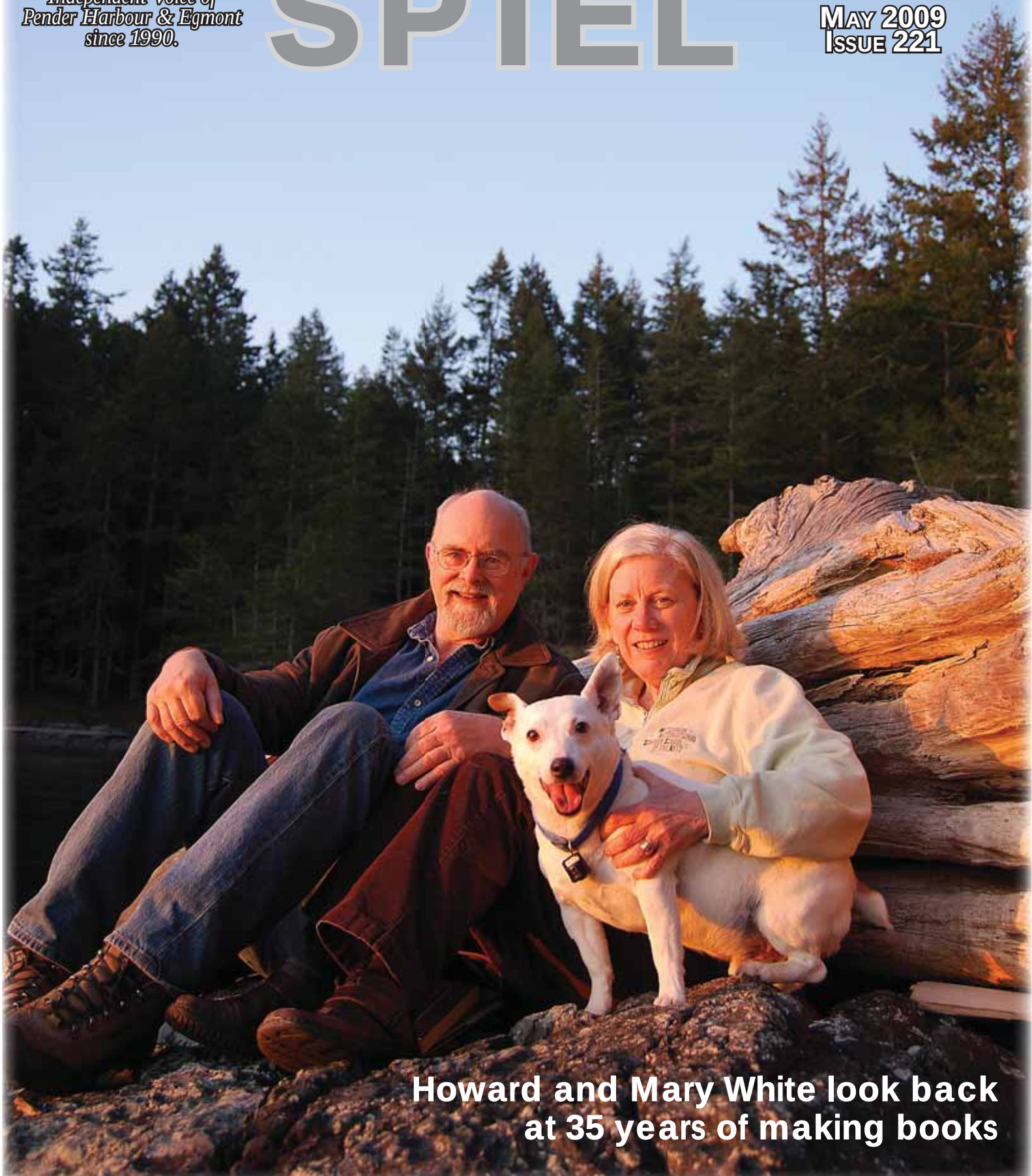


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& OPERATED

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Independent Voice of
Pender Harbour & Egmont
since 1990.*

HARBOUR SPIEL

MAY 2009
ISSUE 221



**Howard and Mary White look back
at 35 years of making books**

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HARBOUR SPIEL



The Independent Voice
of Pender Harbour &
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- IGA
- Mountainview Service
- Oak Tree Market
- Pier 17

EDITOR

Brian Lee.

CONTRIBUTORS

This month we thank: Livia Eidt, Eric Graham, Vanessa Lanteigne, John Little, Theresa Kishkan, Shane McCune, Brent Parker, Alan Stewart, Jim Rutherford, Nolan Sawatzky, John Wade and Jan Watson.

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CONTACT:

Brian Lee
RR #1, S. 4, C. 1,
Madeira Park, BC
V0N 2H0
(604) 883-0770
editor@harbourspiel.com
www.harbourspiel.com

EDITORIAL

A case for beer on May Day

By Brian Lee



It's almost May Day and every year around this time you hear murmurs of a tired refrain.

It centres on some folks' vehement opposition to organizers hosting a beer garden.

I love May Day but if you don't have kids, there really isn't a lot to do.

During the dark years of beer garden prohibition, I remember friends and I filtering away after the parade, feeling the whole deal was kind of anti-climactic.

If nothing else, the beer garden offers a central perch to meet when the cacophony of the parade, races, crownings and logger sports get overwhelming.

One of the unintended charms of our May Day celebration is the fact that you can almost count on running into everyone who has ever gone to school here.

That's what May Day is for — catching up with relatives and old friends and making new ones.

And is it wrong that some see that as a party?

The moral know-it-alls insist parents at the beer garden have abandoned their children, pointing to instances of passing money through the chain link to buy themselves more time.

So? If parents are neglecting their child on May Day, chances are they would be neglecting them with or without a beer tap.

Or they'd find a beer tap somewhere else.

For 64 years the Madeira Park field has been the proving ground for up and coming track stars.

A chance for the awkward years of learning how to walk to pay off in one confused stagger to a row of screeching Mommys.

At age 4, getting a ribbon is better than cotton candy.

Those memories last a lifetime.

May Day should always be about the kids. But it has never been only about the kids.

I was a May Day kid and, with apologies to my parents, I don't recall ever giving a flying fig what they were up to.

There was more adventure to be found in one May Day than all the family time I would ever experience.

I think parents are too often pressured to provide supervised entertainment.

Leave them be — a little neglect is fun.

I recall some of the best memories from the early May Days were the token drunk people — it was all just part of the action.

Those who insist we should shield our kids from adults socializing should find another party.

To me, it's the worrying about all of the things that could harm your child that is going to turn him or her into a social gimp.

So, relax. Have another beer.

It's May Day.



SPIEL PICKS

3RD ANNUAL GARDEN BAY CLASSIC FISHING DERBY - MAY 1

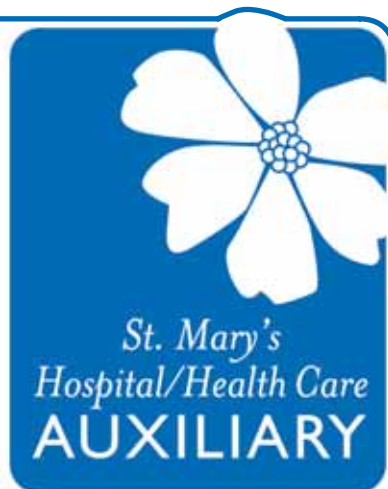
Registration ends tonight for this weekend's fishing derby. Anyone can enter the Calcutta Draw where participants' boats are auctioned off to the highest bidder. If the boat you purchase catches the biggest fish, you win the pot. Past year's winners took home almost \$1,000. Come out for a good time tonight even if you don't sign on for the two day fishing event.

MAY DAY TEEN DANCE - MAY 15

A new May Day tradition starts up — a Friday night dance for teens. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the dance will run until 11 p.m.

64TH ANNUAL PENDER HARBOUR MAY DAY CELEBRATION - MAY 16

Come down to Madeira Park on Saturday May 16 for the biggest day of the year (around here). It starts off with a fun run and pancake breakfast at the P. H. Community Hall at 8 a.m.. The parade starts at 11 a.m. with a flyby by Bill Thompson. Races at 1 p.m., logger sports at 1:30 p.m., eating contests at 2:30 p.m. and a tug-of-war at 3 p.m. The kids' dance is at 5:30 and much more.



Madhatter's Mother's Day Tea

SAT. MAY 9

**1:30 P.M. TO 3:30 P.M.
PENDER HARBOUR LEGION**

***Prizes for best
homemade hat***

**Door Prizes ° 50/50 draw
Raffle ° Jewelry sale**



ATTACK OF DANGER BAY 8 - MAY 17

Canada's first downhill longboarding race, Attack of Danger Bay, is still the biggest race on the planet and is still paying out the most cash in the world to both female and male competitors. Two hundred downhill longboarders will compete for over \$5,000 in cash prizes.

Park your vehicle in Madeira Park and catch the shuttle out to the race hill. There's no parking at the race so please show respect for local residents who live near the course to ensure it continues.

WHY ADVERTISE IN THE HARBOUR SPIEL?

The circulation of Pender Harbour and Egmont's most widely read publication just grew to **2,400+ copies per month.**

It's already delivered free to 1,800 homes from Halfmoon Bay to Egmont and scores of out-of-town subscribers. Starting this month, more visitors will read the Spiel than ever before — free at the following locations:

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- IGA
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- Oak Tree Market
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It ain't real if it's not in the Spiel.



April Tools sees a massive upset and a growing rivalry

It wasn't quite David and Goliath but a dramatic upset made for a memorable April Tools Wooden Boat Challenge on April 25.

Builders were challenged to craft a boat out of a little bit of wood, a whole lot of plastic sheeting, duct tape and a 10-foot section of sauna-tube.

The eight teams favoured two designs — cutting the sauna-tube in half and making watertight pontoons or splitting the sauna tube down the middle and forming it into an elongated hull.

It made for some of the most exciting races in years as the pontoon designs tended to be slower but more stable whereas the longer designs were fast but tended to tip.

The Garden Bay Fire Department's "Fireflies" have never lost an April Tools Challenge.

After cruising to easy victory in their first heat, the outcome looked inevitable — especially after the next heat in which their bitter rivals, the Madeira Park Fire Department "Hosers" couldn't get to the starting line of their heat without swimming.

After multiple wet exits, fear of hypothermia set in for Justin Noel, so team mate Mike Bathgate bravely stepped into their tippy craft and with ballerina-esque balance, managed to



Showing no concern for a distressed and submerged Dave Goble is Mike Bathgate, seen here cruising to second place in the final of the April Tools boat race.

guide his boat gingerly around the course and into the finals.

The finals proved to be a race for second place as long-time participants from BCIT the "Cheap Oars" easily took the \$500 first place bounty, breaking the Fireflies' seven-year stranglehold on victory.

This left the north and south shores of the Pender Harbour Fire Department to duke it out for second.

The Fireflies' Dave Goble looked sharp going into the tight final turn under the ramp with Bathgate drafting off his stern wake.

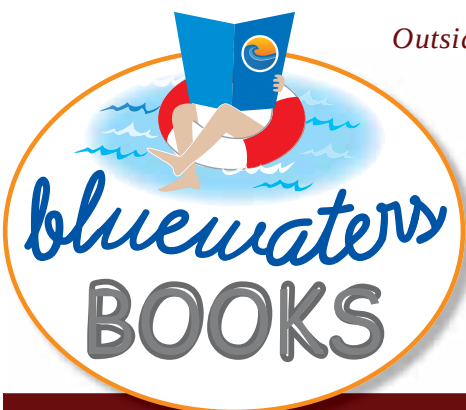
But the Fireflies' craft refused to turn as it headed straight for the rocks and as Goble flopped into the chuck,

Bathgate calmly manoeuvred by, taking second prize and earning his Hosers \$400.

Heroically, Goble managed to swim his craft across the finish line to beat out Team "Excalibur" for a very respectable third place.

The high school entries were all very seaworthy, but the contestants competitive nature turned the "fun" races into a very wet demolition derby.

The Fireflies also picked up the Spiffy Skiffy Award for best-looking boat. The Broken Paddle Award for looking hot in the face of adversity went to the Desperate Coast Wives.



Outside of a dog, a book is a man's best friend. And inside of a dog, it's too dark to read.

~ Groucho Marx

**Please join us when May Queen Savannah Côté
officially opens our store on May Day.**



Simons and Miller square off at Pender Harbour Community Hall

Despite competition from game one of Vancouver Canucks' Stanley Cup playoff series, about 40 people showed up to see local MLA candidates Nicholas Simons and Dawn Miller square off at the Pender Harbour Community Hall on April 17.

Questions were taken from the audience, many of whom were supporters who had likely travelled from down the Coast to attend the debate put on by the Pender Harbour and Egmont Chamber of Commerce.

NDP incumbent MLA Nicholas Simons has represented the riding of Powell River/Sunshine Coast since 2005, serving as Opposition critic for Children and Family Development.

Simons spent 15 years working in the areas of health, justice, social services and child welfare.

Before entering politics, he served as the director of health and social development for the Sechelt Nation.

Liberal candidate Dawn Miller moved to the Sunshine Coast from

Prince George in 2004 but has owned a Sechelt H&R Block franchise in Sechelt since 1996.

Miller has had a successful career in small business, receiving numerous community awards. She currently operates her own mentorship and consulting business.

After opening remarks, candidates were asked randomly drawn questions by moderator Alan Stewart.

HEALTH CARE

Miller had the first crack at a question accusing the Liberal government of decreasing both the standards of care for seniors and hospital cleanliness through the privatization of health care workers.

Miller said that seniors care is a serious concern for the Liberal government and insisted the Liberals

did achieve their election promise of delivering 5,000 new long-term care beds.

Simons countered by saying the privatization of hospital care has resulted in a net loss of care for seniors at a time when their population is growing.

He said the 5,000 long-term care beds were not delivered, calling it just another broken promise by the Liberal government.



CARBON TAX

Not surprisingly, questions arose about the NDP's opposition to the carbon tax. The Liberals introduced the tax on fossil fuels last year which, in the case of gasoline, resulted in an additional 2.3 cents per litre at the pump.

Campbell's government insists the carbon tax is "revenue neutral," but should encourage consumers to reduce carbon use.

The NDP has been criticized by prominent environmentalists such as David Suzuki for promising to eliminate the carbon tax if elected.

Many accuse the NDP of sacrificing the environment as a political tool.

Simons defended his party's platform by claiming he would be behind the carbon tax if it was fair or effective.

"Since they (Liberals) introduced the carbon tax, we have seen an increase in our consumption of fuels by four per cent. So it is ineffective," said Simons.

"It is also totally unfair. If I go to



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visit a home, a manufactured home in a rural community, I know for a fact that they're going to be paying more for the fuel to heat their home... I know for a fact that they're less likely to have a Smart car or a Prius."

BC RAIL DEAL

It was Miller on the hotseat moments later when she had to defend the sale of BC Rail by the Liberal government and "their record for not living up to promises."

Two former ministerial aides are facing fraud and other charges related to the privatization of BC Rail, which was sold to CN Rail for \$1 billion in 2003.

During the 2001 campaign, the Liberals vowed they would not authorize such a sale, but changed their position after getting elected.

"BC Rail was not sold. BC Rail beds were leased and as a result of that a billion dollars went into the BC economy," said Miller.

"We're all making adjustments to our budgets and I think it is one of the hardest decisions the BC Liberals had to make because it did mean changing a promise.

"I don't know about you but when I make a promise I don't like to have to go back on it either, but the world changed; the world changed dramatically."

Simons responded, "The sale of BC Rail was a broken promise that took place within a year of the government getting elected. I understand how difficult it is to defend that tactic because it breached the public trust."

LOCAL FORESHORE LEASES AND THE SECHULT INDIAN BAND

The debate turned local when a question was submitted noting concerns about the lack of resolution in the dispute with the Sechelt Indian Band over the granting of foreshore leases in Pender Harbour.

"I wish I could tell you that the situation will be easily resolved but that's not the case," said Miller.

"What I've been advised is that it is under consideration and it will continue to move forward... I've investigated it and am not able to do anything as a candidate to move that forward. As an MLA I would certainly do what I could to help resolve the situation."

Simons addressed the question next.

"Today I decided to find out the status of the talks... and I am pleased to report the talks are underway currently," said Simons.

"In fact they were meeting last week about this very issue and I have a recommendation to the people in this room who are concerned about this topic and that is to contact the Integrated Land Management Bureau with your concerns and insist that they engage with the First Nations people to find a resolution to this impasse."

INDEPENDENT POWER PROJECTS

Another hot local topic, the issue of independent power projects (IPPs) was aimed at Simons, specifically asking whether or not the "NDP plan to

put a moratorium on IPP projects that will kill jobs at a time when employment needs a boost."

"I don't believe we should be in the position to say 'Either we have jobs or we protect the environment for future generations,'" said Simons.

"I'm asking that a moratorium be put in place until we completely understand the cumulative impact."

Miller responded next.

"It's not a matter of needing to study it more. There have been a number of independent power projects in operation," said Miller.

"Some have been started under the last NDP government. They've been running for years successfully. Our water has not been sold to the United States. We have not seen all of our salmon die and we have not seen any of the colossally overstated kinds of things the opposition has been stating."

Both candidates summed up their party's positions in a brief closing before shaking hands amicably at which time moderator Alan Stewart announced the score was still 0 to 0 — in the hockey game.



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penderharbourresort.com

Page 8

Harbour Spiel

Island Sky now serving Earl's Cove/Saltery Bay route

After years of getting BC Ferries hand-me-downs, passengers who travel between Earls Cove and Saltery Bay have a new ride.

Built at Vancouver Shipyards in North Vancouver, the *MV Island Sky* began operation in February, replacing a number of aging vessels that have shared the route.

The 102-metre vessel can carry 125 cars and 450 passengers and crew.

The 3,397-ton *Island Sky* boasts 4,416 horsepower and can reach a maximum speed of 15.5 knots.

The *Island Sky's* amenities are limited to one interior passenger deck containing lounge seating and a Coastal Cafe Express cafeteria/gift store.

The exterior passenger deck above the main deck provides bench seating fore and aft.



The *M. V. Island Sky* docking in Earl's Cove. Course corrections often cause the ship to roll excessively — regular passengers already recognize when there's a new hand at the helm.



Laps around the outside deck are short but there's plenty of room.



The lounge areas are made up entirely of open seating. As one passenger put it, 'There's nowhere to hide.'



Bob Sutcliffe photo

Bonnie Cannon, President of the St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary hands over the keys to a new 2009 Ford 'ParaTransit' Bus to Brenda Langevin, Director of Vancouver Coastal Health, Sunshine Coast/Powell River. Attending the ceremony are members of the St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary, including the Pender Harbour branch, who raised over \$105,000 to purchase it. The bus will be for use by the Totem Lodge and Shornecliffe Care Facilities and will accommodate up to six wheelchaired passengers at a time.



PENDER HARBOUR AQUATIC & FITNESS CENTRE

HEALTH IN MOTION

MAY!

MOVE FOR HEALTH DAY — SUPER SPLASH AQUAFIT CHALLENGE: You are invited to this FREE event: Friday May 8, 9 to 10 a.m. From 10 a.m. to noon, join us for a complimentary lunch and an introduction to Nordic Pole Walking. We want to host the biggest Aquafit class our facility has ever seen!

BOOT CAMP: Monday, 6:30p.m. to 7:30pm and Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. — 2 blocks: May 20 to June 10 and June 15 to July 8. OR Tuesday and Thursday 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. — 2 blocks: May 19 to June 11 and June 15 — July 9 (no class on June 25). 12 classes for \$99. 8 classes for \$66. 4 classes for \$33. Drop In: \$10

FAB (50 AND BEYOND, LADIES ONLY) NORDIC WALKING & STRENGTH INTERVAL CLASS: Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. 8 weeks starting May 19 to July 9 (16 classes Sr: \$76 Adult: \$90.40).

NORDIC POLE WALKING: ON ROAD: Monday and Wednesdays, 9-10am, 8 weeks beginning May 20- July 8. Various locations around the community. (14 classes: Sr. \$66.50, Adult: \$79.10) OFF ROAD: Explore some of the wonderful trails in our community. Saturday 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., May 23 and 30 June 6 and 13. Locations TBA (4 classes: \$19 Sr., \$22.60 Adult) REGISTER PRIOR TO MAY 15 FOR OUR OUTDOOR FITNESS PROGRAMS. CLASSES MAY BE CANCELLED IF MINIMUM NUMBER NOT MET.

Our facility will be closing May 16 until September 30 for renovations.

We thank all community members for the support given to this project and we look forward to seeing you at our Grand Re-opening.

All programs require pre-registration and payment one week prior to start date.

For our complete schedule of swim times and fitness classes visit us on the web at www.scrd.ca under Services.

(604) 885-6866

NEWS

Abbeyfield update

The clock is ticking for the Area A Seniors Housing Society.

The Vancouver Real Estate Foundation has pledged \$100,000 to the construction of the Pender Harbour Abbeyfield House project.

But it came with a catch.

The seniors' housing society must raise four times that amount by the end of June to receive it.

Society president Paul Cuppen says it's common with grants from the foundation to include a matching target (in this case four to one) because they want to encourage recipients to actively raise funds on their own as well.

A concerted effort during the last six weeks has raised \$31,000 to push the total to \$261,000.

That leaves the fundraising team \$139,000 short of their target with only two months to go.

Unlike a nursing home, the Abbeyfield House model provides extended care for seniors while allowing them to live in their own homes.

There are 1,100 Abbeyfield Houses worldwide providing homes to more than 9,000 residents.

Should they meet their target, the Abbeyfield project will have \$500,000 behind it, enough to begin construction.

"If we do make this goal then we're looking at ground-breaking pretty soon," says Cuppen.

"Then we're racing to the end instead of getting off the ground."

PHOTOJOURNAL



Savanah Côté was all smiles moments after a draw declaring her the 2009 Pender Harbour May Queen. The May Queen is chosen from participating Grade 6 girls and Côté learned she was the lucky one at a small reception at the P. H. Community Hall. Organized by the P. H. May Day committee, the event was also a chance for parents to divvy up the variety of tasks required to prepare the queen, her attendants and flowergirls for the the May Day Float and dance. Another tradition will see Charlene Côté as the lucky mother who will be responsible for overseeing the preparation details.

May 2009

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Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8:30 - 4:30

(604) 885-6800 (tel)

(604) 885-7909 (fax)

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Monday, May 4, 2009

- 9:00 a.m. Policing Committee
- 10:30 a.m. Transportation Committee

Thursday, May 7, 2009

- 1:30 p.m. Infrastructure Services Committee

Thursday, May 14, 2009

- 1:30 p.m. Planning and Development Committee
- 7:30 p.m. Board

Thursday, May 21, 2009

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

Thursday, May 28, 2009

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

DIRECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Director Eric Graham is available to meet with residents to discuss local issues related to the Sunshine Coast Regional District government. He can be reached at home at 604-883-9061 or by email, ericgraham@dccnet.com.

AREA A ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION

The Area A APC will meet on
Wednesday, May 27 at 7 p.m.
Room 107, Pender Harbour High School

SCRD SATELLITE OFFICE – AREA A

Located at 12828 Lagoon Rd. Open from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday. Services provided include:

- full-time staff provide information and direct inquiries
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- building inspectors and planning staff available by appointment
- building permit applications and other forms available on site
- secure drop-off location for plans, applications and documents

Phone: 604-885-6877 or Email: info@scrd.ca

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

North Pender Harbour Water Service Area (NPHWSA)

Time, Date and Place:

A public information meeting is scheduled to be held at **7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5, 2009**, at the Pender Harbour Resort, Garden Bay, BC.

Purpose of Meeting:

The purpose of this meeting is twofold:
1. Presentation of the 2009 Budget and 10 Year Capital Water Works Plan for the NPHWSA.
2. To accept nominations for the North Pender Harbour Water Advisory Committee (NPHWAC).

Nominations for the NPHWAC can also be made in advance of the meeting by writing to:

Bryan Shoji, GM Infrastructure Services
Sunshine Coast Regional District
1975 Field Road, Sechelt, BC V0N 3A1

Further information may be obtained by contacting:

Joanne Alford, Infrastructure Department,
at 604-885-6806, ext. 6146 or
joanne.alford@scrd.ca.

Water AGM looms, community bus hits snag, landfill overflows



*By Eric Graham
SCRD Director,
Area A*

NORTH PENDER WATER AGM

If you receive your water from North Pender

Water SCRD (Garden Bay Lake), I urge you to attend the meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5 at the Pender Harbour Resort (formerly Duncan Cove Resort).

This is a meeting to inform you about what is happening with your water system.

There will be SCRD staff giving reports and answering questions and the current advisory board will be on hand.

I will be asking for volunteers who live in the service area to sit on the Advisory Committee for the new term.

I will submit their names to the Sunshine Coast Regional District Board for approval.

PENDER HARBOUR LANDFILL

The Pender Harbour Landfill is almost full and there are three options:

- 1) Expand the current site for another 10 years;
- 2) Expand the current site for 20 years;
- 3) Turn the current site into a Transfer Station and take the garbage to the Sechelt Landfill.

There are advantages and costs to each option. The SCRD will be holding a public information meeting for all tax payers in Area A on June 13 at 1:30 p.m. at the Pender Harbour Legion.

I know 10 years ago the vast majority wanted the landfill to remain here.

All that I ask is that everybody keep an open mind, look at the facts and figures, ask the questions, then make up your mind based on the facts.

THE BUS

To put the bus on the road is a big job and it just got a lot bigger.

We have received three applications for the bus driver's position.

There is a seven-member Bus Advisory Committee set up.

In order to keep the costs down, we initially planned to keep it separate from the Sunshine Coast Regional District and run it as a separate function for Area A. We were hoping to set it up as a community bus managed by a non-profit society.

In the middle of April, the Bus Advisory Committee sat down with SCRD staff (the chief administration officer and the two people who oversee the management of the SCRD transit system) to help us with this goal.

It was found we have to apply to the B.C. Department of Transport for the right to run a bus.

Also, they have to approve our schedule and they have to approve the fares we charge.

This has not discouraged our group but it will take longer to put the bus on the road and I am sorry for this.

It would be easy to have SCRD

staff run our bus like their transit system, but the cost would be greater and may make it impossible to have one.

If we run it as a community bus on restricted service (at least at first), it may take longer to get it up and running but I promise (for my term) if there is good ridership it will run after the six-month trial.

OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY

The Olympic Torch will be carried off the ferry at Earl's Cove and come through our area on Feb. 4, 2010, just eight days before it arrives in Whistler to light the big flame.

The plan is that it will be carried by runners some of the way (to be announced at a later date) and travel by motorcade the rest of the way.

After it travels by torch runners and motorcade through our area, it will head south to Sechelt where there is going to be a two-hour ceremony.

The torch will arrive part way through the ceremony then continue down to Gibsons and on to the ferry to Horseshoe Bay.

If you wish to be a torch bearer you must be over 13 and apply online by going to the BC Torch Relay website and following the instructions.

This opportunity closes at the end of June and could be a once in a lifetime experience.

Good luck.

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We don't *print* books: The Whites of Harbour Publishing celebrate



photo courtesy of Harbour Publishing

White accepts a BC Book Award in 2001 for the Encyclopedia of BC on behalf of the entire team who worked on it. This year, on April 25, Harbour won the Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize for Stephen Hume's *Simon Fraser: In Search of Modern BC*.

By Brian Lee

What Beaver Island business has been around for 35 years, boasts 14-plus full-time employees and has received stacks of national and regional awards for its work?

When talk turns to contributions to the local economy, it rarely drifts to Harbour Publishing. You don't see the employees beavering away as you do at the IGA. You may not even know someone who works there.

If chatter does involve Harbour Publishing, it's usually borne from an idle curiosity about, "Just what the heck is it they do over there, anyways?"

Ask Howard White and he might just say, "Well, we make books."

He and his wife Mary have been making books over there for the past 37 years, garnering the respect and admiration of publishers and booksellers across Canada.

Harbour's fame within the land-

scape of Canadian literature goes relatively unnoticed at home.

And that's fine with the Whites.

In the introduction to *Raincoast Chronicles First Five*, White writes about what pulled him into writing and publishing books about coastal BC.

"Essentially, what I longed to do at that point was to return to my childhood.

"I had grown up following my logger father from one hard-luck gyppo show to another, not learning much in the way of reading and riting but forming my imagination permanently in the shape of the lichen-bright bluffs, wicked tiderips and miragical horizon—haunting islands of the upper coast."

White didn't move to Pender Harbour until sometime after his school years began.

His family didn't have to go far — his dad worked a logging show in nearby Green Bay on Nelson Island

and Howard's early years were spent hanging around log booms with the men who worked them.

He was late to school and the formal social culture of 1950s Pender Harbour took some getting used to.

Howard took to writing.

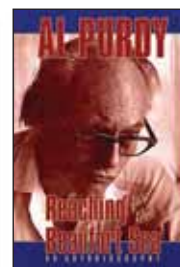
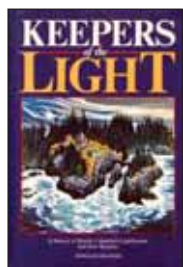
"I was always interested in writing — if you go back through old 1950s and '60s copies of Pender Harbour High School annuals, you'll see what I was scribbling away back then."

Later, White studied English at UBC. Although he wanted to be writer he was wise enough to know it was a difficult way to make a living.

"I thought a good second choice would be to be involved with publishing."

After graduating from UBC, White knew he didn't want to live in Vancouver for the rest of his life so he moved back to Pender Harbour.

At the start of the 1970s, he was a self-professed cat-skinner/gas jock-



35 years of explaining what it is they do

ey with (almost) an English degree. A guy who made his living in construction but had a passion for telling stories.

Before leaving the city for good, he wisely made contact with a woman named Mary Lee. For the next 39 years, the two of them turned out to be formidable business partners, even managing to produce a couple of kids between editorial deadlines.

"In 1970 we had a particularly obnoxious editor running the Sechelt newspaper," recalls White.

"I just got so mad one day because he was adopting a really red-neck attitude towards all the hippies and draft dodgers that were coming in."

So, White says, he and Mary put out one issue of the *Peninsula Voice* with the help of a friend in Vancouver.

"We were never really intending it to become a steady thing but people wouldn't let us stop it."

The first issue of the *Peninsula Voice* was published on Nov. 5, 1970.

It boasted details of an \$18-million, 3,000 home "recreational-residential complex" planned to run along Hwy. 101 between the Sakinaw Lake gravel pit and the Pender Harbour High School.

It broke news of a new principal at the high school and outlined some proposals by the nasty regional board of the day trying to rein in waterfront structures like net sheds.

Mary Lee worked on the first couple of issues from Vancouver.

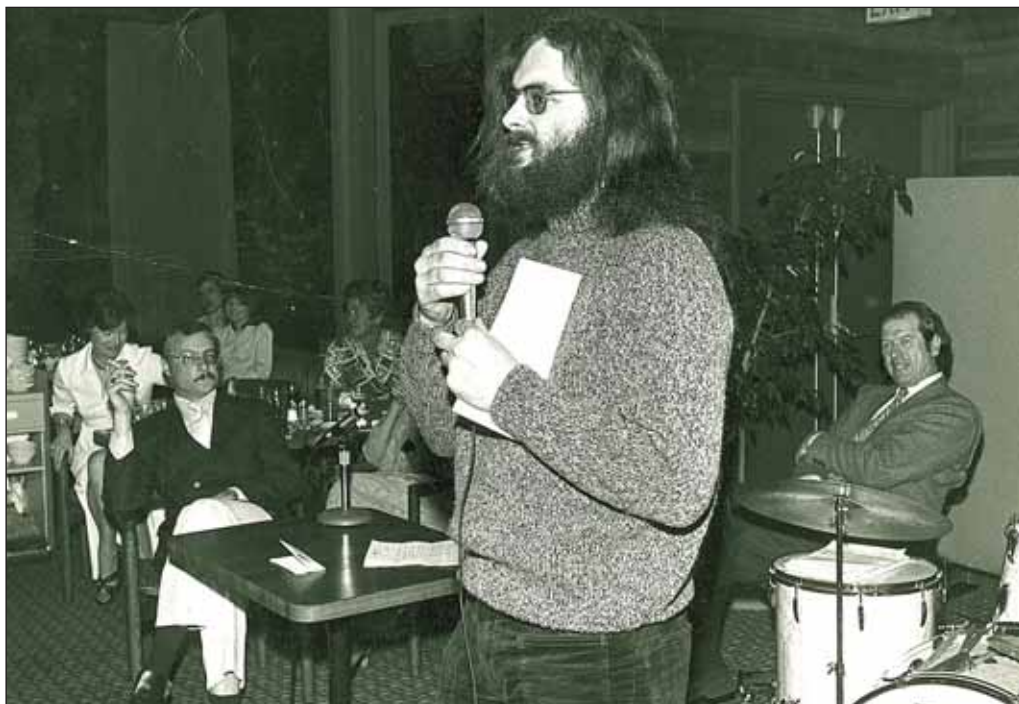


photo courtesy of Harbour Publishing

Howard White accepting the award for 'Best Feature Article' at the Canadian Magazine Awards in 1974 for *How it was With Trucks*.

"In those days, everybody was moving out of the city," she recalls. "It was a big trend for the young people to get out of the city and get back to the land."

Soon she was living in Pender Harbour, working on the *Peninsula Voice* full-time.

"It was my only job and it wasn't, of course, a paying job. Howie had paying work — he was helping his dad at the gas station and bulldozing, which paid pretty good."

Along the way they began experimenting with a new format, a thing they called the *Raincoast Chronicles*.

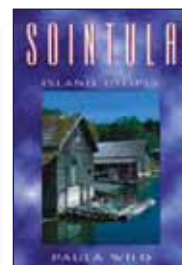
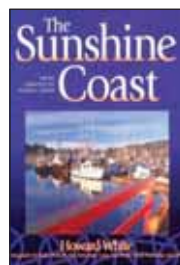
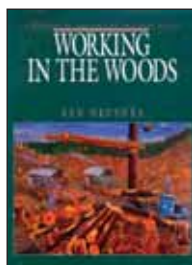
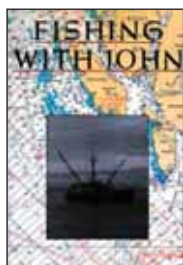
Less like a newspaper, nothing yet like a book, the first issue of *Raincoast Chronicles* came out in 1972

and introduced BC coastal dwellers to their own history with previously untold stories of rum-running and Nootka whalers and even a little history of Pender Harbour.

"*Raincoast Chronicles* is essentially a no-bullshit book that opens up the past of those of us living along the West Coast of Canada in a way no other magazine had ever succeeded," wrote Bob Hunter in the foreword of *Raincoast Chronicles First Five*.

"No glossy tourist nonsense. No political monkeying with the facts of life. Sweat and grease and silver and salmon. Lovely yellowing old photographs. Steam engines. Diesels. Oars. Easthopes. Rigging. Donkeys."

(continued on next page)



Harbour Publishing (cont.)

(continued from page 17)

By the summer of 1973, White and Lee had their own printing press. White says the machine was a gargantuan offset press called a Mann which was originally owned by the Vancouver Sun and had bounced around through various commercial print shops in Vancouver.

The first real book they published for themselves was called *How to Build Your Own Floor Loom* by Steve Lones but around the same time they also published Peter Trower's *Between the Sky and the Splinters*. It was 1974.

"We didn't realize we needed a separate name for the books at first," says White.

"We thought Raincoast Chronicles was the name of the magazine we were doing and it wasn't until later that somebody pointed out to me that we actually needed a separate name for the publishing company.

"After thinking about it a little while I just thought, well, everything else in Pender Harbour was called Harbour — Harbour Disposal, Harbour this, Harbour that — so I thought well, why not Harbour Publishing?"

One thing led to another and since they had the press in their print shop on Lagoon Road, people started to come around with book manuscripts.

It wasn't long before they were doing more books and less of the paper until they stopped publishing the *Peninsula Voice* altogether in 1975,



Photo courtesy of Harbour Publishing

Howard, Patrick, Silas and Mary White stack books in the warehouse in 1988.

the same year they married.

For the first 10 years, White's day job subsidized the press. They made the transition to publishing full-time when Howard finally realized he was spending most of his time publishing and they were beginning to have to pay a lot of other people to do the work he wasn't doing — Mary always did work full-time at the press. So, he decided to turn the construction business over to his brother Don and work on books full-time.

"In 1982 we didn't do one particular book. It was the first year we did a planned list of books — we did about eight books I think," said White. "One was *For Openers* by Alan Twigg, a book by Hubert Evans called

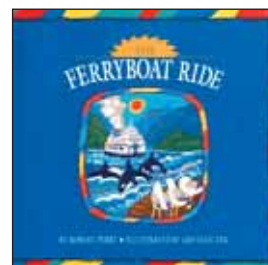
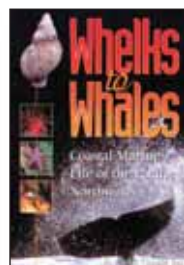
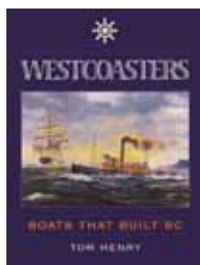
Son of the Salmon People. I remember there were three books that all had green covers — I didn't know that you weren't supposed to use green covers so I did all three green because I thought it would be cheaper to print three books all in the same colour."

It was publisher's lore that green books don't sell.

"It's not really true but it's not the most popular colour for a cover," White snickers.

They started using commercial printers in the late seventies because Howard found he was spending more time printing than editing.

Despite the fact he hasn't printed his own books in decades, the reputation of having a print shop is some-



thing he's never been able to shake.

"People are still asking me if I'll print them a business card.

They think I have a printing press and then when I say 'Well, no, I got rid of my printing press 20 years ago,' they'll go, 'Well just what is it you do over there, anyways?'"

"Most people have no idea what goes into making a book," says White.

"They basically see the author writes the book and the printer prints the book so what need is there for anybody else?"

Publishers get hundreds of unsolicited manuscripts every year. Sometimes they're thousands of pages long from people who are barely literate but have poured their soul into their would be "book."

Even the better manuscripts may languish for years in what is called a "slush pile," going completely unnoticed before someone in the company spots something in it remarkable enough to place it in front of the publisher.

Even then, it may still be years before the publisher finds a spot for it in his or her list.

Publishers typically produce a catalogue of new books in the spring and then again in the fall, six months before the book is expected to be delivered.

Think summer sales and Christmas sales — basically the higher priced coffee-table books come out in the fall, the guidebooks in the winter.

Before hitting the store shelves, a typical book has gone through an exhaustive nurturing process, involving a multi-layered editing process often requiring a rewrite of the entire manuscript.

Simultaneously, work will be underway fact-checking information, producing indexes, seeking legal counsel for questionable claims, photo research, archival research, caption writing, design, layout, and proofreading.

Long before it's printed, sales and marketing staff are already selling the book, reassuring buyers and media of it's existence by supplying mock covers and random excerpts.

In reality, the book may barely be an embryonic concept in the pre-editing stage, plucked from slush pile obscurity only weeks before.

As pre-publication backorders grow (or don't), the publisher starts to

get anxious. He's already paid wages and costs associated with producing the book long before sending it to the printer.

Once it finally hits the printer, proofs or "bluelines" come back offering the production department one final chance to find any errors.

After that, any typos will be multiplied by a couple thousand copies or more, depending on the size of the print run.

The joy of seeing a book come back from the printer has many times been instantly erased when someone finds an error.

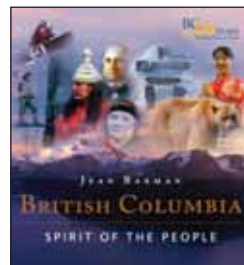
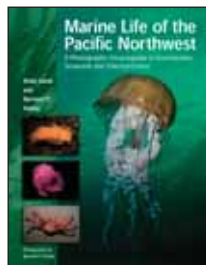
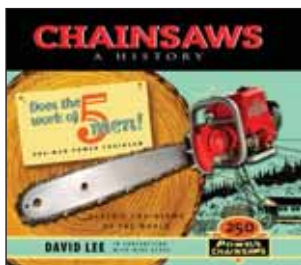
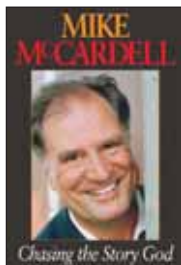
Hopefully it arrives back on time to fill orders and provide a suitable prop for media and author events.

Often as not, the marketing department has followed early — and optimistic — predictions of the book's publication date to schedule author

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Out from behind the curtained safety of their Beaver Island office, some of the Harbour Publishing employees pose reluctantly for a staff photo.



Harbour Publishing (cont.)

(continued from page 19)

and media events.

Authors don't relish arriving at a reading to promote a book that isn't there so air freighted copies are often rushed — at the publishers' expense — to, say, a bookstore in Winnipeg so the 30 people who attend a signing will have something to buy, or at least look at.

Meanwhile sales staff continually reassure corporate buyers of the book's imminent arrival and that (hopefully) the strong interest the author is garnering in the media will ensure a sell-through of their initial order.

As the book hits the shelves, the marketing department will have supporting media reviews, advertising, book launches and signings all in an effort to create some buzz about the title.

The next time you listen to an author on CBC, consider that some poor marketing person pitched the idea to producers six months ago and has followed up every week since in order to make it happen.

Books are fully returnable, so sales people have to be careful about overselling a title.

If a book doesn't sell as well as the sales person initially led the buyer

to believe, those remaining copies will be returned for full credit, usually in much worse shape than when they were shipped.

Often the publisher eats that loss.

When it all comes together — a good book package with a marketable author and sufficient orders to fulfill demand from sufficient marketing — the publisher makes a profit.

Hopefully, there are more of those books than the ones that media and consumers just didn't care about.

For those books, the publisher eventually cuts his losses by selling them off as "remainders."

You find them humiliatedly heaped in a bin at a bookstore or a mall kiosks with drastically reduced prices — the book equivalent of being put out to pasture.

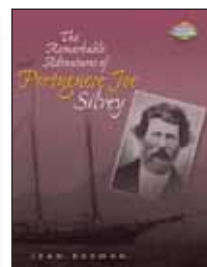
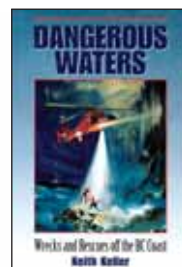
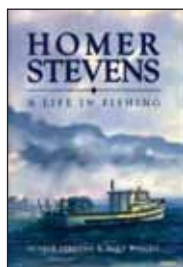
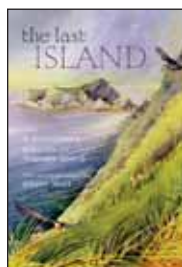
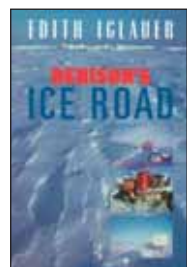
With such a complicated process to bring a book to market, White has countless stories of crises with authors and printers and stores.

"There are mishaps daily but they mostly involve people who wouldn't appreciate me spilling any stories out of school," he says.

"Our customers would probably desert us."



Howard and Mary White



downtown.”

She got the job and a shock when she finally started working in a make-shift office in the basement of the Whites’ house.

Alps thinks the biggest misconception for new people entering the publishing industry is that it will be more glamorous than it is.

Most people who visit the Harbour Publishing office for the first time are taken aback by its sheer lack of impressiveness.

It’s located in a converted house at the end of a road on Francis Peninsula. Bedrooms have become offices and the former living room has an oversized board table in it so big there’s almost no room for chairs.

It’s not really for meetings but doubles as a part-time manuscript shelf through the week before getting cleared each Friday afternoon for Harbour’s popular “Martini Night.”

Sorry, invite only.

White is known for his thrifty deals and like the table, much of the mismatched furniture in the office came from his occasional trips to Able Auctions.

It’s what you would expect from a publisher as unpretentious as Harbour — it all adds to the laid-back atmosphere you encounter when you walk through the front door.

Dress is casual and the work day starts whenever people roll in — usually well after 9 a.m. — but often runs late into the night at certain times of the year.



The Lagoon Road warehouse is the site of Harbour Publishing’s former print shop and now serves as its distribution centre. Few publishers in Canada still handle their own distribution, instead electing to pay a fee to distributors who will store, manage and ship their books. Seen here is Richard, the warehouse manager, preparing an order.

In the past, the main disadvantage faced by White in running a company like his in Pender Harbour was the multiple trips required to transfer material back and forth to printers and authors in Vancouver. That time has been cut down to seconds with the help of computers and the internet but the electronic age has brought new challenges.

“The biggest problem today in being here is getting trained people who are willing to move out of the city and come and work as editors and designers and that sort of thing,” says White.

“They tend to be city folk and rather frightened of the idea of moving way up here in the bush. And since most of them are single women, they can’t find anybody to socialize with and they end up drifting back to

Vancouver after a predictable length of time.”

The huge jump in housing prices has also deterred some from considering Harbour as a long-term job prospect but White says he has a pretty good core staff now that have set down roots.

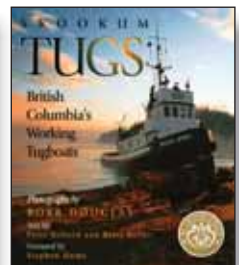
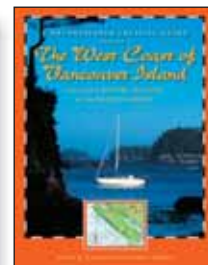
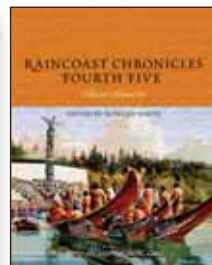
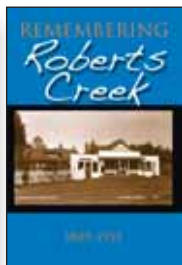
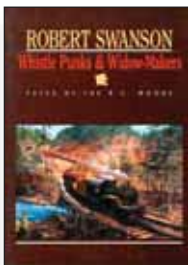
He thinks Harbour Publishing is a good model for the kind of businesses that could be the future of industry on the Sunshine Coast.

As for his own writing, White says it’s hard now finding the time.

“I write every day — tons — but none of it ever appears under my name because I’m rewriting and editing and writing copy and everything,” he says.

“I would love to write and my ideal retirement plan is to cut back my publishing hours so I could finish

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Harbour Publishing (cont.)

(continued from page 21)
some of the stories I've started."

After 35 years and more than 600 books, some might think that the biggest challenge facing White might be finding new material to publish.

"People think we got all the stories on the BC coast but really we didn't even get one per cent of them," he says.

"It's been one thing that's never been a problem for us. There's tons of material."

While it may be true that the stories have always been plentiful, they were waiting for somebody with an appreciative ear to publish them. White credits his upbringing in Pender Harbour with providing that.

"A lot of the publishers in town just shake their heads and say, 'Where do you get all this stuff?' and

you know, to me, it's obvious," says White.

"It's obvious that a book on Sointula has to be written. It's obvious that a book on the old cannery system that used to be here needs to be written. I know that because I grew up with the sons of fishermen who used to go up and deliver to all these canneries and the stories are there in the back of my head.

"It has been a complete outgrowth of my experiences here. That's why I've never wanted to move the business away. There's been pressures over the years to move into the city where things would have admittedly been a lot easier. We've just never wanted to do that and if we had, it would have changed the books we did."

But if Pender Harbour honed his ear for a good story, White credits his dad, Frank, for honing his business style.

"My early experiences driving around in my car with the trunk full of books and visiting all those mom and pop bookstores gave me a good sense of how distribution works and how much you build your business by building really good customer service," says White, referring to the fact he is one of the few publishers in Canada who still ships books without the help of a distributor.

"We found that it just works a lot better to do it yourself. I'm an old-school son of a gyppo logger and do it yourself is their code,

"I guess I inherited that."

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LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Chamber president seeks input

By Rick Harmer, President, Pender Harbour and Egmont Chamber of Commerce

I would like to invite you to the website of the Pender Harbour & Egmont Chamber of Commerce.

You'll find information there on upcoming events and meetings. Members who have links invite you to check out their services through their own websites.

Being a chamber for a small, unincorporated community means that we function somewhat like a town council. Members can provide input into the direction the chamber will take and have opportunities to serve on the board of directors.

SO WHAT DOES 2009 LOOK LIKE TO ME?

The world economy is in turmoil, and we are by no means exempt from the fallout. Declines in revenues from industry and tourism are being felt up and down the Coast.

Here in Pender Harbour, other problems are surfacing: an aging population, youth leaving after completing school and not returning to the community and high real estate costs.

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT OUR YOUTH EXODUS?

To maintain a healthy community, we need to have more for the youth: jobs, homes, entertainment,

and security are all things that are needed and wanted.

WHAT CAN THE CHAMBER DO?

We need to develop a community-wide "visioning process" that not only looks at today but at where we will be years from now. To that end, I propose a series of meetings with chamber members to "blue sky."

I hope these meetings will lead us to a series of goals that will be achievable over the next decade.

Call me to discuss the chamber or its goals at (604) 883-3678 or email me at president@penderharbour.ca.

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This is Your Chance to Talk Trash!

The Sunshine Coast Regional District is holding a

Public Town Hall Meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 13, 2009

at the Madeira Park Legion to discuss the future of the Pender Harbour Landfill site and waste disposal options for the Pender Harbour/Egmont area. The goal of this event is to determine the community's preferred course of action for the future of the Pender Harbour Landfill site and **we can't do it without your participation.**

The meeting will provide residents an opportunity to review display materials, talk with SCR D staff and Area Director, hear and see a presentation summarizing options for the future of the Pender Harbour Landfill site as well as the pros and cons of each option. The presentation will be followed by a facilitated Question & Answer session designed to solicit input from residents regarding their preferred option.

www.redeemerpender.ca

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Azaleas: The queen of shrubs... or at least a princess

By Jim Rutherford &
Nolan Sawatzky

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RHODODENDRONS AND AZALEAS?

All azaleas are rhododendrons. Azaleas are a subgenus pentanthera (deciduous) and subgenus tsustusti (mostly evergreens)

Now that's out of the way, we'll use it as a guideline for growing conditions from last month's column on rhodos.

PLANTING

Again in woodland transition (semi-shade) to full sun, but never to be dried out.

We find that's one difference from rhodos that will survive, under protest, being quite dry.

In poorly drained (bog) or alkaline soil (basic) like clay, you'll need to elevate the root ball somewhat in a rich humus soil mixture and add something to lower the soil pH.

Sulphur or aluminum sulphate will help but also add peat moss, evergreen needles and bark mulch.

Mound the mulch so water runs into the root ball, not away from the plant.

PROPAGATION

Cheating at propagation is a snap.

Any branch on or close to the ground is a candidate for layering.

Take a rhodo or azalea branch and cut a notch in the back — but not all the way through — hold the wound open with a wood sliver and dust well with rooting hormone.

Scoop out a little soil, bend the branch to the ground, a little soil on top and weight with a rock.

You can do you can do some good-sized branches this way for a complete copy of the original plant.

Next season have a peek. Fibrous roots have likely started, so you can cut the branch off from the mother plant.

We leave it another season until the new plant has a better root system, before transplanting to your desired spot.

The cheat part with a new or established plant is to plant it on an angle to start, so that some branches are already touching the ground.

The plant will right itself with new growth during the season, so not to worry if it looks odd.

PURCHASING

Buying azaleas and rhodos "on sale" if they're not in top condition can be an iffy proposition.

We find, particularly with azaleas, if they're wilted from drying out they're not coming back and other plants are stressed, making them vulnerable to disease.

MULCH AND MULCH AGAIN

The reason for mulching is to keep the roots cool in summer and protect them from sudden soil temperature changes in the winter. It also prevents drying out and keeps weeds down.

Remember not to put the mulch up the plant stems. This way water can run to the roots, not away from the plant.

PRUNING

We find that azaleas do not respond as quickly to pruning as rhodos do but a light hand can give you some lovely shaping.

In a container, azaleas can be selectively pruned to approach a "bon-



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sai” look but just remember — if they dry out they’re gone.

Azaleas and rhododendrons flower on previous years wood so it’s best to prune after the plants have blossomed.

If you prune in the late summer, fall or winter you may be cutting off your flowers for the following spring.

We can mostly dodge this timing issue by pruning around the swollen buds, set at the branch ends. If they’re not set with buds, off with their heads.

Evergreen azaleas can be “hedged” after flower, unlike rhododendrons, to get a dense rounded look.

Deciduous azaleas can be pruned anywhere at a stem break — where a secondary branch comes off the primary stem. They will branch from that point, though they should not be pruned as severely as the evergreen azaleas.

Azalea Mollis (deciduous) should get a special mention as most are delightfully scented.

Grown in acid to neutral soil, they are heat tolerant in summer and hardy to -20 degrees Celsius. They grow up to three metres high after several years, with good fall colour.

CUTTINGS

Azaleas are not too difficult to start from cuttings but patience should be your guide

Our cuttings have a little brown bark tending to green, as we find the newer, all green stems are a little too tender.

Smash the cut end, dip in rooting hormone and plant in a mixture of half peat moss and sand. We do several cuttings to a pot as not all of them will take.

Water the cuttings to settle the

mix and remove any air pockets.

An old inverted clean glass jar can be your mini-greenhouse but occasionally raise the jar to admit fresh air and prevent mould. Hopefully, in three months you’ll see some perky growth.

A parting hint: Sometimes rho-

dos and azaleas won’t bloom because they’re planted too close to a masonry wall and lime is leaching from the mortar. They hate lime.

Move the plant or add stuff we listed here to lower the acidity.

Some royalty can be so fussy.

Say cheese.

What you eat plays a significant role in your dental health so next time you load up your shopping cart, keep your teeth and gums in mind.

The same foods that are good for your body are good for your dental health.

This means colourful fruits and vegetables with lots of fibre and nutrients.

Avoid those refined carbohydrates — they are loaded with sugar.

Without the wholesome nutrients from foods such as cheese, fresh fruits and vegetables, it is more difficult to prevent gum disease or fight tooth decay and cavities.

When we eat sugar it enables the bacteria in our mouth to form acid containing plaque which causes tooth decay.

Cheese has the ability to provide some protection against the negative effects of sugar.

Like crunchy vegetables, cheese stimulates saliva which will clear sugar from your mouth; it also

changes the pH level of saliva making it less acidic.

When we eat cheese or drink milk, calcium is released which prevents the bacteria in plaque for causing tooth decay.

Ideally we should brush and floss after each meal or snack but when that’s not possible eat raw crunchy vegetables or fruit and help yourself to some cheese.

To learn more about your oral health, nutrition and how it contributes to your total well-being, make an appointment for a professional cleaning.

Our dental hygienist will expertly clean your teeth and teach you the best method of keeping your teeth clean between regular visits.

If you would like to know more about preventive options available to help you achieve your long-term dental goals, please talk to our dentists and friendly staff at the Pender Harbour Health Centre.

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Some helpful tips for "de-skunking" your dog

By John Wade



If you have an outdoor dog, it is inevitable that at some point it will encounter a skunk.

Skunks have two glands, one on either side of the anus, that produce a mixture of sulfur-containing chemicals that have a highly offensive smell.

Muscles located next to the scent glands allow them to spray with high accuracy as far as two to five metres.

The odour of the fluid is strong enough to ward off bears and other potential attackers and can be difficult to remove from clothing — or your dog.

Here are some tips for de-skunking your pooch.

THE "RECIPE"

In a plastic bucket, mix the following ingredients:

- 4 cups: 3 per cent hydrogen peroxide.
- 1 to 2 teaspoons: liquid soap
- 1/4 cup: baking soda

For very large pets, four cups of tepid tap water may be added to enable complete coverage.

WASHING

Wash pet promptly and thoroughly by working the solution deep into the fur.

Let your nose guide you, leave the solution on for about five minutes or until the odor is gone.

Some heavily oiled areas may require a "rinse and repeat" washing.

Skunks usually aim for the face but try to keep the solution out of the eyes — it stings.

If you have any cuts on your hands you might want to wear latex gloves for the same reason.

After treatment, thoroughly rinse your pet with tepid tap water.

Pour the spent solution down the drain with running water.

Never store the mixed solution in a closed bottle or sprayer etc. — pressure will build up until the container bursts. This can cause severe injury.

CLEAN UP

Clean plastic mixing containers and utensils are preferred.

Metals encourage auto-decomposition of the peroxide.

MORE TIPS

Hydrogen peroxide 3 per cent solution is usually sold in 500ml bottles, so you'll need two.

The 3 per cent grade is often marked "USP", meaning that it meets the standards for medical use and purity as set forth in the United States pharmacopoeia.

The use of other strengths/grades is not recommended unless you're a chemist and even then a trip to the 24-hour drugstore is much better than a trip to the emergency room.

Use baking soda, not baking powder.

Baking soda is also called: sodium bicarbonate, bicarbonate of soda, and sodium hydrogen carbonate.

Do not confuse any of the above with washing soda, which is sodium carbonate.

Washing soda is about 100 times more alkaline than baking soda and can cause skin burns to both you and your pet.

Two preferred brands of soap are Softsoap and Ivory Liquid.

As far as auto-decomposition of the peroxide is concerned, the surfactant package in these two is fairly inert.

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



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

A Harbour Seal of Approval
Pender Harbour Volunteer Fire Department for their prompt and efficient action in saving our house and contents from total loss as a result of a serious chimney/roof fire March 28. Fire chief Bill Gilkes and the whole department were as organized and effective as any full-time unit could be. Thanks also to the **ambulance crew** who attended. Our frightening event could not have been handled any better!

Terry & Rose Simpson

Thank you to **Bob and Ev Steele** for providing the Pender Harbour Seals Swim Club with team shirts. It is very much appreciated.

Kim Watts and the whole swim team

Thank you to **Coach Rob Hynd** for all of your great energy and time spent with the Harbour Seals Swim Club this year. We can't wait to have you back when we start up again in the fall.

Kim, Gwen and the team.

To fellow staff member **Trevor Vestad** for his quick action and thinking at the scene of a car accident. All us fellow lifeguards are proud of you.
Deb Cole and the PHAFC staff

Two huge Harbour Seals of Approval to the **Oak Tree boys** and to **Andrew Curtiss** and **Rolly Nichols** and **Linda Curtiss**. Thanks for looking after us.

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Getting your yard ready for spring buyers

By Alan Stewart



According to the Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver, at the time of writing this article there have only been five detached home sales in Pender Harbour in 2009.

That's a little over one per month and, with 56 homes for sale in the area, it's more important than ever to appeal to the five senses of home buyers – even outdoors.

May is a great time to get your property looking sharp for summer so here are some common sense things to consider:

SIGHT

When we talk about the sense of sight, we need to remember that first impressions and curb appeal are critical elements in enticing buyers to consider your home.

May is the perfect time to be taking care of all those little projects that you've neglected to take care of in the fall and winter.

Fix the eaves, paint the trim, edge the lawn, power wash the siding and concrete.

A client of ours in Sechelt contracted a power washing company to take care of the siding, roof and concrete of their two-level family home (a

\$500 bill) and they accepted an offer a week after listing.

While it wasn't the only factor, I know it had a huge impact on the property's attractiveness.

SOUND

Nature often provides great background sounds in spring but you can actually encourage more than you currently have.

One of the best ways to do that is to put bird feeders around your property and encourage the songbirds to stick around.

Did you know songbirds are attracted to the sound of running water?

Moving water through a fountain may increase songbird activity in your garden.

If your property is close to the highway or a busy road, don't forget that a good fence can do more than provide privacy, it can also dampen the amount of noise experienced from inside and outside the home.

If you've got a neighbour with a barking dog, why not offer to take it for a walk during the showing — or at least ask them if they wouldn't mind keeping it indoors?

While Rover may not respond to your presence with incessant barking, you'd be surprised how having a few strangers mulling around can send him into a barking frenzy.

SMELL

There are a couple of big no-no's when it comes to smells in the yard, the biggest of which is cat urine.

If a cat has taken to using your front garden as a litter box try digging out as much of the noxious soil as



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possible and use citrus oils and peels to help eliminate whatever remains.

You'll have to decide for yourself what to do with the cat!

Another big turn off is septic smells. If your distribution box is exposed you may find the odd "whiff" that buyers will find offensive.

Be sure to cover the septic system with soil and sod or mulch (don't forget to mark it or draw a detailed map to make finding it easy).

When visiting the garden centre and selecting bulbs and flowers for the spring and summer — consider planting great smelling hyacinths or lilies near the front door.

And, when getting ready for showings, remember that nothing beats the smell of fresh cut grass.

TOUCH

While touch is certainly one of the less important senses to address don't forget to consider a few things.

Make sure that gate hinges, latches and door handles are well oiled and clean.

Most buyers are respectful enough of other sellers' property to not spend much time touching things.

TASTE

Good "taste" is always important and it can be conveyed through staging the garden with outdoor furniture, placing a classy outdoor fireplace and by using appropriate plantings and flower pots.

Or why not really appeal to buyers' sense of taste?

Try leaving a note on the front door for the buyer and their realtor welcoming them to the home and inviting them to try a treat that you've left out for them in the kitchen.

Not only does it encourage po-

tential buyers to spend more time in your home, it also conveys a feeling of friendliness and hospitality.

Surprisingly, some buyers feel that they are putting sellers out when viewing their homes and often rush through to so as to not be too much of an inconvenience.

In today's market, sellers have to be creative and diligent in ensuring that their homes stand out amongst the rest. When buyers have looked at five to seven houses in your price range, you want to be sure they remember your house as offering the best value by appealing to all their senses.

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



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MAY 3-9, 2009

The Sunshine Coast Emergency Program would like to remind residents to plan and prepare for emergencies and disasters. Information on how to create a family emergency plan, build an emergency kit and respond to emergencies is available at the following locations:

- Government offices in Sechelt, Gibsons, SIGD and SCRD
- Libraries in Sechelt, Gibsons, Roberts Creek
- Pender Harbour Health Centre
- www.scrd.ca or www.pep.bc.ca

As well, there will be mall displays in Gibsons and Sechelt on Sunday, May 9 from 10 to 3 p.m. Enter to win a draw for an emergency kit.

Emergency Social Services Volunteers will be on hand to answer questions about how to prepare your family and your pets.



Contact the Emergency Program:

Bill Elsner

SCRD Emergency Program Coordinator

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

Cervical screening available in Pender Harbour Health Centre

By Livia Eidt, RN

Cervical screening (or Pap test) is a systematic search for risks and early manifestations of disease in asymptomatic women.

Current BC Cancer Agency screening recommendations are that for women with negative or benign changes, a smear should be repeated in 12 months until there are three consecutive normal smears.

If that is the case, then continue at 24 month intervals.

It is very important to be on top of this schedule to prevent what is the 11th most common cancer.

Not many women know that 50 per cent of invasive cervical carcinomas diagnosed are on patients who did not have the PAP test done in at least seven years.

On the other hand, carcinoma in situ (which is a pre-malignant lesion on the cervix) has a cure rate of 100 per cent. Stage 1 cancers have a cure rate from 80 per cent to 90 per cent.

Many women are not entirely comfortable with the actual procedure. It is unfortunately perceived as an invasive and, sometimes, painful and scary process.

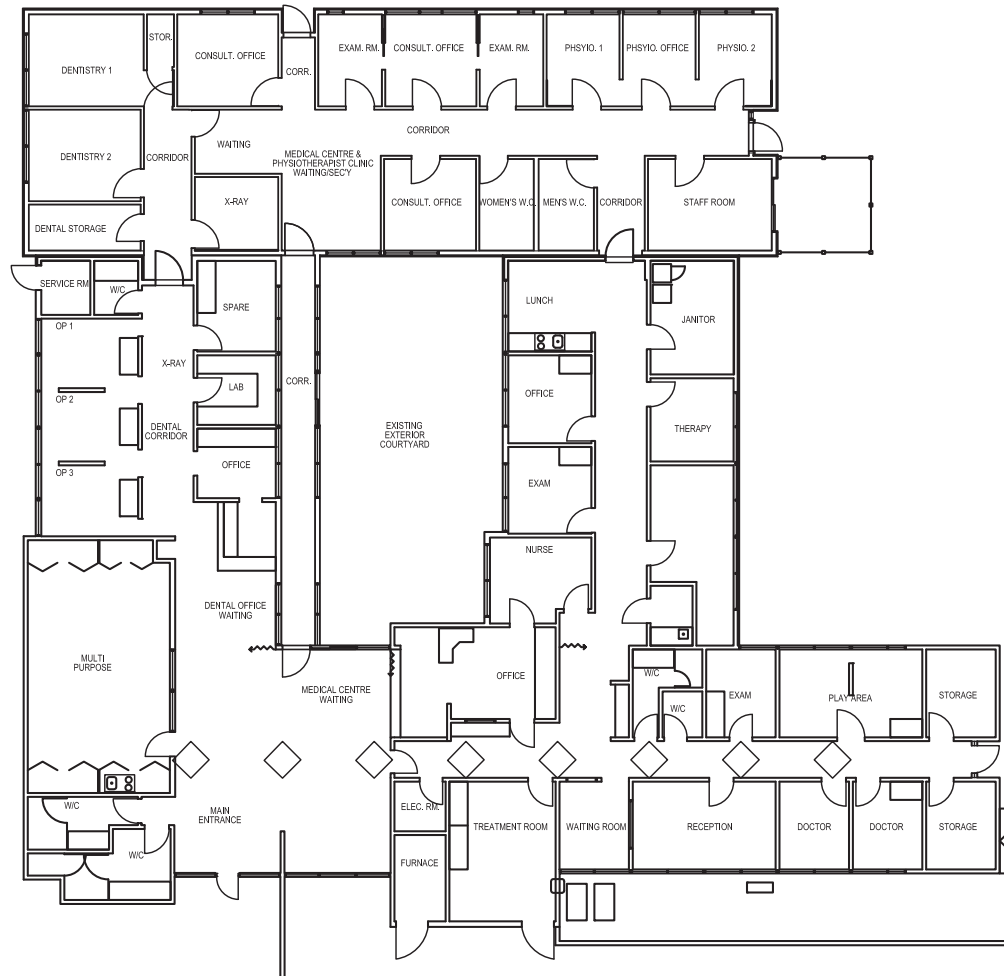
I recently had the privilege to attend cervical screening training at BC Women's hospital.

It was there I met an incredible teacher, a nurse practitioner who's been training nurses in BC for a long while.

The whole pelvic exam is now taught in a way that focuses on a positive experience women deserve to have.

It's about approaching it with respect, devotion and reverence.

It is important that women are



Floorplan illustration courtesy of Colin W. Craig Architecture

Thanks to its recent expansion, the Pender Harbour Health Centre now boasts an expanded menu of services including two gynecological offices.

comfortable and well informed before the exam. The examination should never be a one-person act. It is a process where practitioner and patient work together and are comfortable with each other.

There are two gynecological offices in a newly built wing here at the Pender Harbour Health Centre.

We are lucky to have Kimberley MacDougall, nurse practitioner, who provides services for women/women's health every second Tuesday.

Susan Natall is available as well, offering services for youth on Tuesdays after school.

I will be available within the next couple of months and will be able

to provide the service sporadically during regular clinic hours as well as during new designated hours.

A survey is available for women between 18 and 69 to complete so please ask the health centre receptionist for this form.

You will be contacted by a nurse so that follow-up plans can be made.

Appointments for a Pap test can be made by contacting us at (604) 883-2764.

This examination is truly essential and life saving and we are fortunate that the PHHC is able to provide these additional services for the community.

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THE DAYS

BIRTHDAYS

May 1 ~ Allison Scoular and Kim Struthers.

May 3 ~ Roy Loxterkamp, Tyra Phillips and Natasha Kammerle.

May 4 ~ Andrew Sutherland.

May 5 ~ Barb Ellison, Rob Ellison, Baylee Higgins and Robyn Leech.

May 6 ~ Lori Fielding.

May 7 ~ Stephanie Warner and her grandmother Mary Richardson, Debbie Roosen, Tricia Fisher and Kristen White.

May 8 ~ Wally Silvey, Linda Reid, Francis Belisle, Ryan Schroeder and Vicki Honeybourne.

May 9 ~ Frank White, Steve Devaney, Bruce Silvey, Rick Dougan, Leanna Mackie, Karen McKeeman, Vanessa Stephens, Debbie Hayen and Jim Greenlaw.

May 11 ~ Deena Lowings, Shelley Wharton and Candace Sharp.

May 12 ~ TJ Campbell and Rob McMann.

May 13 ~ Joe McCann, Mel Likes and Reynald Bernier.

May 14 ~ Jan Smalley and Lhonna Dougan.

May 15 ~ Michael Pazur.

May 17 ~ Linda Curtiss, Jack Dennis, Dan Jinks, Helen Krantz, Roland Schmidt and Amy Tiefenbach.

May 18 ~ Joe MacKay, Devina Morton, Ron Collett, Wendy Haddock and Sharon Halford.

May 19 ~ Bill Thompson and Earl Stewart.

May 20 ~ Rylan English, twins Carrie & Stirling Fowler and Brenna Young.

May 21 ~ Shannon Fowler.

May 23 ~ Mary Milner and Tom Paterson.

May 24 ~ Vicki Kobus, Dick Milner, Treenah Dougan, Margo Hunsche and Maurice Lowings.

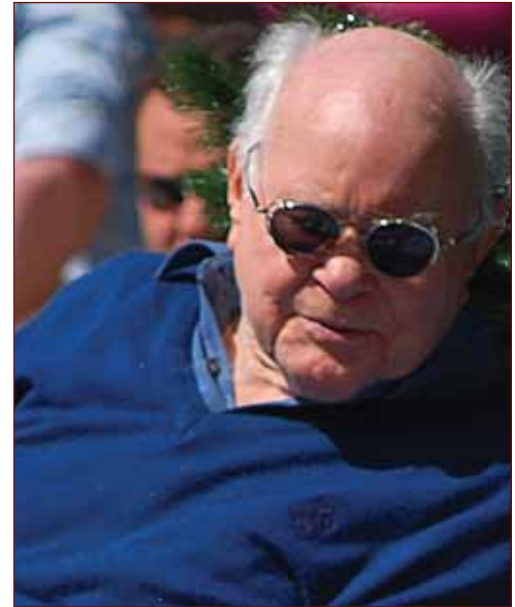
May 25 ~ Helen Edwardson and Christina Stoutenburg.

May 27 ~ Cindy Schroeder.

May 28 ~ Mikey Thompson, Janice Metcalfe, Lyn Vaughan, Kevin Graham, Wayne Archbold and Myrtle Winchester.

May 29 ~ Cliff Silvey, Tyler Forsyth and Amber LaFrance.

May 30 ~ Marten Mees, Kathy Mills and Mike Phillips.



Frank White turns 95 on May 9.

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OF MAY

MOTHER'S DAY QUOTES

If you bungle raising your children, I don't think whatever else you do well matters very much.

~ Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis

Making a decision to have a child — it's momentous. It is to decide forever to have your heart go walking around outside your body.

~ Elizabeth Stone

A mother is a person who, seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie.

~ Tenneva Jordan

MAY WEATHER

TEMPERATURE

Our average daily high temperature in May is 15.6 C and our average daily low is 9.3 C, giving us a daily mean temperature of 12.5 C for the month. Our record high temperature in May is 28.4 C (May 29, 1983) and our record low is 3.3 C (May 1, 1970).

PRECIPITATION

May has an average of 12 days with rainfall and an average total for the month of 54.9 mm. Our record daily rainfall in May is 28.7 mm (May 2, 1963) and our record daily snowfall in May is 1 cm (May 10, 1985).

MAY ASTROLOGY

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Taureans are seekers of peace and stability. Although unambitious and slovenly, they are happy to be the powerhouse behind the scenes. They are sensible and healthily cynical yet 52 per cent of Taureans still believe man walking on the moon is a hoax.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 21)

Geminis are butterflies by nature, flitting from one attraction to the next. As a result, they possess an innate fear of netting of any sort.. They're easily bored but have lively, stimulating minds and can be witty and charming.

Skookumchuck viewing times

~ may ~

DATE TIME - SIZE (EBB OR FLOOD) -

Standing wave best on large flood (tide moving into Sechart Inlet). These are estimates only and not intended for navigation.

May 1	9:26 am - small(F), 4:24 pm - large(E)
May 2	11:18 am - small(F), 5:30 pm - large(E)
May 3	12:51 pm - medium(F), 6:38 pm - large(E)
May 4	2:07 pm - medium(F), 7:52 pm - medium (E)
May 5	9:08 am - large(E), 3:10 pm - medium (F)
May 6	9:46 am - large(E), 4:08 pm - large (F)
May 7	10:17 am - xlarge(E), 5:01 pm - xlarge(F)
May 8	11:39 am - xlarge(E), 5:49 pm - xlarge(F)
May 9	11:05 am - xlarge(E), 6:34 pm - xlarge(F)
May 10	11:26 am - xlarge(E), 7:16 pm - xlarge(F)
May 11	11:52 am - xlarge(E), 7:56 pm - xlarge(F)
May 12	12:22 pm - xlarge(E), 8:35 pm - xlarge(F)
May 13	1:02 pm - large(E), 9:13 pm - xlarge(F)
May 14	7:31 am - small(F), 1:52 pm - large(E)
May 15	8:25 am - small(F), 2:46 pm - large(E)
May 16	9:55 am - small(F), 3:45 pm - large(E)
May 17	11:53 am - small(F), 4:47 pm - medium(E)
May 18	1:00 pm - small(F), 5:54 pm medium(E)
May 19	1:55 pm - medium(F), 7:08 pm - medium(E)
May 20	2:46 pm - large(F), 8:30 pm - medium(E)
May 21	8:14 am - xlarge(E), 3:49 pm - xlarge(F)
May 22	8:46 am - xlarge(E), 4:43 pm - xlarge(F)
May 23	9:24 am - xlarge(E), 5:36 pm - xlarge(F)
May 24	10:20 am - xlarge(E), 6:27 pm - xlarge(F)
May 25	11:22 am - xlarge(E), 7:17 pm - xlarge(F)
May 26	12:19 pm - xlarge(E), 8:05 pm - xlarge(F)
May 27	1:15 pm - xlarge(E), 8:52 pm - xlarge(F)
May 28	7:10 am - medium(F), 2:14 pm - medium(E)
May 29	8:13 am - medium(F), 3:15 pm - xlarge(E)
May 30	9:44 am - small(F), 4:06 pm - large(E)
May 31	11:34 am - small(F), 5:19 pm - large(E)

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LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

ORGANIZATIONS DIRECTORY

• P. H. Aquatic Centre Society	885-6866
• Blues Society	883-2642
• Bridge Club	883-2633
• Chamber of Commerce, P. H. & Egmont.....	883-2531
• Christ the Redeemer Church	883-1371
• Coast Guard Auxiliary, Unit 61	883-2572
• Community Choir	883-2283
• Community Club, Egmont	883-9206
• Community Club, Pender Harbour	741-5840
• Community Policing	883-2026
• Community School Society	883-2826
• Darlene Fowlie.....	837-1369
• Egmont Volunteer Fire Department.....	883-0012
• GRIPS (Recycling Society)	883-1165
• Garden Bay Sailing Club.....	883-2689
• Gardening Club	883-0295
• P. H. Golf Club.....	883-9541
• Guides, Brownies, etc.	883-2819
• Harbour Artists	883-2807
• Harbourside Friendships (Thur. 10:30 -1 p.m.)	883-2764
• Health Centre Society	883-2764
• Health Centre Auxiliary.....	883-0522
• Hepatitis C Connection	883-0010
• InStitches (1st Monday, 11 a.m., PH Health Centre).....	883-0748
• Iris Griffith Centre	883-9201
• Lions Club, Egmont.....	883-9463
• Lions Club, Pender Harbour (1st & 3rd Tues.).....	883-1361
• P. H. Music Society.....	883-2689
• P. H. Paddling Society.....	883-3678
• Pender Harbour Choir (7:30 pm Tues).....	883-9273
• Piecemakers (quilters, 1st & 3rd Wed. 9:30 a.m.).....	883-3662
• Power & Sail Squad (2nd Wed. Legion).....	883-0444
• Red Balloon Parent & Tot drop-in.....	885-5881
• Reading Centre Society	883-2983
• Rotary Club (noon Fri. Garden Bay Pub)	883-1350
• Royal Cdn Legion 112.....	883-2235
• Skookumchuck Heritage Society.....	883-9994
• St. Andrew's Anglican Church	883-9927
• St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary (2nd Wed., 1:30 p.m.)	883-2563
• Seniors' Housing Society (3rd Thur.).....	883-9883
• Serendipity Preschool	883-2316
• Suncoast Players	883-9277
• Sunshine Coast Community Based Victim Services.....	885-0322
• Volunteer Fire Dept (Wed. evening)	883-9270
• Wildlife Society (3rd Tues. PHSS).....	883-9853
• Women's Cancer Support	883-9708
• Women's Connection (2nd & 4th Tue.)	883-9313
• Women's Outreach Services.....	741-5246

~ ORGANIZATIONS ~

P. H. WOMEN'S CONNECTION

On May 12 at 10 a.m., the Women's Connection will be meeting at the Pender Harbour Golf Course to try out some of their golf skills or have a game of bocce, with the option of enjoying a nice lunch in their restaurant. (This would be at your own expense.)

Please bring your ideas and questions to our open forum on Tues. May 26, at the P. H. School of Music in Madeira Park. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. and the gathering runs from 10 a.m. until noon. Members, non-members and drop-ins are always welcome.

P. H. AND DISTRICT WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Pender Harbour and District Wildlife Society will meet on May 19 at the P. H. High School at 7:30 p.m. The speaker will be announced later. This will be the last meeting of the society until September. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served and there is no charge. If you have not already done so, please visit our website to find more about the activities of the Society.

TOASTMASTERS

The Sunshine Coast chapter of Toastmasters is hosting an information evening. Everyone is welcome to attend from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on April 23 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Madeira Park. Toastmasters International is a non-profit organization committed to individual development of public speaking and leadership skills.

Everyone interested in enhancing their existing presentation skills, or developing presentation and leadership skills by overcoming the obstacle of fear in a safe and comfortable environment is urged to attend this free event.

The evening will unveil the mystery of Toastmasters by modeling a typical meeting. Time will be allotted for questions and individual interaction with members.

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Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden introduces conceptual plan

Submitted

The Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society now has a plan.

On Wed., April 15 members presented their conceptual plan for the new botanical garden to the public.

Board members, volunteers and one of the conceptual plan's designers, Patricia Campbell, were on hand to discuss the plans with botanical garden members and the general public.

The site for the new garden is on Mason Road in Sechelt, 40 acres of very inspirational agricultural land.

It has a fascinating past, first as a farm and thoroughbred horse ranch, and then as a tree nursery.

It includes several spring-fed ponds, many mature trees and grassy meadows.

Plans for the future include an orchard, walkways into the ravine of Wakefield Creek, and plant conservation areas.

The garden will be a community treasure, a source of learning about plants and the environment, a place of uncommon beauty for all to enjoy.

A botanical garden will raise awareness of the importance of plants and in supporting all life.

Last summer over 300 people toured the garden site on Mason Road, all of whom were very enthusiastic about the project.

We held a very successful fund-



DMG Landscape Architects illustration

The new conceptual plan for the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden.

raising gala dinner and auction on Jan. 31, where we raised \$40,000 and received an anonymous \$100,000 donation.

We now have more than 540 members, which represents Coast-wide support for the botanical garden.

Look for our fundraising "thermometers" (although ours is a tree) made by Tom's Signs of Pender Harbour at prominent locations in Madeira Park, Sechelt and Gibsons.

For more information, visit www.coastbotanicalgarden.org.

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Golfers dropping out of the sky as weather improves



By Jan Watson

SURPRISE BIRTHDAY VISIT

On Easter Saturday, visitors literally dropped out of the sky for a game of

golf.

Mr. and Mrs. Buckley, who live beside Furry Creek Golf Course, arrived by helicopter, landing beside the Clubhouse.

It was a surprise birthday present for his wife who had always wanted to play the Pender Harbour Golf Course.

Finally the weather is improving, the grass is growing, the snowbirds are returning and we are able to get out on the golf course and enjoy the sunshine.

The restaurant will be open seven days a week starting in May. (See ad for details.)

There are changes on the fifth hole as the pond has been removed and two new sand traps are being created beside the sixth hole.



Lorraine Wareham photo

Two Furry Creek residents shunned their home course for an Easter Saturday trip to Pender Harbour by helicopter.

MEN'S DAY

Thanks to warmer weather, April 7 saw a larger turnout.

Low Gross winner was Brian Disney 81. Kp on No. 3 was Monty Rolston, and on No. 6 it was Ian Archer.

April 14 was Alternate Shots and the winning team was Peter Kenny and Blake Priebe with an adjusted score of 74.7. Kp on No. 3 was John Duggan while Bruce Forbes took No. 6.

LADIES DAY

Breaking recent years bad luck with weather during March and April, the ladies are off to a good start.

The Low Net minus Total Putts on April 2 saw winner Kryss Parranto finish with a 28.

The winning team of Kathy Bergman, Pat Hallborg and Heather Cranston on the April 9 Nine Hole Scramble scored 38. The annual Spring Lunch and meeting followed.

April 16 was regular golf with low and high putts for the competition. Low went to LaVerne Richardson with 32 and high went to Moyra Lamont.

Call the Pro Shop at (604) 883-9541 to sign up for men's and ladies days — everyone's welcome.

The Pender Harbour Music Society wishes to thank its supporters, members and volunteers for creating another great year of live music in our community.

Please join us for our annual general meeting and learn about exciting plans for the future.

Refreshments will be served while we hold a short review of the past year and elect new directors to the Board.

We encourage members and potential members to attend and volunteer for various committees that make the music happen.

P. H. Music Society AGM

Monday, June 1st 7 p.m.
Pender Harbour School of Music



Upcoming shows:

PENNY LANG
Saturday, May 2 at 8 p.m.

PENDER HARBOUR CHOIR
Sunday, May 31 at 2:30 p.m.

TWO MUCH GUITAR!
(OLIVER GANNON & BILL COON)
Sunday, June 14 at 2 p.m.

PENDER HARBOUR CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

August 21 to 23

13th PENDER HARBOUR JAZZ FESTIVAL

September 19 to 21

FROM THE 19TH HOLE...

The less skilled the player, the more likely he is to share his ideas about the golf swing.



Fred

By John Little

Fred.

I don't know if that was his name.

It was so long ago and I never met him, but we all have to have a name so Fred he is or more correctly, was.

In 1943, Fred was the lookout man on Mt. Shepherd, the most southerly mountain on Texada Island.

Texada is the largest of BC's Gulf Islands.

In those days almost no one lived on the island and the few who did were at the very northern tip.

My dad was the Assistant Forest Ranger for the Pender Harbour Ranger District. Part of his territory was Texada Island so he was responsible for the lookouts on either end of the island.

Once a month it was one of Dad's duties to purchase groceries and deliver them to the district lookouts.

Fred's mountain was accessed by a steep six-mile trail from the beach on the west side of the island.

This meant anchoring the forestry launch in an unprotected bay and backpacking the supplies or at least part of them the six miles up and returning quickly before any winds arose. Fred never met Dad at the beach as arrival time was always tenuous.

What I know of Fred comes from stories that I overheard when my Dad was relating them. Fred was a bachelor in his sixties. His home was on nearby Lasqueti Island.

He would row his 10-foot dinghy from Lasqueti to Texada in early May and would camp on the beach waiting with his start-up supplies until his radio and batteries were delivered.



A couple who sailed to Texada Island had complained about Fred.

Fred had two things at the lookout that he was very proud of.

The first was his "biffy" which he had constructed from small poles.

It was built out over an almost perpendicular cliff that fell away for 100 feet or more.

Although totally isolated, he had constructed it with three walls so he could sit in privacy.

The fourth side was wide open and faced out towards Lasqueti, presumably so he could watch his home island while answering nature's call.

It had a tin roof that provided some relief from summer rains.

The other thing he was proud of was his natural bathtub.

He had found a deep hollow in a rock outcrop.

He plugged up a few radiating cracks and made a sluice to carry rainwater from one side of the lookout's roof to a small basin in which the water was occasionally replaced or at least replenished.

This tower was so remote, a busy summer for visitors would be four or less. Consequently, when the sun shone Fred chose to go nude.

Dad, while sort of understanding his reasoning, told him this wouldn't do after receiving a complaint from a couple from a sailboat who had found the trail. Fred listened intently.

The next time supplies were delivered, Dad found a sign nicely painted on a rock some 100 yards from the lookout. The message read:
PLEASE HOLLER FROM HERE



SPRINKLING HOURS IN EFFECT for the South Pender Harbour area

SPRINKLING DAYS:

ODD calendar days = ODD house numbers

EVEN calendar days = EVEN house numbers

SPRINKLING HOURS:

7 a.m. - 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

(Allocation determined by house number)

ABSOLUTELY NO OVERNIGHT SPRINKLING
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Rotary exchange student experiences a 'rough' month in Mexico



By Vanessa Lanteigne

Vanessa Lanteigne is a Grade 11 student spending a year in Oaxtepec, Mexico as part of a Pender Harbour Rotary Club sponsored exchange.

APRIL

All of my reports have been on how I'm living down here, but this report I would like to tell you guys about dying.

I have had a pretty rough month. I've had the misfortune of witnessing two funerals this month.

One of them was for a friend's cousin, an awesome guy who had taken us girls out a couple times. He would be what you would call "buen onda" in Spanish, which sort of translates to, "good company."

He was drinking and driving in a different town and from what I heard he hit another car, but I don't believe he hurt anybody.

They had an open casket and it



Oaxtepec, Mexico is situated two hours outside of Mexico City.

was the first body I had ever seen in my life. It's weird how you still feel the presence of a body even though the person isn't living and it feels like a different presence too.

I didn't know the guy too well but I went to be with my friend and her family.

Everyone brought flowers and people kept coming and going to mourn and to see the family.

There were pictures of Daniel with friends and family and two piles

of salt under the casket near his feet.

The other friend that died was a really close friend of mine. We had just started dating.

His car flipped from speeding on an ugly part of the road and he fractured his cranium.

First I got a call from his friend, telling me he had a crash and was in the hospital in bad shape. Then I got a call from my exchange student friend who lives in his town and then another from his mother who I had never even met.

I knew then that I needed to go see him. The hospital's name was Britannia, but it had three towers. I took my guess and went for the middle one. I walked in wondering how I'm supposed to find him when I only know his first last name (and I'm guessing the second) and as I walk up to the front desk a woman comes up to me and says, "Mi Hija, Soy la mama de Noel," ("My child/daughter, I'm Noel's mother.") and hugs me and we both start to cry.

That was the first time that I had met his parents and the second time I had met his brother.

I went to see him in the Intensive Therapy part of the hospital but only

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one of us could go in at a time. His family let me go in, even though there was only a handful that could enter.

I walked into a room with about six patients, all of whom were 70 or older, and the only one that could even be Noel, didn't look like him at all.

I asked the nurses if he could see me and they said, "No."

I didn't know he could hear me and I wish so much that I would have known that, but I just looked at him, his head at least twice normal size and eyes so swollen he couldn't open them.

I said "Thank you" to the nurses and left. They told me later that, just as I had left, he said something, or tried to. This day I stayed eight hours in the hospital.

Noel went in for two operations and had had one the day before. They said his condition was optimal.

He died the next day in the hospital.

I went to his funeral two days after I saw him in the hospital. At first we went to a small place like a house, with flowers and chairs and Kleenex placed everywhere. People entered to see a closed coffin with a picture of Noel placed on top and said good-bye by touching, kissing and hugging the coffin.

There I greeted his family for the second time in my life and when I saw them, it felt something like *deja vu*. This family was so like mine.

In this house, they said prayers to say goodbye to Noel and sometimes we would all hold hands with each other.

It seemed like there was about 20 passages that they said and there were songs that somehow everybody knew.

Afterwards, we all went to a

huge church in the middle of downtown for the real ceremony where they had singers, candles and enough pews to fit about 250 people.

After the priest said prayers we all walked to the cemetery.

I walked with the mother who told me she'd seen photos of me and that Noel had told them about me, as I had told my parents about him.

One time I sent a text message to his Dad's cell phone (but I didn't know) and he said something like "Sweetie, please only send messages to my other phone — my dad has the other one and he told me messages were arriving to him starting with things like "Honey" and "Sweetie."

I said "Oh no, I'm soo sorry — I didn't know. What did your dad say?"

Noel told me "Oh nothing! He knows I adore you. He just said that if my mom sees, she's gonna think he's cheating on her!"

I also told her about how Noel told me that she was the coolest mom in the world.

He said that sometimes when he got drunk he would call his mom to tell her how much he loved her and how cool she was.

At the cemetery his friends carried him to his burial site and, as he was put in the ground, people put things with him.

I put a poem I had written in there and I folded it to look like a rose.

The hardest part was when they started putting earth over his coffin. I don't know why this hit me so hard but it just seemed so final.

The majority of Mexicans are very religious. They have a lot of traditions and you almost can't find a house without the Mother of Guadalupe in it.

I'm looking forward to — and dreading — the last trip and the last time all of the exchangies will be together. We'll be doing a trip around all the cities in the district and we will end up in Acapulco for a convention.

Cuidanse Mucho. Love from down south!

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Saturday, May 23

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Saturday & Sunday, June 6 & 07

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Spring reading encounters with shells and blue poppies



By Theresa Kishkan

Bill Terry,
*Blue Heaven:
Encounters With
The Blue Poppy*
(TouchWood Edi-
tions, 2009)

Bill Terry remembers the first time he saw blue poppies in bloom. “I first set eyes on the Blue Poppy in 1968, at Butchart Garden, near Victoria, B.C.... There – beyond the clamorous display of Frisbee-sized begonias, beyond the towering delphiniums and stiletto-spurred columbines, beyond the clashing ranks of seven hundred kinds of bedding plant – was a quiet woodland garden. And there stood a drift of the Himalayan Blue Poppy. Exultate!”

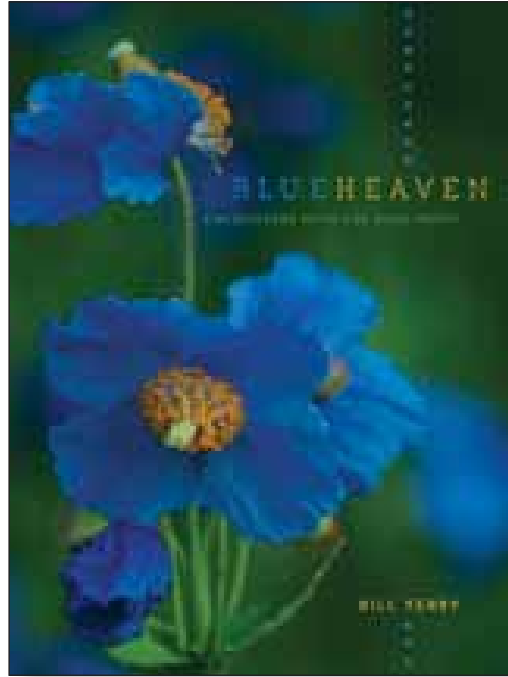
I confess to delighted recognition as I read this passage. My own introduction to the blue poppy occurred at the Butchart Gardens when I financed

my university education by working there for four years. I loved to arrive early for work on spring mornings and walk the quiet paths before the tour buses arrived. The blue poppies were enchanting. Apart from gentians and the lighter-blue forget-me-nots and certain cultivars of delphiniums, I’d never seen a plant so intensely and

perfectly blue. Employees were given free seeds and I gladly took mine in the form of *Meconopsis baileyi* (as the Butchart-grown plants were incorrectly labelled). Not one seed germinated and I decided the plants were simply too difficult to grow.

In part, Bill Terry’s *Blue Heaven* debunks the myth that the poppies are impossible for any but the most experienced gardener to grow. He provides extensive information about growing conditions, germination techniques, garden culture, and it is as clearly written as anyone could want.

But the book is so much more than a how-to guide to growing these



exquisite plants. It’s full of intriguing information about botany in general and it’s a passionate love poem to the entire *Meconopsis* genus in particular. Bill traces the genealogies of its members, some of them native to the East Rongbuk Valley in Tibet, some of them found in central China, Nepal, and Burma. The stories of the ad-

venturers who found the plants in their native terrain are told in such a lively way that one wants to find a copy of Frank Kingdon-Ward’s *Plant Hunting on the Edge of the World* to read more about his intrepid expeditions in search of rare botanical wonders.

One chapter of *Blue Heaven* takes the reader to Les Jardins de Métis, downstream from Quebec City. It was here Elsie Reford created a marvellous garden in 1926, filled with *Meconopsis betonicifolia* grown from seed ordered from England in the heady days just after Kingdon-Ward’s discoveries.

The garden has been revitalized by Reford’s grandson and is open to the public. Bill theorizes that this is a collection as close to wild form as possible, “stranded in time, with no new blood added to the gene pool for some seventy-five years. In cultivation, this is rare, if not unique. This is a historic collection.”

As well as the blue form, there are *Meconopsis* species and hybrids in gorgeous butter yellows, violets,

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rose, white, and perhaps the loveliest of all, *M. punicea*, with its four delicate red petals drooping like tiny silken flags. Blue Heaven is illustrated throughout with Bill's own photographs, every one of them ravishing.

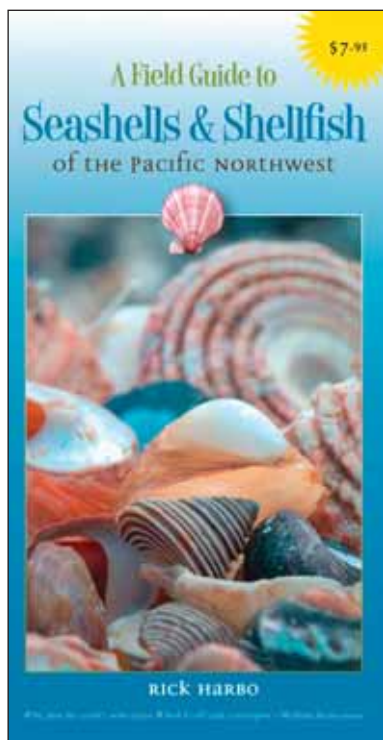
Our West Coast climate is quite sympathetic to *Meconopsis* requirements, though perhaps not as ideal as Scotland or Tibet (a graph on page 131 shows relative rainfall in Vancouver, Edinburgh and Lhasa).

So gardeners here on the Coast can do more than dream about drifts of *Meconopsis* species. This book will encourage and inspire anyone who is entranced by such beauty. Bill Terry's own Sechart garden is a testament to his devotion to these plants, filled with lovingly tended poppies of every hue. But it's the blues that stand out, gloriously, as they stood out for him all those years ago at Butchart Gardens. Blue heaven indeed.

Harbour Publishing has just produced another of their wonderful laminated field guides — the first was *A Field Guide to the Identification of Pebbles*.

This one, *A Field Guide to Seashells & Shellfish of the Pacific Northwest* by Rick Harbo, is a perfect tool for those who like to beach-walk and who might like to know about the shells that collect on the shore, asking to be picked up and examined.

This new guide is well-illustrated



with clear photographs and simple identification details.

Side-bars provide information on historical use, interesting material on life-cycles, and even a quiz for those who want to test their skills.

A Field Guide to Seashells & Shellfish of the Pacific Northwest is the right size to fit in a back pocket or pack and is suitable for children and adults alike.

Rick Harbo is also the author of several comprehensive guides

to marine life, also published by Harbour Publishing, and I'd recommend them to readers wanting to extend their knowledge of our extensive coastal ecology.



TALEWIND

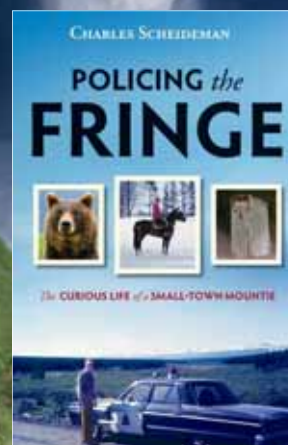
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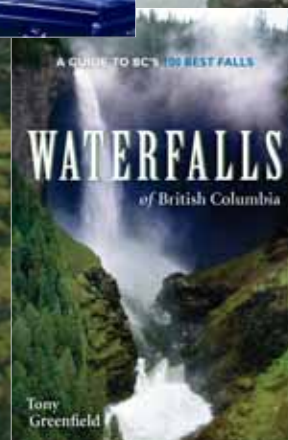
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22. The Rock
23. The Substation
24. Whiskey Slough



There's many more so please send to: altplacenames@harbourspiel.com

Candidates offer sweet tweet



By Shane McCune

As the BC election campaign heads into its mud-splattering, shin-hacking, nose-stretching final lap, there are two obvious problems for the candidates:

1. All the ink and air time go to the Liberals, New Democrats and, to a lesser degree, the Greens. More on that shortly.

2. It is really important — and really hard — to reach and motivate young voters.

"I come from a different generation and I don't fully understand Facebook," provincial NDP president Jeff Fox, 52, told the Globe and Mail, talking about 20-something candidate Ray Lam, who quit the race after someone leaked photos from his "private" Facebook page showing Lam goofing around suggestively at a party.

"What I learned in the last 24 hours is that you can have more than one level of access," said Fox.

Uh, Jeff, you just made a bigger blunder than Ray — admitting you don't "understand" the medium of choice for just about everyone under 30.

The good news is you made that admission to a newspaper, the medium of choice for virtually no one under 30.

Adapting to new media may be difficult for big political machines, which change directions about as easily as a supertanker. But the new media should be a boon to BC's many fringe parties.

Can't afford an ad in the Vancouver Sun and nobody invites you to a TV debate? For chump change you can open a website, put a cheesy video

on YouTube — and presto, your party "goes viral" like a political Susan Boyle.

Or maybe it catches a nastier virus and spends another election in bed. In 2001 the BC Marijuana Party fielded more candidates than the Greens and came fourth in the popular vote with more than 51,000 votes. It seemed to be on the cusp of electoral success, but in 2005 it fell to 44 candidates and just over 11,500 votes.

This time around, it's down to two candidates: Party leader Marc Emery and some other doobie brother are running to maintain the party's legal standing while openly telling folks to vote for their Green Party opponents.

If a headline magnet like Emery can't make a go of it, what's left for the ambitious fringe politician?

Twitter, that's what.

For the Jeff Foxes of the world, Twitter is a social networking tool that allows users to post mini-blogs from their cell phones, either to a website or to a network of friends' phones. And it's an effective tool. Last month in Moldova, anti-Communist activists used Twitter to summon as many as 10,000 students to a

protest in hours, confounding police.

Numbers like that must be catnip to the cash-strapped Greens, let alone political stragglers such as the B.C. Conservative and Reform parties (yes, they still exist).

The catch: Each "tweet" is limited to 140 characters, including spaces. Makes it hard to wax Churchillian ("We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches,

we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and . . . er, that's it.") — but hey, that's the attention span of tomorrow's voter, so get used to it.

To nudge those languishing in the shadows into the digital limelight, here are a few suggestions for Twitter-thumping. These are all real parties contesting this election, by the way.

The Sex Party: "Give us your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe heavily."

The Work Less Party: "We have everything to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat."

The Social Credit Party: "How do you work this thing?"

The Party of Citizens Who Have Decided to Think for Themselves and Be Their Own Politicians: "The name says it all." (Well, it had better.)



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The Pender Harbour Angels peewee baseball team take to the plate

By Brent Parker

Spring is finally here, baseball is upon us and the Central Hardball League season has begun.

Something new to the league this season is a peewee team based out of Pender Harbour.

Ten of our finest lads from Grades 6 and 7 have banded together to form the Pender Harbour Angels.

Most of the team has had two years or less experience and only a

couple of practices, so unfortunately they took it on the chin their first two games.

The boys played well together and were looking to back up and supported each other out on the field, which has help provide a marked improvement in their game. The Angels' third game proved to be a very different story as their bats came alive and their fielding got a little sharper.

The boys earned their first victory with a decisive 14-4 score!

Next came a home-and-home series against a strong team from Gibsons.

Unfortunately the boys came out on the losing end, but again showed a noticeable improvement to their game.

They held Gibsons squad to multiple scoreless innings, with strong pitching, sharp fielding, and smart play making.

The Angels bats were again fearless, as they stood in against some high velocity pitching.

Local dragon boaters stroke to silver in Arizona

Coach Beth Callahan and paddler Darlene Kerfoot of the Pender Harbour Paddling Society recently returned from a 10day trip to Waters Edge Stroke Improvement Clinic in Arizona.

For six days starting March 20, the two trained five hours a day on the water plus another hour on land.

"We now have muscles we have never had before," says Kerfoot.

"It was a great experience to push ourselves beyond what we thought we could accomplish."

On March 28 and 29, the duo entered the sixth annual Dragon Boat Festival on Tempe Lake, Arizona and picked up a silver medal in the B division.

Kerfoot says they look forward to passing on the experience to the rest of their teammates who trained at home during a cold and rainy March.

"That 90 degree heat was hard to take, but we struggled through."



photo submitted

Beth Callahan and Darlene Kerfoot show off the silver medals they received at the sixth annual Dragon Boat Festival on Tempe Lake, Arizona.



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photo submitted

The temperature and scenery were a lot different than the two Pender Harbour paddlers were used to but they 'struggled through.'



Roger Duncan family photo collection

BACK ROW: Ray Edwardson, Roy Warnock, ___?___ Spicer, ___?___, Steve Johnson (?), Bill Cameron.
 MIDDLE ROW: Roger Duncan, ___?___, Barry Fenn, ___?___.
 FRONT ROW: Ian Mackay, John Cameron, Dan Wiley, Darby Reid, Doug Sladey.

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Authorized by Anthony Cooke, financial agent, 604-886-5376

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

MAY

- Fri. May 1.....Garden Bay Classic Fishing Derby Registration and Calcutta Draw - Garden Bay Pub, 5 p.m.
 Sat. May 2.....Garden Bay Classic Fishing Derby - Pacific Ocean & Garden Bay Pub Banquet (6 p.m.)
 Sat. May 2.....P. H. Music Society presents Penny Lang - P. H. School of Music, 7 p.m.
 Sun. May 3.....Madeira Market - Pender Harbour Community Hall, 10 a.m.
 Sun. May 3.....Larrie Cook and the Blues Masters - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
 Sun. May 3-9.....Emergency Preparedness Week
 Tues. May 5.....Public Information Meeting North Pender Water - Pender Harbour Resort, 7 p.m.
 Fri. May 8.....Super Splash Aquafit Challenge - Pender Harbour Aquatic and Fitness Centre, 9 a.m.
 Sat. May 9....."Elements" Artist Reception - Fibreworks Gallery, 2 p.m.
 Sat. May 9.....St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary Mad Hatter's Mother's Day Tea - P. H. Legion, 1:30 p.m.
 Sat. May 9.....Artists Reception: Wendy Simmonds and Shelly Stunell - Harbour Gallery, 1p.m. to 3 p.m.
 Sun. May 10.....Joe Stanton and the Precious Littles - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
 Mon. May 11.....Chamber of Commerce General Meeting - Royal Canadian Legion, 7 p.m.
 Mon. May 11.....P. H. Food Bank Pick up - P. H. Community Church, Noon
 Sat. May 16.....64th Annual May Day - Madeira Park, All day
 Sun. May 17.....Attack of Danger Bay 8 - Murdoch Rd., All day
 Sun. May 17.....Gaetan and the French Connection - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
 Sun. May 24.....Mark Vance and the Convertibles - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
 Mon. May 25.....P. H. Food Bank Pick up - P. H. Community Church, Noon
 Mon. May 25.....P. H. Reading Centre Society AGM - P. H. Reading Centre, 10 a.m.
 Mon. May 25.....P. H. Health Centre Auxiliary meeting - P. H. School of Music, 1 p.m.
 Wed. May 27.....Area A Advisory Planning meeting - PHSS, Rm. 107, 7 p.m.
 Sat. May 30.....P. H. Legion Garage Sale - P. H. Legion
 Sun. May 31.....21st Annual Garden Bay Golf Classic - P. H. Golf Club, 10 a.m.
 Sun. May 31.....Pender Harbour Choir presents "Melodies for May" - P. H. School of Music, 7 p.m.
 Mon. June 1.....Pender Harbour Music Society Annual General Meeting - P. H. School of Music, 7 p.m.

FERRY DEPARTURES

Effective September 2 - June 29, 2009

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

Langdale

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

Horseshoe Bay

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

Earl's Cove

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

Saltery Bay

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

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

♦ Daily except Dec. 25 & Jan. 1

* Daily except Sundays & Dec. 25



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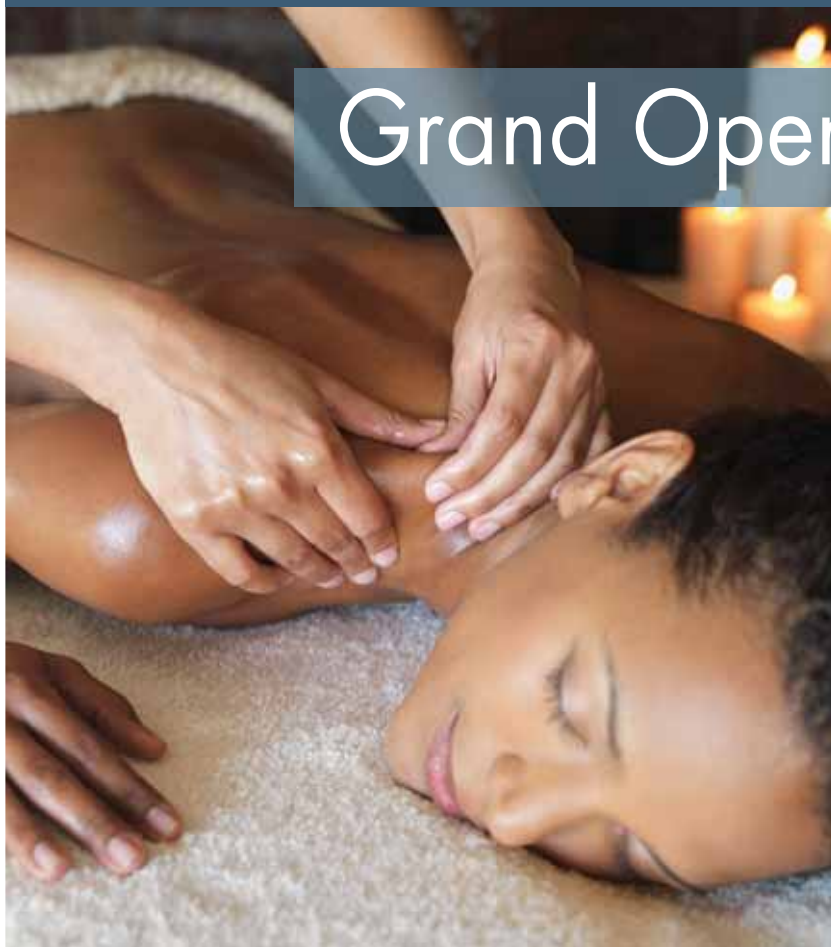
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Sunday, May 31: 10 a.m. (\$60 entry fee)

Live Music Sundays @ 2 pm

- MAY 3: Larrie Cook & the Blues Masters
- MAY 10: Joe Stanton & the Precious Littles
- MAY 17: Gaetan & the French Connection
- MAY 24: Mark Vance & the Convertibles
- MAY 31: 21st Annual Garden Bay Golf Classic

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- SATURDAY: Prime Rib
- SUNDAY: Eggs Benny



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