

No school and an entirely new environment to explore.

Snow ball fights, sledding and snow cones are all good memories.

And while I enjoy a cup of coffee in front of the fire almost as much as my wife, at this point in my life I simply dislike being controlled by the elements.

And I'm proud to say that I had my snow tires installed in mid-November this year, avoiding the lineups that form at the tire shop as soon as the words "possible flurries" leave the weatherman's lips.

Anyone who has snow tires can attest to the incredible difference between them and all-season radials, so I have to admit that I'm satisfied that my investment paid off with the first snowfall in January.

The only other upside of the snow caked asphalt was that I could wave and smirk, just a little, as I drove past a group of teenagers in their 1995 Pontiac Sunfire, complete with blistering rust spots and worn summer tires,



stock image

as they tried in vain to conquer the hills they so bravely fly down on their longboards in the summer.

Today, victory is mine.

COLD WEATHER HOME TIPS

While grown-ups all know it's prudent to take care of their vehicle this time of year, many of us fail to think about the pressures that winter weather puts on our homes.

According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, there are a number of things that homeowners should be doing to protect their investment, and most of them don't take much time or money to accomplish.

1. Check and clean or replace furnace air filters each month during the heating season.

In a ventilation systems such as a heat recovery ventilator, filters should be checked every two months.

2. After consulting your hot water tank owner's manual, drain off a dishpan full of water from the clean-out valve at the bottom of your hot water tank to control sediment and maintain efficiency.

3. Clean humidifiers two or three times during the winter season.

4. Vacuum bathroom fan grille.

5. Vacuum fire and smoke detectors, as dust or spider webs can prevent them from functioning.

6. Vacuum radiator grilles on the back of refrigerators and freezers, and empty and clean drip trays.

7. Check pressure gauges on all fire extinguishers and recharge or

replace if necessary.

8. Check fire escape routes, door and window locks and hardware and lighting around outside of house. Also, ensure your family has good security habits.

9. Check the basement floor drain to ensure the trap contains water. Refill with water if necessary.

10. Monitor your home for excessive moisture levels — for example, condensation on your windows, which can cause significant damage over time and pose serious health problems — and take corrective action if necessary. Refer to the About Your House fact sheet “Measuring Humidity in Your Home.”

11. Check all faucets for signs of dripping and change washers as needed. Faucets requiring frequent replacement of washers may be in need of repair.

12. If you have a plumbing fixture that is not used frequently, such as a laundry tub or spare bathroom sink, tub or shower stall, run some water briefly to keep water in the trap.

13. Clean drains in dishwasher, sinks, bathtubs and shower stalls.

14. Test plumbing shut-off valves to ensure they are working and to prevent them from seizing.

15. Check electrical cords, plugs and outlets for all indoor and outdoor seasonal lights to ensure fire safety. If worn, or if plugs or cords feel warm to the touch, replace immediately.

IN EXTREME COLD WEATHER:

1. Examine windows and doors for ice accumulation or cold air leaks. If found, make a note to repair or replace in the spring.

2. Examine attic for frost accumulation. Check roof for ice dams or icicles.

3. Keep snow clear of gas meters, gas appliance vents, exhaust vents and basement windows.

4. Monitor outdoor vents, propane connections, gas meters and chimneys for ice and snow buildup.

So, if you are stuck at home this year (or even if you're not), take

a little time to ensure your house is functioning smoothly, just like your car.

It can save you in both money and headaches.

Please send any suggestions for future columns to alanstewart@prudentialsussex.com

Teeth: Dollars and Sense

Recession is a nasty word whether we are talking about our income or our teeth.

Did you know that dentists see recession on a daily basis? It's the kind that causes your gums to recede and expose the roots of your teeth, causing pain in your mouth and eventually in your wallet.

As with any recession the sooner it is recognized and treated the more likely that invasive and expensive treatment can be averted.

For example, did you know that tooth decay is not always painful right away? By the time you notice a small brown spot on the surface of a tooth, the bacteria causing decay may already have eaten its way through the hard outer shell of enamel and into the softer dentin that surrounds the pulp chamber.

At this stage the tooth may be hot or cold sensitive. This softer inner layer protects the nerve but once the decay reaches the pulp chamber the tooth will be very painful because bacteria is attacking the nerve.

If ignored, the tooth will die and the pain may subside, however, untreated

cavities can lead to a severe dental abscess due to bacteria entering the pulp chamber and working its way to the root tip, where it infects the surrounding bone. The tooth now needs a root canal and a crown to restore it, or an extraction to remove it.

So skipping your check-up and hygiene appointment may seem to be saving you money at the moment but in the long run it could be a very expensive decision.

Be pro-active in handling this recession, don't wait for a pain in your mouth to visit to your dentist.

Modern dentistry has all the tools needed to identify decay at an early stage. A regular dental check-up and professional cleaning is money well spent — potentially saving you hundreds of dollars — by identifying small problems and treating them before they can progress to the point of pain and expense.

Early prevention of dental problems is always our first choice. If you would like to know more about preventive options available to you please talk to our friendly dentists and staff.



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Feb. 4 ~ **Susan Hardie**

Feb. 5 ~ **Rick Hartley and Roland Fritz**

Feb. 6 ~ **Lachlin Rand**

Feb. 9 ~ **Joyce Garbers and Jackie Crowell**

Feb. 10 ~ **Wendel Welander and Ed-
die Smith**

Feb. 11 ~ **Cody Pantages, Scott Smith
and Chris Garbers**

Feb. 12 ~ **Ab Haddock**

Feb. 14 ~ **Dolly Clayton, Steve Mor-
ton, Christine Fenn and Elsie Rennie**

Feb. 15 ~ **Shawna Lee Edwardson.**

Feb. 16 ~ **Irene Boyd and Betty Mc-
Donald**

Feb. 17 ~ **Dot Farrell, Daniel Dore and
Jessica Munro**

Feb. 18 ~ **Dr. Rick Smalley**

Feb. 19 ~ **Don & Joan McDougall**

Feb. 21 ~ **Ron Pratchett, Ryan Phil-
lips, Helen LeBlanc and Cathy Silvey.**

Feb. 22 ~ **Chelsea Scoular**

Feb. 23 ~ **Evelyn Cumming and Donna
Campbell**

Feb. 24 ~ **Debbie Rand**

Feb. 25 ~ **Bruce Haines**

Feb. 27 ~ **Neale Smith and Rick Jones**

Feb. 28 ~ **Nolan Percival, Trevor
Morin, Bob Walsh, Erin Fraser and
Sharlene Gamble**

FEBRUARY WEATHER

TEMPERATURES, MERRY ISLAND

Our average February daily high temperature is 7.5 C; average low is 3.4 C, giving us a mean daily temperature of 5.5 C. The highest February temperature recorded is 14.3 C (Feb. 27, 1986); the lowest is -10.1 C (Feb. 13, 1990).

PRECIPITATION, MERRY ISLAND

February should have about 85.7 hours of bright sunshine (the most since October), 16 days with measurable rainfall and one day with measurable snowfall. February should have a total rainfall of 97.9 mm and a total snowfall of 6.7 cm. The highest February daily rainfall recorded is 49 mm (Feb. 11, 1983); the highest February daily snowfall recorded is 22.9 cm (Feb. 15, 1983).

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OF FEBRUARY

TOP 10 LOVE SONGS OF ALL-TIME?

1. **Unchained Melody** - Righteous Brothers
2. **Unforgettable** - Nat King Cole
3. **Maybe I'm Amazed** - Paul McCartney
4. **When a Man Loves a Woman** - Percy Sledge
5. **Your Song** - Elton John
6. **Woman** - John Lennon
7. **How Deep Is Your Love** - The Bee Gees
8. **You're the Inspiration** - Chicago
9. **My Heart Will Go On** - Celine Dion
10. **I Will Always Love You** - Dolly Parton

~wikia.com

1. **Your Song** - Elton John
2. **Lovesong** - The Cure
3. **Can't Help Falling In Love** - Elvis Presley
4. **In Your Eyes** - Peter Gabriel
5. **When A Man Loves A Woman** - Percy Sledge
6. **All I Want Is You** - U2
7. **It Had to Be You** - Harry Connick, Jr.
8. **Let's Stay Together** - Al Green
9. **My Heart Will Go On** - Celine Dion
10. **All I Ask Of You** - Sarah Brightman/Cliff Richard

~Worldoffemale.com

1. **My Girl** - The Temptations
2. **I'll Be There** - The Jackson 5
3. **Wonderful Tonight** - Eric Clapton
4. **I Just Called to Say I Love You** - Stevie Wonder
5. **"You Are So Beautiful"** - Joe Cocker
6. **In My Life** - The Beatles
7. **The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face** - Roberta Flack
8. **Are You Lonesome Tonight?** - Elvis Presley
9. **Michelle** - The Beatles
10. **I Can't Stop Loving You** - Ray Charles

~stereogum.com

1. **I Will Always Love You** - Whitney Houston
2. **Love Me Tender** - Elvis Presley
3. **My Heart Will Go On** - Celine Dion
4. **Open Arms** - Journey
5. **Maybe I'm Amazed** - Paul McCartney
6. **Unchained Melody** - Righteous Brothers
7. **Endless Love** - Lionel Richie (w/ Diana Ross)
8. **Your Song** - Elton John
9. **I'll Be There** - Jackson Five
10. **I Don't Want To Miss A Thing** - Aerosmith

~top100songs.org

FEBRUARY ASTROLOGY

AQUARIUS: JAN. 21 - FEB. 18

Relaxation, enjoyment, and pleasure are emphasized for you now. This is not a time to push yourself or be involved in activities that require intense energy. Co-operative, harmonious relationships are more important to you at this time. It is extremely important to set aside some time for a pet and really get to know him or her. (Note: advice does not apply if pet is a reptile or arachnid.)

PISCES: FEB. 19 - MAR. 19

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

Skookumchuck viewing times

~ February ~

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

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

Feb. 1	9:46 am +M, 5:13 pm -M
Feb. 2	10:44 am +S, 5:17 pm -M
Feb. 3	11:49 am +S
Feb. 4	12:56 pm +S
Feb. 5	1:59 pm +S
Feb. 6	2:55 pm +M
Feb. 7	3:46 pm +M
Feb. 8	4:37 pm +M
Feb. 9	12:30 pm -M, 5:27 pm +M
Feb. 10	1:03 pm -M, 6:19 pm +M
Feb. 11	1:36 pm -L
Feb. 12	2:12 pm -L
Feb. 13	2:52 pm -L
Feb. 14	8:33 am +M, 3:40 pm -L
Feb. 15	9:27 am +M, 4:39 pm -L
Feb. 16	10:31 am +M, 6:14 pm -L
Feb. 17	11:46 am +S
Feb. 18	8:58 am -S, 1:03 pm +S
Feb. 19	9:53 pm -M, 2:13 pm +M
Feb. 20	10:41 pm -M, 3:12 pm +M
Feb. 21	11:24 am -M, 4:04 pm +M
Feb. 22	12:04 pm -M, 4:52 pm +M
Feb. 23	12:40 am -M, 5:38 pm +M
Feb. 24	1:08 pm -M, 6:23 pm +M
Feb. 25	1:26 pm -M
Feb. 26	1:42 pm -M
Feb. 27	2:05 pm -M
Feb. 28	7:34 am +M, 2:37 pm -M
Feb. 29	8:18 am +M, 3:19 pm -M

These are estimates only and not intended for navigation.

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MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT: CHILD AND YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

**Elaine Hamel and Rhonda Jackman, child and youth
mental health clinicians available:**

- P. H. Clinic Tues. & Wed. afternoon
- Mental Health Assessments & Therapy: Children age 0-19
- For more information call: Child & Youth Mental Health
Intake (604) 740-8900 or (604) 886-5525

Alcoholics Anonymous meets Monday and Wednesday at 8 p.m. – Everyone welcome.

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

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

Pender Harbour Seniors Initiative

*Compiled by Pender Harbour Health
Centre nursing staff*

The Health Centre is pleased to announce a new project called the Pender Harbour Seniors Initiative.

It will operate under the umbrella of the Pender Harbour Health Centre Society.

The project was made possible by a grant from the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority's SMART Fund.

Begun in 1997, this innovative program supports and funds non-profit agencies in the Vancouver Coastal Health geographic region to develop projects that empower communities to better identify and manage their own health needs.

By focusing on wellness, the SMART Fund helps community programs provide services and support before health issues become serious.

There is one grant for the Sunshine Coast, worth \$35,000 a year, and it's renewable for up to three years or possibly longer.

Through discussions with other organizations on the Sunshine Coast, it was agreed that the best recipient would be Pender Harbour because of its isolation and the limited services available here.

We are very grateful to the other groups for their generous support.

A group of individuals familiar with the needs of the community met and determined the best use for the funding would be to focus on our senior citizens.

Isolation, exacerbated by transportation issues, has significant impacts on seniors' physical, mental and social well-being.

We can do so much better in improving their quality of life, get-

ting them engaged in the community, developing intergenerational bonding, and encouraging peer-to-peer support.

To date, an advisory committee has been formed consisting of Linda Curtiss, Rose Everett, Sharon Halford, Doug Elliott and Michael Cyr.

They are supported by Cathy Anderson, co-ordinator for the Harbourside Friendships and Marg Penney, who has been engaged to conduct a needs assessment to help define the services that will be offered.

It is understood that access to transportation is critical to overall success and is particularly important for the seniors of Egmont.

The seniors initiative expects to build some of its services on the model of Harbourside Friendships.

This social group was formed 20 years ago by the nurses of the Pender Harbour Health Centre with a goal of providing a friendly environment where seniors could meet new friends, socialize, have outings and events, and enjoy a hot meal together.

Many members of the original group are still actively participating.

The project will also work with a wide variety of other existing organizations and programs to provide needed services.

The goal is to create an integration within the community for all of Area A and to help our seniors feel more involved.

During January to March, the committee will work on finalizing details for the program ahead of its official launch on April 1.

Regular information updates to the community will be part of the program's rollout.

For the purpose of this program, the term "senior" will apply to those aged 55-plus.

We are all going down this road together — the "younger" seniors make up a large percentage of the movers and shakers in this community.

The project will provide the framework to be mutually supportive of other seniors, as well as helping individuals prepare for their own active senior years.

We are very pleased to be launching this new project, if you and/or your organization are interested in participating in the adventure, please call the health centre at (604) 883-2764 or e-mail phhcfn@dccnet.com.

CARDIAC RECOVERY PROGRAM

The P. H. Health Centre medical staff, along with the P. H. Aquatic and Fitness Centre is putting on a seven-week cardiac recovery program for people who have recovered from a heart attack, angioplasty and/or open heart surgery.

This program will start Feb. 15 and will offer classroom information, followed by a structured exercise program.

Call (604) 883-2764 if you are interested in participating. (Space is limited.)

P. H. HEALTH CENTRE GENERATES OWN POWER

We are also pleased to announce that the health centre now has a fully operational generator which will automatically power up the entire building whenever we experience an interruption in electrical service.

This would not have been possible without the dedicated support of the Pender Harbour Health Centre Auxiliary and its volunteers.

Linda Lee Thomas Jonathan Goldman

Sunday, February 12

2 pm • Tickets \$20

Pender Harbour School of Music

Pianist Linda Lee Thomas, "Chamber Musician

Supreme," and bandoneonist

Jonathan Goldman of the

Legendary Canadian group

"Quartango," have come

together as a formidable duo,
bringing unforgettable tango
to West Coast audiences.

TICKETS \$20:

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SPONSORED IN PART BY:

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COMING UP: The Good Lovelies, March 4, 2pm

For more information visit:

www.penderharbourmusic.ca



PENDER HARBOUR
LEGION

February

Cheep beer!

Wednesdays from 2 to 6 p.m.

Fish & Chips!

(plus weekly special)

Fridays from 11 to 8 p.m.

Meat Draw!

Saturday meat draw at 3 p.m.

(Open for lunch)

Sunday mini-meat draw at 1 p.m.

DOWN THE COAST

Film series aims to put green on screen

Submitted

The Green Film Series has announced their spring line-up of films.

Owing to the popularity of the fall series, the Gibsons Green Team and Sustainable Coast magazine in collaboration with the Sunshine Coast Film Society are continuing the series at the Gibsons Heritage Playhouse.

This special series features environmental-themed films, discussions to engage the audience and door prizes.

The next three films are scheduled for the months of February, March and April.

The films will be shown on Mondays, alternating with the SCFS's regular fall schedule of films.

ECONOMICS OF HAPPINESS

The Feb. 6 film is *The Economics of Happiness*.

This film describes a world moving simultaneously in two opposing directions.

On the one hand, government and big business continue to promote globalization and the consolidation of corporate power.

At the same time, all around the world people are resisting those policies, demanding a re-regulation of trade and finance — and, far from the old institutions of power, they're starting to forge a very different future.

A chorus of voices from six continents tells us that climate change and peak oil give us little choice: we need to localize, to bring the economy home.

The Economics of Happiness restores our faith in humanity and challenges us to believe that it is possible to build a better world.

This film is by Helena Norberg-

Hodge, Steven Gorelick and John Page.

QUEEN OF THE SUN: WHAT ARE THE BEES TELLING US?

On March 5, the featured film is *Queen of the Sun: What Are the Bees Telling Us?*

This film is a profound, alternative look at the global bee crisis through the lens of Taggart Siegel.

Taking us on a journey through the catastrophic disappearance of bees and the mysterious world of the beehive, this engaging and ultimately uplifting film weaves an unusual and dramatic story of the heartfelt struggles of beekeepers, scientists and philosophers from around the world.

Queen of the Sun follows colourful, alternative and inspiring bee keepers from all around the globe as they keep bees in natural and holistic ways.

REVENGE OF THE ELECTRIC CAR

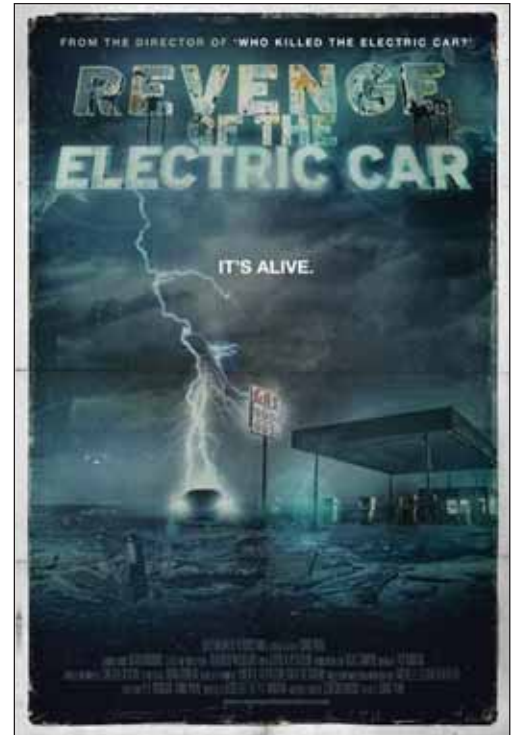
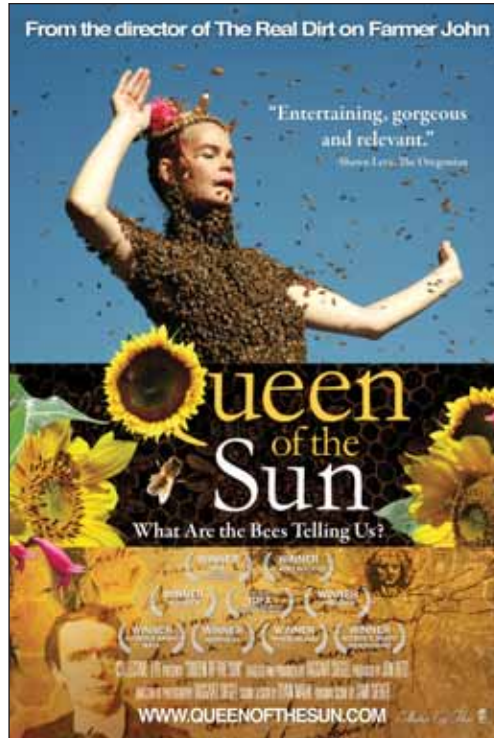
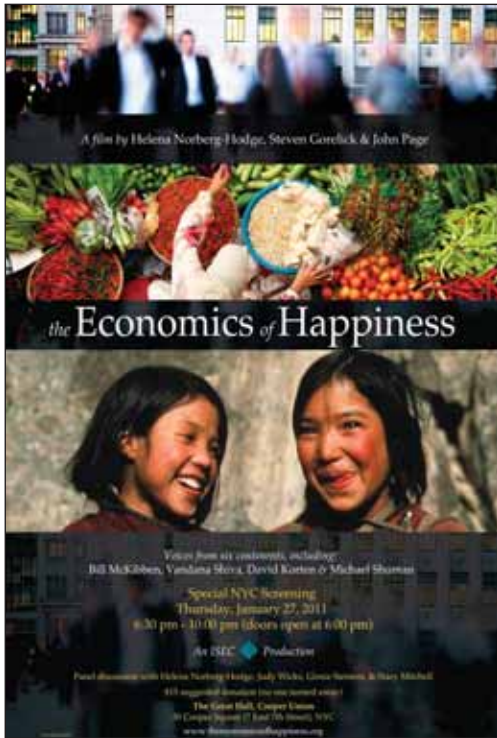
Revenge of the Electric Car will be shown on April 23.

In *Revenge of the Electric Car*, director Chris Paine takes his film crew behind the closed doors of Nissan, GM, and the Silicon Valley startup Tesla Motors to chronicle the story of the global resurgence of electric cars.

With almost every major car maker now jumping to produce new electric models, *Revenge* follows the race to be the first, the best, and to win the hearts and minds of the public around the world.

Revenge of the Electric Car is narrated by Tim Robbins.

The primary cast includes Carlos Ghosn, CEO and President of Renault and Nissan, CEO of Tesla Motors Elon Musk, former GM vice-chairman Bob Lutz and EV do-it-yourselfer Greg "Gadget" Abbott.



These three thought-provoking films will be featured in the Sunshine Coast's upcoming Green Film Series starting Feb. 6.

The Green Film series is dedicated to using film as a tool for community engagement on environmental and sustainability issues.

The screening events are meant to foster the role of film as a catalyst for dialogue, networking and action.

Ticket prices are \$5 per person

(with a \$3 membership fee to the S. C. Film Society required.)

Screening times are 7:30 p.m. and doors open at 7 p.m.

The Gibsons Heritage Playhouse is located at 662 North Road in Gibsons.

For more information, visit www.greenfilms.ca or www.scfs.ca.

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The **Rotary Club of Pender Harbour** thanks the following sponsors for supporting the very successful 2012 Hop Scotch fundraiser.

- Sunshine Coast Credit Union
- Rona Sunshine Coast
- John King Booksellers
- Madeira Park Veterinary Hospital

The continuing story of Wei Hsu, the first non-native resident of



Vague recollections have persisted for many years that the first non-native person to live in Pender Harbour was a Chinese man who operated a fish saltery in Irvines Landing.

Before Charlie Irvine landed here and lent his name to the stretch of beach at the western entrance to Pender Harbour, a family named Hsu had settled there years before in 1873.

The historic events depicted here are loosely based on the author's own imagination and should not be interpreted as fact — unless it suits the reader to do so.

By Anne Crocker

Part XIX: (Continued from January 2012)

At some point in the spring of 1876, Wei Hsu and Qwuní left Pender's Harbour for an extended trip south to the port of Granville (or Gastown as it was popularly known). The two hoped to find a reliable market for their fish as well as a reliable means of transporting it. A variety of supplies and equipment were also badly needed for the upcoming fishing season.

After two long days of rowing Qwuní's dugout canoe into a never-changing grey wall of rain, Hsu and Qwuní reached the mostly forested peninsula that guarded the entrance to the inlet that led to Gastown. After first asking permission from residents of the small Skwxwú7mesh village that clung to its shore, the two made camp a quarter mile down the beach in front of a recently logged clearcut.

From their camp, the two could clearly hear the ruckus taking place across the bay and both men were nervous about visiting Gastown the following morning. For Qwuní, the feelings of apprehension were especially strong.

This journey was the first time he'd ventured south from the Shishalh territory in his entire life. As a very young man he attended potlatches in the territory of their northern neighbours, the Tla'amin. He could remember arriving at the village, wide-eyed and in awe of the new people and their funny talk. But those visits did nothing to prepare him for what he was about to find in the rough metropolis of Gastown.

By dawn, the inlet was already alive with

sound. The sounds of men arriving to log nearby were soon drowned out by the drone of the mills on both sides of the inlet starting their workday. Across, on the north side of the inlet, sat Moodyville while about a mile away on the south shore sat Hastings Mill.

The two men breakfasted silently as they took in the panorama the daylight unfolded before them. After loading their samples of smoked and canned fish they rowed over to Gastown. Hsu and Qwuní landed the dugout at a well-made dock of rafted cedar logs. After concealing their samples beneath a tarp, they walked up the ramp towards the waking townsite.

At the top of the dock, a short path between two buildings led to the main street. There they turned right and followed it until it petered out into a well-worn footpath leading through a maze of stumps. The main street sat behind the row of buildings that clung precariously to the waterfront. On the south side of the street, towering fir and cedar trees shaded the town and the swampy undergrowth from the early morning sunlight. The street was a muddy strip of gravel, sawdust and wood chunks that quickly taught newcomers that having clean boots was impossible when it was wet. As they walked, various folks eyed them as the odd-looking newcomers they would have been.

The settlement had really only existed for 10 years but already boasted a couple of saloons and hotels, stores, a Chinese laundry service, a post office and a makeshift jail and courthouse. It took them no longer than 10 minutes to cover the whole town and get an idea of what it offered. As they walked, both men were fascinated by the vari-

Pender Harbour



BC Archive photo

The town of Granville, more popularly known as "Gastown," as it looked from Burrard Inlet in 1884.

ety of nationalities mingling in the town. Though all kinds of tongues could be heard, the two were comforted that the most common was their familiar Chinook.

At the eastern end of the street, the road turned into a wide trail to the sawmill. This path would later become Alexander Street and was lined by dozens of squatters shacks. Near one of them sat an Indian man on a massive stump.

"Kla-how-ya," he said in a friendly voice as they approached.

They stopped and asked a few questions. The man told them the mill was hiring and, if they needed work, they should go speak with the boss. He then cautioned them not to make the same mistake he did. He was fired the day before for having alcohol within the borders of the mill lands. Alcohol was forbidden within a mile of the mill and he and some friends had walked back from town with a few bottles but were discovered by one of the mill bosses the next morning.

Qwuní thanked the man and the two continued on. The sawmill produced the loudest noise Qwuní had ever heard in his entire life. Everywhere were men, horses and oxen bustling around hauling freshly cut lumber out or huge logs in. Even the worldly Hsu was in awe of the machinery,

the number of men working and the pace at which they worked. Neither man was interested in going closer so after watching the enterprise for half an hour, they loped back to town.

There was a reputable looking general store near where they'd left the dugout. It wasn't open for business when the two passed by earlier but now was a hive of activity. The owner and his gruff wife watched them suspiciously as the two pored over the variety of goods on display. Hsu was told not to come home if he didn't bring back clothing for Lucy and Mary and was disappointed to learn they carried clothing for adults and boys but not for girls. The women told him that if he was willing to wait, she could place an order that would take a week to arrive by stagecoach from New Westminster. Relieved, he did so.

Hsu then brought up the main reason for their visit – to find a buyer for their canned fish.

The husband and wife exchanged curious glances at each other, asked a few more questions and then told him to leave their samples and return in a couple of days.

Content with the progress they'd made on their first day in the city, the two men rowed back to their camp as it started to rain.

(Continued next month)

BC Bestsellers:

(For the week of Jan. 15, 2012)

1. *The Chuck Davis History of Metropolitan Vancouver* by Chuck Davis
2. *Whitewater Cooks with Friends* by Shelley Adams
3. *The Sacred Headwaters* by Wade Davis
4. *Here's Mike* by Mike McCardell
5. *Fred Herzog* by Claudia Gochmann et al.
6. *Raincoast Chronicles 21* by Rick James
7. *Eating Dirt* by Charlotte Gill
8. *Beyond the Home Ranch* by Diana Phillips
9. *A Thrilling Ride* by Paul Chapman & Bev Wake, eds.
10. *Empire of the Beetle* by Andrew Nikiforuk

~ Assn. of Book Publishers of BC

Biographies of two greats



Keith Shaw photo

By Theresa Kishkan

I love to read biographies. An interesting life, well-researched and presented, is a gift to those of us who are curious about everything from large historic patterns and small domestic details. Two recent books, chronicling the lives of two very different people, provided plenty of both.

Years ago I read Robert Massie's *The Romanovs: The Final Chapter*, an account of the exhumation and identification of nine skeletons near Ekaterinburg, Siberia. Massie had already written a masterful study of Nicholas and Alexandra Romanov and had the right passion and background to provide the analysis of the discovery of their remains. Photographs of dark-eyed children — Grand Duchess Anastasia in particular — were haunting. The book was as compelling as a detective thriller, fast-paced and exciting.



Massie's most recent biography, *Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman* (Random House, 2011), is every bit as interesting. Born in 1729, she was the daughter of a minor German prince and his wife who thought she'd married far beneath her. She was summoned to Moscow while still in her mid-teens to marry the nephew of Empress Elizabeth (who was childless). This union was not a success. Peter was badly scarred by smallpox and socially inept. He much preferred to dress his servants as Prussian soldiers and

march them around his rooms to consummating his marriage to Catherine.

Catherine did bear a child, Paul, almost certainly fathered by her lover Serge Saltykov; the baby was immediately taken by Elizabeth to raise as heir to the throne. Other children followed, fathered by a succession of court favourites who were rewarded with titles, money and large estates.

A bloodless coup usurped Peter in 1762 and Catherine became Empress of Russia, reigning until her death in 1796. She was a woman of contradictions. She'd learned to deal with the difficult Elizabeth with a combination of charm and cunning. Unable to love her psychologically damaged husband, she did extend him sympathy and friendship. Scantly educated but bright and well-read, she cultivated friendships with Voltaire and Diderot.

Catherine's legacy was a complicated one. She was idealistic but also pragmatic, recognizing that land reform wouldn't endear her to the nobility, the Orthodox church or the military whose support she depended on for political stability. She initiated some educational reform as well as addressing the rights of the serfs but these were still contentious issues when Catherine's great-great-great-great grandson and his family were executed near Ekaterinburg in 1918.

On his acknowledgements page, Robert Massie thanks many scholars who helped him with research and then tells the reader what a pleasure it was to spend eight years with Catherine the Great, in spirit if not in person, and how he regretted having to finish the book because it meant leaving her company. Having read this generous and fascinating biography, I know what he means.



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At nearly 1,000 pages, *Van Gogh: The Life* (Random House, 2011), by Steven Naifeh and Gregory White Smith, is a meticulously researched and detailed biography

of the great Dutch artist who gave us some of modern art's best-known images of the south of France, fields and hills and olive groves shimmering with light. The yellow house in Arles, his chair, his bony face under a straw hat or with bandaged ear in a series of self-portraits — all of them attest to a vivid imagination and a capricious emotional life.

Born to a stern Dutch pastor and his wife in 1853, Vincent Van Gogh did not demonstrate an artistic temperament as a child. However, he was the outsider in a large family, the one who had difficulty making friends and getting along at school. His younger brother Theo looked up to him and it's Theo who kept up a voluminous lifelong correspondence with Vincent; this forms the central resource for the biographers.

This is a huge book and it didn't really get going for me until well past the first half. But after that, it read with the intensity of a good novel. When

Van Gogh moved to Arles, his painting caught fire. Between his arrival in February, 1888 and his removal to an insane asylum in Saint-Rémy in May of 1889, he painted a succession of extraordinary pictures, mirroring his mental state. Among them were his sunflowers, dark skies alive with fierce stars, several views of a favourite cafe at night, and a stunning view of boats at Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer in the Camargue.

From Saint-Rémy, he went to live in Auvers-sur-Oise to be closer to a sympathetic doctor and also to Theo and his family. He died of a gunshot to the chest in late July, 1890. Popular opinion is that he killed himself but the authors of this biography put forward a new theory, involving a young boy and a shotgun.

In a letter to Theo in May, 1889, Vincent ruefully noted, "Now, myself as a painter, I'll never signify anything important, I sense it absolutely. Supposing everything were changed, character, upbringing, circumstances, then this or that could have existed. . . I sometimes regret not having simply kept the Dutch palette of grey tones, and brushed landscapes in Montmartre without pressing the point."

How lucky for us that he found those ultramarines, mauves, yellows and oranges.



Cuddle up with a book...
(or better still — someone who's reading one.)

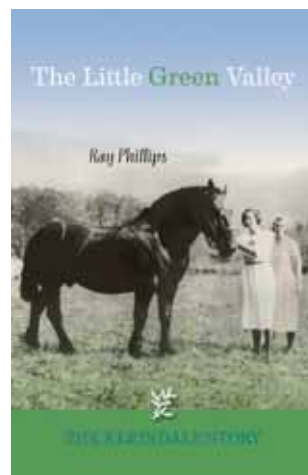
This month we present a new "must-read for locals:
Ray Phillips' *The Kleindale Story*

Meet Ray at the P. H. School of Music on Monday Feb. 6 at 6:30 pm

Next to the liquor store ☐ info@bluewaters.ca ☐ 883-9006

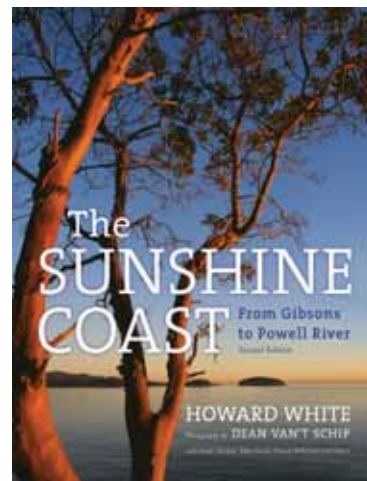
READING ABOUT PENDER HARBOUR...

ALMOST AS GOOD AS BEING HERE



The Little Green Valley
THE KLEINDALE STORY

By Ray Phillips • \$24.95



The Sunshine Coast
FROM GIBSONS TO POWELL RIVER
Second Edition

By Howard White
Photos by Dean van't Schip with Keith Thirkell
Allan Forest, Darren Robinson & Others
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What's worse than February? More February



By Shane McCune

Is there a worse month than February? It's boring. It's unpronounceable. It's short, yet seems to last forever.

April and September herald change. July and August burnish summer's glow. But February is just . . . there. Two months into winter and a long way from spring, it is neither a beginning nor an end, but mere filler. A handful of bread crumbs in winter's meatloaf.

And there's little point in counting the days until March, since that's probably going to be miserable too. But if you are counting, this month you'll have to count a little more. It's a leap year, so we get to enjoy an extra day of February.

Of course, things could be worse . . . and they will be, if a pair of poindexters from Johns Hopkins University have their way.

Astrophysicist Richard Conn Henry and economist Steve Hanke have created a new calendar in which each new 12-month period is identical to the one before.

"Our plan offers a stable calendar that is absolutely identical from year to year and which allows the permanent, rational planning of annual activities, from school to work holidays," says Henry.

The good news: The Hanke-Henry calendar dispenses with leap years. Instead, it adds an extra mini-month at the end of December every five or six years. This is "stable?"

The bad news: Every month has at least 30 days — including February.

This certainly isn't the first proposal to "fix" the way we mark the passing of time. In fact, Hanke and Henry are trying to undo an earlier repair job — the introduction of leap year in the Gregorian calendar, which in turn was an update of the Julian calendar, which bore no resemblance to calendars used by the Chinese, the Mayans, the Hebrews . . .

They have a point. Leap days are messy things, occurring every fourth year if the year is evenly divisible by four, except in years ending in two zeroes when a leap day

is added only if the year is evenly divisible by 400. So 2000 was a leap year, but 1900 wasn't and 2100 won't be.

There was a time when the only temporal markers people needed were the rising and setting of the sun, the phases of the moon and the Dominion Time Signal on CBC radio. Later inventions such as weeks and months have been plagued by the planet's refusal to adhere to a man-made schedule, circling the sun, not in 365 days, but 365.242.

This inconsistency bugs the heck out of Hanke and Henry.

Henry says the beauty of Sunday-only Christmas and New Year's is that they would "get rid of this zoo we're in right now, when the whole economy collapses for two weeks."

Hanke sees even bigger fiscal advantages to their frog-march of time.

"Determining how much interest accrues on mortgages, bonds, forward rate agreements, swaps and others, day counts are required. Our current calendar is full of anomalies that have led to the establishment of a wide range of conventions that attempt to simplify interest calculations," he points out.

"Our proposed permanent calendar has a predictable 91-day quarterly pattern of two months of 30 days and a third month of 31 days, which does away with the need for artificial day count conventions."

Somehow I don't think that's gonna knock 'em dead at Timmy's. What these time tinkers need is a TV spot with a little K-Tel zip:

Are you getting a headache trying to remember whether your birthday comes on a Tuesday or a Friday? Tired of expensive calendars that break after just one year?

Well now you can pick your favourite calendar — and use it for the rest of your life!

That's right: Buy one Hanke-Henry® calendar and you'll never buy another. Every year begins on Sunday and ends on Saturday . . . forever!

And that's not all! Every month in the Hanke-Henry® calendar has at least 30 days — that's seven per cent

AND ANOTHER THING...

MORE February at no extra charge!

But wait, there's more! Do you love the winter holiday season? Of course you do! Well, order the Hanke-Henry® calendar within the next five years and receive an extra WEEK of December — absolutely FREE!!

Did I mention that Hanke and Henry also want to abolish time zones and day-light saving time? Every watch in the world would be set to Greenwich Mean Time (aka Universal Time). So a nine-to-five job on the Coast would become an 0100-0900 job.



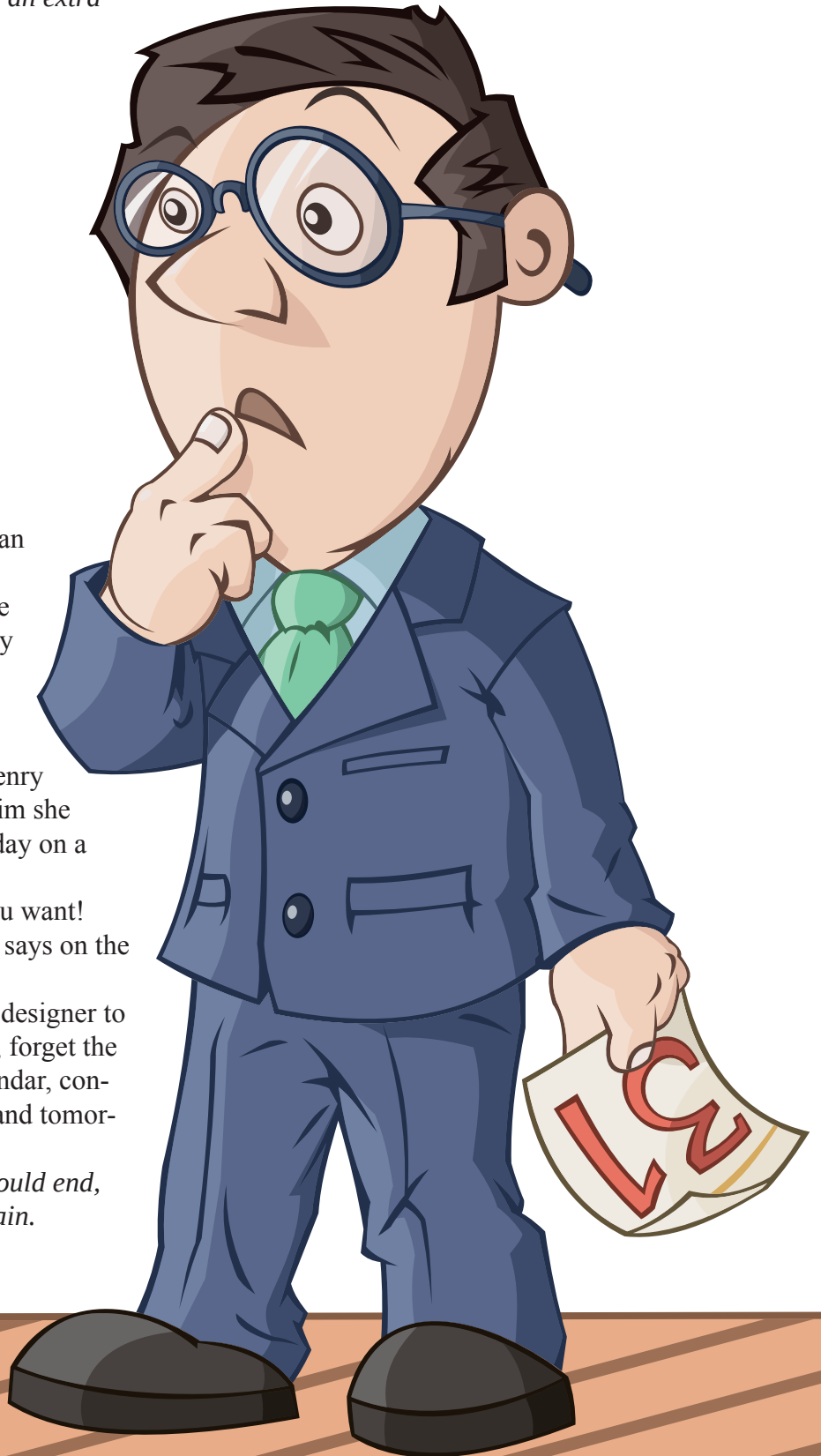
“We’re just saying, ‘Set your clocks to the same time, because it is the same time,’” Henry said, carefully not adding, “Dammit!”

Indeed, if there’s one thing that irks the boffins more than the inconsistency of nature, it’s people who embrace that inconsistency. Henry told an interviewer about a woman who told him she didn’t like the idea of always having her birthday on a Thursday.

“I said, ‘You’re free to celebrate when you want! What the devil difference does it make what it says on the calendar?’”

Which seems an odd thing for a calendar designer to say, but let’s run with it. Forget the 12 months, forget the seven days. Let’s adopt the Willie Nelson calendar, consisting of only three days — yesterday, today and tomorrow.

*And it does no good to wish these days would end,
'Cause the same three days start over again.*



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

FEBRUARY

- Sun. Feb. 4.....Sunday Jam with Larrie Cook - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
Mon. Feb. 6.....Meet Ray Phillips, author of *The Kleindale Story* - P. H. School of Music, 6:30 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 11.....Randy and Mr. Lahey's West Coast Oddity - P. H. Community Hall, time n/a
Sat. Feb. 11.....Russell Marsland, Darryl Havers and Mark Vance - Garden Bay Pub, 9 p.m.
Sun. Feb. 12.....P. H. Music Society presents Linda Lee Thomas & Jonathan Goldman - P. H. School of Music, 2 p.m.
Sun. Feb. 12.....Sunday Jam with Joe Stanton - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
Mon. Feb. 13.....P. H. Food Bank pickup - P. H. Community Church, noon
Tues. Feb. 14.....2 for 1 Valentines Swim - P. H. Aquatic and Fitness Centre, all day
Fri. Feb. 17.....Local schools closed ("Pro-D Day")
Sat. Feb. 18.....In Touch Therapeutics first anniversary celebration - In Touch Therapeutics Yoga Studio, 6 p.m.
Sun. Feb. 19.....Sunday Jam with Gaetan - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
Tues. Feb. 21.....P. H. Wildlife Society presents Michelle Evelyn, PHSS, 7:30 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 25.....Mardi Gras Costume Ball featuring Cannery Row - P. H. Community Hall, 8:30 p.m.
Sun. Feb. 26.....P. H. Community Club annual general meeting - P. H. Community Club, 2 p.m.
Sun. Feb. 26.....Sunday Jam with Peter B3 and Cannery Row - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
Mon. Feb. 27.....P. H. Food Bank pick up - P. H. Community Church, noon



FERRY DEPARTURES

~ Effective to March 31, 2012 ~

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.

Horseshoe Bay	Langdale	*Earl's Cove	*Saltery Bay
➤ 7:20 a.m.	➤ 6:20 a.m.	♣ 6:30 a.m.	♣ 5:35 a.m.
9:20 a.m.	8:20 a.m.	8:25 a.m.	7:25 a.m.
11:20 a.m.	10:20 a.m.	10:25 a.m.	9:25 a.m.
1:20 p.m.	12:20 p.m.	12:20 p.m.	11:20 a.m.
3:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	4:25 p.m.	3:20 p.m.
5:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	6:25 p.m.	5:25 p.m.
7:25 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	8:20 p.m.	7:20 p.m.
9:15 p.m.	8:20 p.m.	9:35 p.m.	9:15 p.m.
		10:05 p.m.	

*Effective Sept. 6 to March 31, 2012 EXCEPT for:
Oct. 7 & 10, Dec. 24, 26 & 27.
See alternate schedule at www.bcferries.com

➤ Daily except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

♣ Daily except Sun and Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

Pender Harbour Automotive & Tire

604 883 3646

Pender Harbour Automotive & Tire is a sister company to SK Automotive Ltd — a well established automotive repair facility in Sechelt.

Pender Harbour Automotive & Tire offers its customers the same honest, reliable repairs in a comfortable, friendly environment, with up-to-date, warranty-approved maintenance and state-of-the-art diagnostic service and repairs.

Pender Harbour Automotive & Tire also offers full tire sales and service.

Now offering:

- Tire sales and repairs
- Factory maintenance services
- Computer diagnostics
- Electrical
- Suspension and steering
- Fuel Injection
- Quality parts
- Exhaust
- Brakes
- Tune ups
- All other mechanical repair



Wayne Dyck and his family are now proud residents of Pender Harbour and excited to join the community. Wayne brings with him over 15 years of experience in all areas of the automotive field, providing good customer service and great mechanical skills.

Wayne looks forward to making your visit to the shop an enjoyable one.

Mike Fellers is a lifelong Sunshine Coast resident with over 20 years in the tire industry and brings a vast knowledge of sales and service in his field.

If you want the right advice, competitive pricing and friendly service, come see Mike at the shop and make your tire investment an enjoyable one.



13544 Sunshine Coast Highway
(Beside Pender Harbour Diesel)

Open Monday to Friday • 8 am - 5 pm
For appointments call: 604.883.3646



Canucks Game? Pizza.



Date	Visitor	Home	Time
Thurs, Feb. 2	Red Wings	Canucks	7 p.m. (Sportsnet)
Sat, Feb. 4	Canucks	Avalanche	12 p.m. (Sportsnet)
Tues, Feb. 7	Canucks	Predators	5 p.m. (Sportsnet)
Thurs, Feb. 9	Canucks	Wild	5 p.m. (Sportsnet)
Sat, Feb. 11	Canucks	Flames	7 p.m. (CBC)
Mon, Feb. 13	Coyotes	Canucks	7 p.m. (Sportsnet)
Wed, Feb. 15	Avalanche	Canucks	7 p.m. (Sportsnet)
Sat, Feb. 18	Maple Leafs	Canucks	4 p.m. (CBC)
Sun, Feb. 19	Canucks	Oilers	6 p.m. (Sportsnet)
Tues, Feb. 21	Canucks	Predators	5 p.m. (Sportsnet)
Thurs, Feb. 23	Canucks	Red Wings	4:30 p.m. (Sportsnet)
Fri, Feb. 24	Canucks	Devils	4 p.m. (Sportsnet)
Sun, Feb. 26	Canucks	Stars	12 p.m. (Sportsnet)
Tues, Feb. 28	Canucks	Coyotes	6 p.m. (Sportsnet)

Harbour Pizza

883-2543

Oak Tree Market
883-2411

Triple B's Burgers
883-9655



GARDEN BAY PUB

OPEN DAILY AT 11... (604)883-2574

Join us for our Valentine's Day dinner special for two!

Winter Specials

WEDNESDAYS: WING SPECIAL

FRIDAYS: MEAT DRAWS (Proceeds to P. H. Blues Society)

SATURDAYS: PRIME RIB - \$15.99

SUNDAYS: EGGS BENNY

Friday Night Meat Draw Special:

Steak sandwich
Cod and chips
Burger and fries } **\$9.99**

Live Music Sundays @ 2 pm

FEB. 5: SUNDAY JAM with Larrie Cook

FEB. 11 Russell Marsland and Darryl Havers
of Brickhouse join Mark Vance

FEB. 12: SUNDAY JAM with Joe Stanton

FEB. 19: SUNDAY JAM with Gaetan

FEB. 26: SUNDAY JAM with Peter B3 & Cannery Row

Specials for all Canucks games!

Dr. Terry Dickson, a chiropractor and registered ART®(Active Release Technique) provider, is excited about joining the practitioners at the Pender Harbour Health Centre!

Available every second and fourth weekend (Saturday & Monday) from 1 to 5 pm:

Jan. 14/16 & 28/30 • Feb. 11/13 & 25/27 • March 10/12 & 24/26 • April 7/9 & 21/23 • May 12/14 & 26/28

What is Active Release Technique or ART®?

ART is a patented, state of the art soft tissue system/movement-based massage technique that treats problems with muscles, tendons, ligaments, fascia and nerves.

Headaches, back pain, carpal tunnel syndrome, shin splints, shoulder pain, sciatica, plantar fasciitis, knee problems and tennis elbow are just a few of the many conditions that can be resolved quickly and permanently with ART. These conditions all have one important thing in common: they are often a result of overused muscles which leads to the production of tough, dense scar tissue in the affected area. As scar tissue builds up, muscles become shorter and weaker, tension on tendons causes tendinitis, and nerves can become trapped. This can cause reduced range of motion, loss of strength, and pain. If a nerve is trapped you may also feel tingling, numbness, and weakness.



Dr. Dickson is the owner/director of a multi-disciplinary health clinic in North Vancouver where he has a busy practice treating a wide variety of patients. Dr. Dickson treats a full spectrum of patients ranging in age from children to the elderly, with success in improving their health and quality of life.

Recognizing the lack of any ART providers on the Sunshine Coast, and that he visits family in Pender Harbour twice per month, he wanted to offer this amazing healing technique to those wanting to heal stubborn injuries or for those simply wanting to feel great and optimize their health!

Learn more about Dr. Dickson at www.nswellness.ca



To book an appointment, call the Pender Harbour Health Centre:

(604) 883-2764

