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HARBOUR SPIEL

MAY 2011
ISSUE 245



Coast Longboarding matures? (story p. 10)

Jack Gibson

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Editor

Brian Lee

Contributors

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~ NEXT ISSUE MAILS JUNE 2 ~

EDITORIAL

A downhill battle



By Brian Lee

When I interviewed cover boy Bricin Lyons in recognition of the 10th Attack of Danger Bay longboard race, we had a chuckle about one of the first times we met.

It was about 11 years ago and I had just moved back to Pender Harbour.

Before that I had only casually rode my roommate's longboard around the side streets of North Burnaby.

One evening I was at the Garden Bay Pub with a couple of friends for dinner and on our way home we ran into Bricin.

He had a stack of boards that were nothing more than huge planks with wheels.

Bricin wanted to hit some hills but needed a ride so he convinced us to go for a tour north to Egmont.

We all rode a few small warm up hills along the way and by the time we reached Egmont Road, Bricin had us convinced we were ready to tackle the hill leading down into the Earl's Cove ferry terminal.

He assured us that if we didn't feel comfortable going all the way down, we could just pull off on one of the roads at the top.

I was the only taker but had no intention of going all the way into the terminal.

Instinctively, I knew that hill was much too steep and confined for my skills.

But he assured us in that trademark all-caps voice of his that if we did keep going, it was a piece of cake.

"ONCE YOU REACH THE BOTTOM OF THE HILL, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TO CARVE A HARD RIGHT UPHILL AND COAST TO A STOP."

His absolute assurance and the three caesars I had at the pub gave me just the right amount of confidence to consider it — and besides, if I wasn't comfortable I could just "pull off at the top."

I should also mention I was wearing shorts and Birkenstock sandals.

And maybe it was six caesars. Anyway, Bricin went first and

stopped at the top to make sure the coast was clear.

He needn't have bothered because by the time I reached him, I was wide-eyed and fully committed.

Unable to turn and already battling speed wobbles, I just flew past him down the steep hill into the terminal.

Bricin gave the ecstatic "whoop!" of a sadist who's about to see some carnage and hopped on his board to follow.

The next few moments are crystal clear as I picked up even more speed and the board threatened to shake me.

I remember trying to hang on while preparing for the only thing that could save me — that swooping 180-degree bottom turn.

But as I rounded the bottom end of the concrete dividers, I realized I was only going to be able manage 60 degrees of it and quickly reassessed my options.

The first was to continue in the direction I was on.

The picture of that path is still imprinted in my mind: a narrow gap between two concrete dividers offering a tragically small strip of grass and a chain link fence.

At the speed I was travelling, the chain link fence was like a cheese grater and as it rushed at me I took option B — I bailed on the asphalt.

I busted off a big toenail and shredded my left palm and all the skin on the right side of my leg.

As I lay on the ground mentally surveying my injuries, our buddy Andy, who was following in the car, rolled to a stop right above me.

Laughing uncontrollably, he hopped out of the Jeep Cherokee and came running over as it kept rolling — right on top of me.

As I tried to scramble out of the way, he hopped back in and managed to put the brake on, barely saving me from further injury and humiliation.

I missed work for a few days and after that, when I'd go skating with Bricin, I was happy to just take photos.

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

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SPIEL PICKS

NINTH ANNUAL APRIL TOOLS WOODEN BOAT CHALLENGE — APRIL 30

Madeira Park's Millennium Park will once again come to life as regular folks create amazing vessels out of next to nothing and then race them around the Harbour for cash prizes. At 10 a.m. the construction "twist" is revealed and teams receive their materials. Races begin at 2 p.m. There's good food, games, crafts and face painting for the kids and all proceeds go to charity.

MAY DAY — MAY 21

The 66th annual tradition takes over Madeira Park starting at 8 a.m. with the fun run (in front of Royal LePage office) and the fishing derby at the government dock. Also at 8 a.m. the Lions pancake breakfast starts up in the community hall until the parade starts at 11 a.m. The day continues with field events, children's games, longboard hockey, May Pole dance, live music, food, raffles, vendors and friends. The kids' dance starts at 5:30 p.m. in the hall followed by the adult dance featuring Dr. Fun and the Painkillers at 8:30 p.m.

ATTACK OF DANGER BAY DOWNHILL LONGBOARD RACE — MAY 22

The 10th year of the biggest race on the planet. Heats start at 8 a.m. and all attending are urged to take the shuttle bus from the Oak Tree Market leaving every 15 minutes. There's food, vendors and lots of fast-paced action.

PHOTOJOURNAL

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Jack Gibson unveiled his bronze piece entitled 'Yonel' on April 21 at his Garden Bay studio. Gibson picked up the piece himself from the foundry in Utah. He says he did the return trip in three days including 10 hours at the site working on the final patina.

Local books make good

Historically known more for fish and wood than books, Pender Harbour has received plenty of recognition lately for the latter.

Women of Pender Harbour: Their Voices, Their History is not only a local bestseller but has now gained recognition for its historical writing merits as well.

The book placed third in the 2010 Lieutenant-Governor's Medal competition for BC historical writing.

The BC Historical Federation evaluates award submissions based on three criteria:

- Scholarship: quality of research and documentation, comprehensiveness, objectivity and accuracy.
- Presentation: organization, clarity, illustrations and graphics
- Accessibility: readability and audience appeal.

Co-creators of the book, Elaine Park, Cathy Jenks and Dorothy Faulkner will attend the awards gala in Powell River May 7.

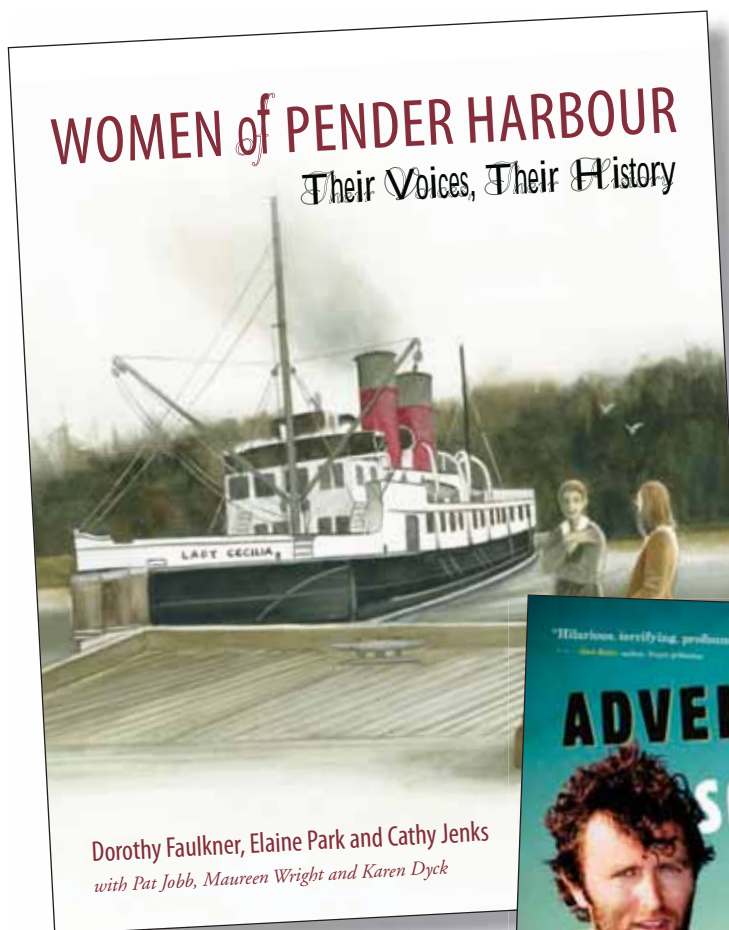
The winning entry was Sylvia Olsen's *Working with Wool: a Coast Salish Legacy and the Cowichan Sweater* (Sono Nis Press).

The second place was awarded to Dan Savard for *Images from the Likeness House* (Royal BC Museum).

Two weeks later, on April 21, Francis Peninsula's Harbour Publishing picked up its umpteenth BC Book prize.

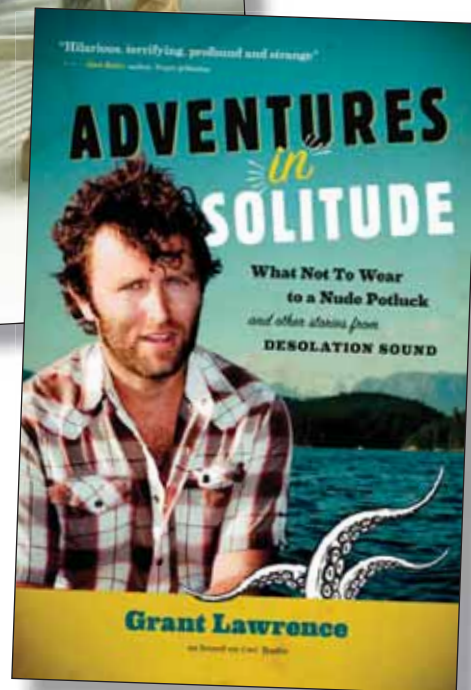
Grant Lawrence's *Adventures in Solitude: What Not to Wear to a Nude Potluck and Other Stories from Desolation Sound* won the prestigious Bill Duthie Bookseller's Choice Award at the Vancouver gala celebrating the best books of 2010.

Former lead singer with The Smugglers and current CBC Radio 3 personality, Lawrence offers a humor-



ous true account of his relationship with both his family cabin in Desolation Sound and the characters who live nearby.

It's Lawrence's first book and he received \$2,000 for the award.



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PHOTOJOURNAL



Michelle Silvey photo

The Madeira Park Elementary School senior girls (Grades 5-7) basketball squad won their final tournament on March 21, taking home the trophy and big smiles for their efforts. Back row (l-r): Maribeth Weir, Emily Silvey, Maddy Roach, Halle Bosch, Sam Stewart, Hannah Stewart. Front row (l-r): Mackenzie Sutherland, Saoirse Stephan, Kim Fielding, Lexi Scoular.



Kelly Kammerle photo

On April 1, the MPES senior boys (Grades 5-7) came out on top in their final tournament as well. In no particular order are: Andrew Hanna, Jesse Venalainen, Angus Venalainen, Logan Nattall, Mitchell Silvey, Jordan Weir, Cypher Clerx, Jordan Kammerle, Cameron Biddulph, Thomas Kennedy, Julian Aschenbroich and coach principal Fred Thorsell.

MADEIRA PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS:

May 6: Professional day

-- No school

May 10: Wear Denim Day

-- Wear denim and a pink ribbon to support the fight against Breast Cancer.

May 12: General PAC meeting

-- 6:30 pm

May 23: Victoria Day

-- No school

Stay in the know:

www.sd46.bc.ca/mpesweb/



Rudy Van Egdom photo

The Pender Harbour Dragontinis dragon boat club attended a race in Deep Cove on April 16 and placed first in the division (C). 'Considering that our boat has paddlers from the age of 30 to 82 (and most are over 60), we did pretty good,' says team member Louise Mackay. 'Our rules of the boat are: Stay with your partner, stay with the boat and have fun. And we do.' They invite anyone interested to come out and try it on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m. at the Garden Bay Pub. (Please arrive 15 minutes beforehand.)

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Bananas narrowly lose championship tourney on home turf

In a game that saw repeated end to end scoring opportunities, the Pender Harbour Bananas were edged by the IFC Wolves for the Sunshine Coast Over-30 men's soccer league championship.

The Pender Harbour Bananas entered the tournament in an unfamiliar position — they were the favourites.

They'd posted the best record through the regular season and they were co-hosts of the tournament with Halfmoon Bay FC.

Half of the games were to be played at Connor Park and the other half at their home field at Pender Harbour Lions field in Kleindale.

Thanks to some stellar goaltending — including a stopped penalty shot — by Alan Stewart, the Bananas easily beat Coast Progressive United in their semi-final game.

This set up the final at their home field where they'd face off with Sechelt's Wolves.

The Wolves finished a close second behind the Bananas during the regular season and can always be counted on to up their game for the tournament.

The Bananas started with a spark and went up 2-0 early on goals by Dennis Tasic and Jimmy Lemieux.

The Wolves came alive and



The Wolves' Corey August vainly stretches at Dennis Tasic's (No. 77) header late in the second half. The goal put the Bananas up 3-2 in their championship final against the Sechelt Wolves. Minutes later the Wolves replied with a goal of their own to send the game into overtime.

caught a suddenly tired looking Pender team with two goals of their own (including a penalty kick) to tie it up.

The Bananas seemed to find some energy and after a number of scoring chances late in the second

half, Dennis Tasic knocked in what looked to be the game winner.

But the Wolves didn't let up.

With the clock ticking down, they answered with a tying goal, sending the Wolf Pack on the sidelines into a frenzied roar.

Regular time ended at three goals a piece and would stay that way through overtime.

The winner was decided by a best of five shootout.

Both teams scored on their first shots but Pender missed their next two.

After three shots apiece, the Wolves had missed only once.

The made no mistake on the next, taking the match and the 2011 championship with it.

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Joey Antilla's Kootenay Ice ripping through WHL playoffs

Francis Peninsula's Joe Antilla and his Kootenay Ice have squared off against the Medicine Hat Tigers in quarterfinal action of the Western Hockey League playoff.

Cranbrook's Kootenay Ice haven't made it to the conference finals since 2005.

For Antilla it's his first trip to the final four but he shows no sign of nerves.

The six-foot-one left winger had his best regular season of his WHL career, ending the season with 40 points and the highest plus/minus ratio on the team.

And he's come alive in the playoffs.

Possibly the biggest goal of his career, Antilla netted an overtime winner against the Saskatoon Blades in Round 2 of the playoffs.

Saskatoon was the league's top team going into the playoffs but Antilla's Ice swept them 4-0.

With momentum on their side, the Ice travelled to Medicine Hat on April 22 for the first game of their Eastern Conference final.

The Ice took the game in overtime with Antilla assisting on the overtime winner.

The two teams played again the following night and the Ice again came out on top, winning 3-0.

Antilla picked up his seventh goal of the playoffs with an empty netter late in the third period.

Kootenay Ice goalie Nathan Lieuwen's tied a franchise record with his third shutout in the playoffs.

The Ice return home for two games on April 26 and 27 before returning to Medicine Hat for Game 5 on April 29.

Rumour has it that the games are available at local pubs with game five facing off at 7:30 p.m.

Game 6: May 1, 6 p.m. (home).

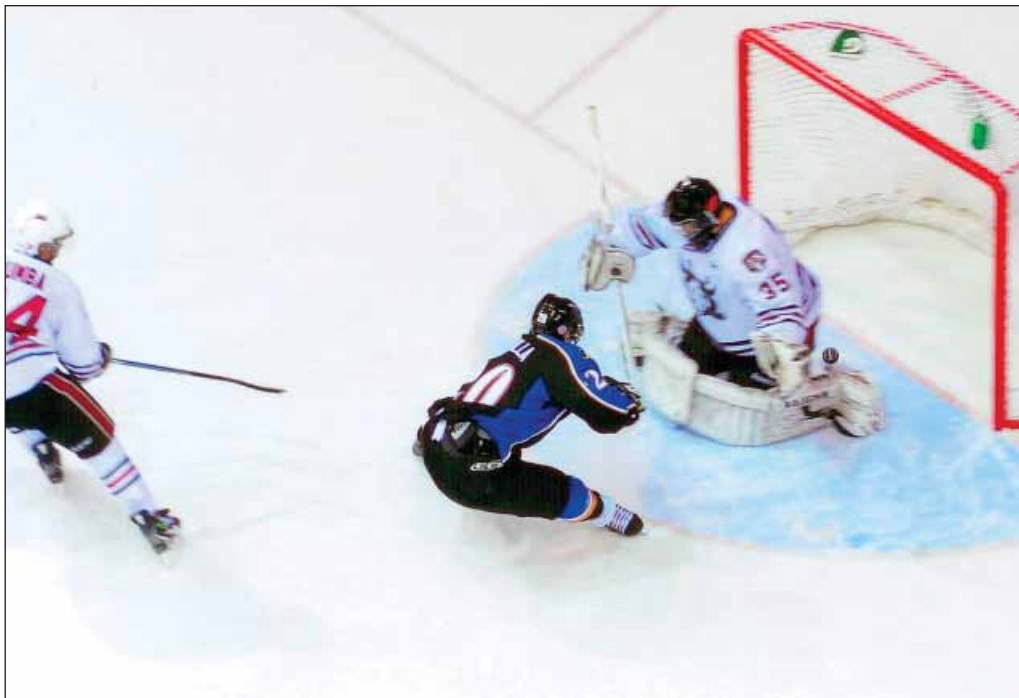


photo submitted

Joe Antilla pokes one through the Red Deer Rebels goalie in regular season action. Antilla scored 21 goals and 19 assists through the regular season for Cranbrook's Kootenay Ice. So far during the playoffs, he has notched seven goals and four assists.

Game 7: May 3, 7 p.m. (away).

The winner of this series will face the winner of the western conference series — either the Portland Win-

terhawks or the Spokane Chiefs — in the WHL final.

The Spokane Chiefs took Game 1 in that series.

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Still skating with soul: Coast Longboarding and Attack of Danger



Bricin Lyons is still finding new uses for his favourite vehicle. He's seen here bombing one of his favourites, the Garden Bay Road dump hill, with rolling luggage trailing behind.

By Brian Lee

Now at the ripe old age of 30, Bricin Lyons says he's been bombing hills his whole life.

The driving force behind Coast Longboarding and Pender Harbour's Attack of Danger Bay downhill longboard race says gravity hooked him early.

He'd hike up mountains as a kindergarten tyke in Williams Lake before chucking himself back down again in his wagon.

And he's chased that thrill ever

since but it wasn't until he first took a spin on a co-worker's longboard in the late '90s that it became his life's passion.

He immediately got his own board and rode it everywhere.

"I'd heard that Skull Skates (a Vancouver skateboard shop) was putting on a race in a cemetery at Fraser and 33rd," Lyons says.

"So I moved back to Pender and started working at the fish plant. I lived at Klein Lake and was hiking by myself and riding all the hills of Pender Harbour and gettin' ready for

this big race."

At the time, very few in Pender Harbour had ever seen a longboard.

And no one had ever seen a kid with a mohawk haircut weighing in at 250 pounds riding one.

"I trained a whole year for that race and it lasted about a half hour and it was on this tiny little hill," says Lyons.

"I'd spent a whole year bombing mountain roads so I said, 'Screw this. We gotta do something else.'"

He didn't know it at the time but the event would hold significance not

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Bay mature

for the race itself but for the people who made contact there.

“Landyachtz were there before they were a household name. Schnitzel (Jody Wilcox) was there — the guy that designed these (Landyachtz) boards — and he’d never met Landyachtz at that point.

“And then there were key Coast Longboarders from the very beginning and no one knew each other.”

Since then Lyons has become a longboarding prophet, spreading the gospel with his infectious sense of humour and genuine love of the sport.

“When I first started longboarding, I didn’t know anyone else who did it. So I’d just push around the streets and eventually I’d see a rider and chase him down and steal his number. After awhile I had a book of numbers so I started calling them.”

Lyons was a “liftie” on Seymour mountain and would occasionally spot longboarding stickers on snowboards.

While sitting in the lift shack, he started thinking it might be fun to get these longboarders together for a tour.

That was the genesis of the Sunshine Coast to Coast longboarding tour – a nine-hour tour of Lyons’ favourite Sunshine Coast hills.

He organized four friends with cars to pick up the 16 or so riders from the Langdale ferry terminal.

The first hill they hit that day was the long downhill from Trout Lake to Halfmoon Bay.

For most, it was their first time tackling hills that big and steep.

“It was crazy – people were jumping off their boards, crashing. No one had slide gloves back then, people were carving down the hill. People were stopping and walking down the hill.

“It was the beginning of it all.”

Only one guy had protective leather gear but all wore helmets.

May 2011

Lyons has always promoted helmets as a mandatory piece of equipment. With good reason, too — he’s broken eight of them in 10 years.

In nine hours, the group sampled 18 hills mostly around Pender Harbour and Egmont.

“After that tour, people were hooked.”

Soon after Lyons hosted another event: “Longboarders Take Over the Seawall Cruise” which has become an annual Vancouver event approaching its 11th year.

He kept putting on events and his book of phone numbers kept growing.

“It was taking me eight hours to phone everybody, so I was like, ‘I need a website.’”

Coastlongboarding.com was built by a friend and quickly became the portal for all things longboarding in

BC — and now the rest of the planet is catching on.

Lyons says the site receives over 2 million hits a month and he doesn’t sell advertising on it.

He tried that but felt it tainted its spirit.

It has become a global resource for longboarders looking to share rides to races, sell equipment, talk trash or post photos and race results

“Coast Longboarding was before Facebook.”

He hosted another Coast to Coast tour the following year but this time he had 70 riders pack a Pender Harbour Transportation school bus.

Some big names from the U.S. attended, including ESPN X Games star Lee Dansie.

(continued next page)



photo submitted

Lyons again on the Garden Bay Road dump hill during the second Sunshine Coast to Coast longboarding tour circa 2000. Note the hockey helmet and bare feet.

Coast Longboarding (cont.)

(continued from p. 11)

Word spread back to the U.S. about this crazy guy from Pender Harbour who put on previously unheard-of longboarding events.

He made more contacts attending his first sanctioned race, the Seattle Skid Road, where he met his idol, former downhill longboarding speed record holder Gary Hardwick.

"He gave me a board for the love of the game. I dunno why, he just seen it in me, man," says Lyons.

But it wasn't because Lyons was the best longboarder there.

"I never made that corner once," he laughs.

"They called me the human bowling ball."

Lyons came back stoked and in 2001 set to planning his biggest event,

Attack of Danger Bay.

Attack of Danger Bay was the first — and is still the biggest — race of its kind in Canada but it almost didn't happen.

"I started Danger Bay because I just knew we had to have a race — it was a feeling. Probably because I thought I could win it," says Lyons.

"And we were just flying — we were skating fast. So I was like, 'let's get everybody together.'"

Lyons originally chose Bear Bay Road as the location but admits he was a bit naive about what it took to put on an event like this.

He credits Cheryl Jensen for helping to pull it off.

"I hitchhiked up here and picked the road and did everything I thought I had to do," recalls Lyons.

"Then I hitchhiked back home

(to Vancouver) and I'm thinking 'Ya, right on — we got it!'"

When he arrived home, there was a message on his answering machine from Jensen telling him the Bear Bay Road site was denied.

"I started bawling because I'd put so much effort into putting on the event and this was the absolute last day.

"I hadn't even taken my shoes off when I played that message and I thought it was done. So I left immediately — I hitchhiked back to the ferry and hitchhiked back up here."

Jensen met him in Madeira Park and the two drove around looking for a new site.

They settled on the current Esquire Road location but they weren't done yet.

"I didn't really like it — it was kind of slow and it wasn't like a big hill. I wanted to have Bear Bay, man — it's got a steep grade and cracks on the bridge, you know."

But after some calls to various authorities, they wrote up a map detailing locations for the ambulances, spectators and hay bales etc. and faxed it off, took out insurance and got approved.

"It was like, at four o'clock — I don't know when government offices close — but we got it in at just the last possible minute that we could have to get it approved," says Lyons.

"After that it was, like, whoa, it was on — Danger Bay 1."

From that first year the race grew quickly and was soon capped at a maximum number of riders who compete in a lottery system for the privilege to compete.

This year, 10 years after that first race, 220 of the top racers in the world will arrive in Pender Harbour to compete for the most prize money for a downhill longboarding race anywhere

Harbour Spiel



Charlie Daigneault photo

The Coast Longboarding family keeps growing. Patricia, Billie Rose and Bricin.

in the world, over \$8,000.

Now it's but one of over 14 races held in BC this year but is considered a reunion — a must-attend event — by the longboarding community and just about every top racer in the sport.

Lyons won't predict who might win it this year but (besides himself) he's rooting for Tom Edstrand.

Edstrand is the owner of Landyachtz and former world champ who has competed in every Attack of Danger Bay race without ever winning it.

"It would be cool to have Tom win Danger Bay 10," he says.

"And hopefully Zak (Maytum) doesn't win it again because no one's ever won it two years in a row and we don't want an American doing it."

Apart from his sentimental favourite Edstrand, Lyons says he'd love to see the 2009 world champion, Pender Harbour's Scott Smith, take it.

Smith has contended for several years, taking fourth in 2008 and second in 2009 before crashing in the third round on last year's wet course.

Lyons influence on the popularity of both the race itself and longboarding in general is not lost on him.

He's happy the sport is gaining recognition and is confident it will some day make it into the Olympics.

Much of the attention lately has come in the form of corporate sponsorship as companies discover longboarding provides both a growing market and a promotional vehicle for their products.

Lyons says he's seen a lot of money creep into the sport but doesn't knock anyone for taking a paycheque from it.

He's been sponsored by board manufacturer Landyachtz since the beginning, but unlike some who set themselves up to take advantage of the sport's growth, he hasn't cashed in

himself.

For most of his longboarding career he's worked for Canada Post delivering mail.

Canada Post is a sponsor for this year's ADB but Lyons says theirs has often been a rocky relationship due to the fact he's often been out of work from injury.

"The first year I worked there,

it was Danger Bay II, and I broke my wrist and ended up with a Hoffman apparatus.

"Then I went to an 'All you can eat' buffet and I was skating home and hit a rock or something and fell off my board and blew something in my stomach," says Lyons.

"I was off work a total of 96 days

(continued next page)

ATTACK OF DANGER BAY 10

By Bricin Lyons

Here we are, a decade of Attack of Danger Bay and 10 years of great support from the business community, Pender Harbour ambulance crews and the residents of the race hill.

This year is the most exciting for me ever as the event organizer. It is the reunion year and we've added a Master's class to the event as well as "Danger Bay Daycare!"

For this year's race we ask everyone to please leave all drugs and alcohol at home. This is a family event and we must respect the local residents on the race track that have young families and as well as anyone who might want to come and enjoy a nice day with none of this nonsense.

It is very important for spectators to take the free shuttle buses to race. We can't have any parking at or around the event for emergency purposes. **Shuttle buses leave the Oak Tree Market every 15 minutes starting at 8 a.m.**

Please ride them and tip and thank the drivers — they have donated their time and money for your enjoyment. The event couldn't take place without them. Thanks Opie and Larry Curtiss.

Attack of Danger Bay would also not happen without the help of Irene from John Henry's, the Lions Club, our campsite security, Pender Harbour Rotary, the Oak Tree Market gang, race hill residents, race day and local volunteers, Cheryl Jensen and the Pender Harbour ambulance crew and all the sponsors and supporters.

Attack of Danger Bay takes more than 50 volunteers to make it come together — thank you so much everyone, it's been a blast.

See you Sunday, May 22, rain or shine.

This is a free event for everyone but bring some cash to support it by buying an event T-shirt or hoodie.

Also the Oak Tree Market will have breakfast and lunch to fill you up and we have longboarding companies selling boards and helmets at great prices. Yee-haaawwww!

Coast Longboarding (cont.)

(continued from p. 13)

that year!”

And when it comes to injuries, the 320-pounder has had more than his share.

He has dislocated his shoulder a few times, broken wrists, fingers, collar bones and ankles and left innumerable layers of skin on the pavement.

“I’ve had road rash so bad that it

made my collar bone injury seem like nothing. Bad road rash is the worst.”

A few months ago, Lyons’ girlfriend of 13 years, Patricia Sauer, gave birth to their daughter Billie Rose.

He doesn’t like to talk about retirement and hopes to “bomb hills till he dies,” but being a father has given him some perspective.

“I don’t think I can hit my head

too many more times,” he says referring to the eight helmets he has smashed in the past 10 years.

“One of these times it could be just lights out.”

Opportunities seem to present themselves to good people and Lyons is quickly carving out a niche for himself as a sought-after announcer for some of the sport’s biggest races.

He has announced over 50 races and event organizers often fly him around the world and pay him to announce races.

There’s no one more qualified. He knows the sport intimately as well as all the players in it.

And he’s loud.

“I’m not the best skater anymore but I’m happy to see my friends and all the young riders inspired by me and Coast, doing well.

“I’d love to be able to show up forever and hopefully announcing races will let me to keep doing that.”

He adds with a grin:

“But am I jealous? F**k yeah — I broke a lot of helmets for these guys making millions of dollars.”

Lyons clearly takes great satisfaction at seeing local kids finding the same stoke he did on Pender hills more than a decade ago.

If he can be called an ambassador for the sport, it’s only because he wants others to experience its thrill.

And to repay what the sport of longboarding has given him — the friends he’s made and the feeling he gets each time he steps on his board.

After 12 years, Lyons has seen firsthand the positive benefits longboarding can have on kids’ lives.

“These kids are finding something they’re good at, you know? Some people never find anything in their whole life that they’re good at.

“I’m pretty proud of that. I’m proud of it all.”



Lyons takes a spring ride into Madeira Park for old times sake.

ACCOMMODATION OF THE MONTH

Francis Point Bed and Breakfast

Nestled beside the Sunshine Coast's most spectacular marine park, the Francis Point Bed and Breakfast offers luxury accommodation in a rustic setting, a restful oasis where guests can bask in the soothing warmth of an outdoor hot tub.

Hosts Chrys and Clint Sample built and designed their bed and breakfast to take advantage of the natural beauty around their home. They included private entrances and plenty of deck space in their design, as well as a barbecue. For youngsters there is a sandbox complete with toys, and a small slide.



FRANCIS POINT BED & BREAKFAST (604) 883-9469

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phrm.ca



FISHERMAN'S RESORT & MARINA (604) 883-2336

4890 Pool Road
fishermansresortmarina.com



THE STONEWATER MOTEL (604) 883-0046

13483 Highway 101
thestonewater.ca



RUBY LAKE RESORT & ITALIAN RESTAURANT (604) 883-2269

15426 Sunshine Coast Hwy.
rubylakeresort.com



BATHGATE'S GENERAL STORE, RESORT & MARINA (604) 883-2222

6781 Bathgate Road
bathgate.com



BACKEDDY RESORT & MARINA (604) 883-2298

16660 Backeddy Road
backeddy.ca



Picnic table cover photo brings fond memories of Madeira Park

Dear Editor,

I moved to Nanaimo from Pender almost eight years ago and I just had a great weekend visit from a friend who lives in Egmont.

She brought along the February copy of the Spiel and I just loved your editorial about the changes in Pender Harbour.

At the beginning of all those changes I was working for Sunny when her salon was still in the mall.

She moved her salon into "Ron's" purple house on the hill where we sat on the porch between clients and watched the progress of the garden.

This was a great place to listen to all the moaning, groaning and gossip about those darn city people who come here and make those changes.

It was something else to witness

and to listen to folks tell their stories.

One thing we can always be assured of is that change creates chaos.

Changes allow folks to think back on the good times and bad, the who, what, where and when, and I just loved those stories too.

I was home for a visit recently and wow, the gardens have really transformed, filled out and expanded — just lovely.

Hats off to Ron and all his fellow believers and vision holders and thanks for not getting too political, 'cause there is just no room for politics in the garden unless of course you're Ron.

The other thing that captured my attention was the cover photograph.

This is the table where many many people had great chats and gossip sessions while eating a Frances

Burger and fries (yum).

It's where many of the kids from the little school would go when they got old enough to get their walking papers to get off the school grounds by themselves (a very important part of growing up in Pender Harbour).

It was a great place for us AA'ers to meet and have coffee, a place where I could tell my kids' friends parents to meet us to drop off or pick up the kids after a weekend sleepover.

But most importantly to me, it was the place where I fell in love with my Bill.

So thank you for choosing that photo — Pender Harbour has come a long way and it is to be celebrated.

For me it is the people of that fantastic community that makes me still call it home.

Val Lucas
Nanaimo, BC

Total Health for Life

NEW HOURS OF OPERATION FOR THE PENDER HARBOUR AQUATIC AND FITNESS CENTRE

Effective June 13 to July 15 our hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday for the pool and gym, from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday for the gym, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All aquafit programs and drop-in fitness programs will continue until July 15.

SUMMER SWIM LESSONS

Registration for summer swim lessons begins June 13. The program runs Mondays to Fridays, from July 4 to 8 and July 11 to 15, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

SPLASHIN' SNEAKERS AND SNACKS

On Friday May 6 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. you can bring your kids to the pool for only a toonie!

MOVE FOR HEALTH DAY

Join us for 'Move it Outdoors' on Tuesday, May 10 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. We are taking the fitness program outside for some heart-pumping fun followed by a social and refreshments. Two for one admission at the pool.

GET IN SHAPE FOR SUMMER

Visit www.scrd.ca for a full schedule of fitness programs. We offer fitness classes for all levels and you can sign up any time.

FACILITY CLOSURE

The Pender Harbour Aquatic and Fitness Centre will be closed on Sunday, May 22 and Monday, May 23.



Register for our programs online at www.scrd.ca, by phone at 604-885-6866 or in person at 13639 Sunshine Coast Highway, Madeira Park.



TOTAL HEALTH
FOR LIFE IS
WHAT YOU
MAKE IT



Appalled by 'The Finger'

Dear Editor,

We have always enjoyed and been amazed as to the amount of interesting articles and information in your publication.

However, as much as Shane McCune is certainly entitled to his

opinions — we were appalled by the "Finger."

As editor, I am sure you okayed this affront.

In all the words written about each of the candidates, nowhere have we seen or heard such disrespect, no matter what anyone's political views.

Hope you get a lot of response along these lines.

If not, we will be very disappointed.

Pat and Gordon Harding
Halfmoon Bay, BC

Howard exposes Spiel's photo 'doctoring'

Dear Editor,

I take great exception to the picture of the Right Honourable Stephen Harper on the second last page of your last issue.

I don't take issue with anything in the story as it is just another example of a writer knowing nothing about either the subject matter nor the individual but clearly knows how to doctor a photo that is way, way, way out of context to make a visual point which is likely a lie.

Congratulations on your graduation on how to doctor a picture the way you want it.

Mr. Harper has never thrown the finger in the context of throwing it at the government of, country or voters of Canada and, if he has, it certainly would never have been caught by a camera.

Had he, he wouldn't be prime minister today.

That isn't to say that he hasn't

thrown his middle finger at some one or some thing along the way but for sure never in front of a camera.

Clearly, therefore, you have doctored this picture in an effort to display your political leanings and tell a story that is an out and out lie.

You are entitled to believe whatever it is you believe but you are not entitled to damage anyone by visualizing them in a manner that has never been seen by the public and in this case they have not.

Further your facts about the Canadian government and previous prime ministers is just wrong.

Perhaps with the exception of Wilfred Laurier and Lester Pearson, there isn't a single prime minister in our history who hasn't used the office, the title and the Privy Council for his own purposes.

We don't have an executive branch in Canada but every prime minister this country has had has

treated the PMO like an executive branch and any one of them that didn't — and didn't have all of their MPs tied up in knots — wasn't a prime minister very long.

How do you think John A. Macdonald won two terms while being smashed half the time?

Mackenzie King was Prime Minister for 25 years — do you think either of these guys played nice with anyone?

Mr. Trudeau was probably the finest prime minister this country has ever seen but he knew where all the bodies were buried and every MP in Parliament knew it.

You owe your readers an apology for displaying such a visual untruth.

Yes, I am a Conservative but I didn't see Mr. Ignatieff in a similar pose and there is way more evidence that he has done this.

Rick Howard
Maple Ridge, BC

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2011 budget both giveth and taketh away



By Eric Graham
SCRD Director,
Area A

2011 BUDGET

Although there are functions in Area A that have decreased this year (regional and rural planning -\$12,500, general government -\$3,400 and community parks -\$19,700), there are some functions with small increases (The P. H. Health Centre +\$6,000 and economic

development +\$5,400).

There are also two functions in Area A with substantial increases.

The P. H. Aquatic and Fitness Centre was closed for renovations last year until part way through April so there is an increase this year over last of about \$30,000.

Also, the aquatic centre will be open an extra month this summer on a trial basis from June 15 until July 15.

The added cost for this service is \$10,500 and because of new health

regulations, a new safety plan had to be created costing \$6,600 (a one-time expense) which increased the budget for the facility by approximately \$48,000.

Another increase over last year's budget is \$29,000 for our bus to operate two days a week until mid-November. A referendum will be held (at election time) to see if the taxpayers want the service to continue.

The advantage of holding the referendum in conjunction with the local



MEETINGS AT 1975 FIELD ROAD

Policing Committee
May 2 at 9:00 a.m.

Transportation Committee
May 2 at 10:30 a.m.

Infrastructure Services Committee
May 5 at 1:30 p.m.

Planning and Development Services Committee
May 12 at 1:30 p.m.

Regular Board
May 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Community Services Committee
May 19 at 9:30 a.m.

Corporate and Administrative Services Committee
May 26 at 1:30 p.m.

Regular Board
May 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunshine Coast Regional District

AREA A - ADVISORY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

The next meeting of the Egmont/Pender Harbour Advisory Planning Commission is on Wednesday, May 25 at 7:00 p.m. at Pender Harbour High School, Room 107.

LANDFILL TIPPING FEE INCREASE

Effective July 1, 2011 the tipping fee for Municipal Solid Waste will increase to \$110 per tonne at the Pender Harbour Landfill site. \$5 per tonne is an Eco Fee dedicated to funding zero waste initiatives. \$5 per tonne will fund landfill operations, capital projects and closure and post-closure reserves in keeping with a "user pay" principle.

Affected materials include residential and commercial garbage, and construction and demolition waste that cannot be recycled or otherwise diverted from the landfill.

The minimum charge remains at \$5 per load. There is no change to tipping fees for Controlled Waste that is recycled through landfill programs (wood, roofing, gypsum) or Recyclable Goods (metal, refrigerators, appliances, tires, etc.). Residential Green Waste is free.

For more information check www.scrd.ca or call 604-885-6800 ext. 6139.

Area A - Director Contact Information

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

Annual fees and/or charges have increased for the following services:

- Regional Water Service
- North Pender Harbour Water Service
- South Pender Harbour Water Service
- Lillies Lake Village Community Sewage Treatment System
- Garbage Collection and Disposal

For a complete list of 2011 rates for all utility services, please visit www.scrd.ca (Utility Billing), or contact the Utility Services department at 604-885-6806 or utilityinfo@scrd.ca. Utility bills will be mailed the first week of May and are payable by June 15.

PENDER HARBOUR LANDFILL SUMMER HOURS

(May 28 - Labour Day long weekend)
Wednesday to Monday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

For more information:

1975 Field Road, Sechelt, BC V0N 3A1
T: 604-885-6800 F: 604-885-7909
Office hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
www.scrd.ca

election is saving a great deal of the costs that Area A would have to pay if the referendum was held at a separate time.

If your residence (in Area A) is assessed at \$400,000 in 2011, the total SCRD portion of the taxes you pay will be \$732.68.

That figure amounts to an increase of \$26.10 or 3.7 per cent over the year before.

PORTABLE TOILETS

This has become a much needed service at the Madeira Park government dock and also at Garden Bay Lake and the pull-off before Hospital Bay government dock.

It is unfortunate that the toilets were temporarily removed but they are now back year-round and will be maintained by the Pender Harbour Chamber of Commerce.

During the summer months there will also be flush toilets available during office hours at the Visitors Information Centre in downtown Madeira Park and at the Harbour Authority of Pender Harbour office at the Madeira Park government wharf.

One of the portable toilets will be funded by the North Pender Waterworks (Garden Bay Lake) and two by the SCRD's Area A economic development function.

THE BUS

Last month, a questionnaire was sent out to all households in Area A asking about the bus service.

There were over 1,000 sent out and so far we have about 130 responses.

There is still time to fill out the questionnaire at the water board office (Lagoon Road, Madeira Park) if you did not receive one.

The plan is to have the bus advisory group meet with staff in May to review the responses and make recommendations.

This could result in a service change in order to improve ridership.

A scheduled bus service will continue until November at which time a referendum will occur (at election time) and it will be up to the taxpayers to decide if the service continues.

SOLID WASTE MASTER PLAN

The SCRD board has endorsed a draft of its Zero Waste Management Plan to go to a public consultation process.

Of particular interest to residents of Area A is the fact that this public consultation process will include opportunities to provide feedback on regional plans for moving towards the zero waste goal along with comments on local plans for an enhanced recycling and resource recovery facility in Pender Harbour.

This "made in Pender" conceptual plan was developed by a group of local stakeholders from Area A during a planning process facilitated by the Recycling Council of BC and has been used to inform the development of the regional draft ZWMP.

The draft ZWMP is an update of the SCRD's 2005 Solid Waste Management Plan and includes a number of recommendations for improving waste reduction, reuse and recycling across the Sunshine Coast, as well as ways to deal with our residual garbage more responsibly.

Next steps involve taking the draft ZWMP out to the public for review and feedback.

We want to hear from you — your feedback will be used to help the SCRD board make decisions on what

should be in the final ZWMP that they will adopt and the Ministry of Environment will be asked to approve.

Once approved, the document will help to establish an action plan for SCRD solid waste management programs for the next five years and provide strategic direction for the next 10 to 20 years.

The public consultation campaign kicks off in the first week of June with open houses planned in Pender Harbour, Sechelt and Gibsons.

For information on the draft ZWMP, more details on the public consultation process and open house schedule, or to download the project documents, visit the SCRD website (in early May) at www.scrd.ca.

If you have questions or comments, or would like to be added to the consultation email list and receive information updates, please email zerowasteplan@scrd.ca.



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in Pender Society*

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CLASS ADS



Classified advertising must be prepaid,
\$20 for 25 words maximum, second month free (space permitting) for non-commercial ads only.
By mail or e-mail: editor@harbourspiel.com.

ACCOMODATION WANTED

• **Turtle researchers** (Sunshine Coast Wildlife Project, www.coastwildlife.ca) seek accommodation on Sakinaw or Ruby Lake. Please contact Dave: (604)989-1007 or coastwildlife@gmail.com.

FOR RENT

• **Two bedroom apt. Madeira Park \$650.** Reduced rate in exchange for caretaking. One br cottage, Madeira Park: \$500. 40-ft. mobile, Madeira Park: \$450. Phone Howard: 883-2730 or Don: 883-2747.

FOR RENT

• **Lovely large two bedroom cottage** w/ 200-feet of low bank Oyster Bay waterfront. Newly renovated, S/S appliances. Large deck, 40-foot dock. \$1000. Malaspina Realty and Property Management (604) 741-0720.

FOR SALE

• **30" stove/fridge/sink combo** for sale. \$130 OBO. Neale, (604) 883-3693.

HELP WANTED

• **The board of Area A Seniors Housing Project** is inviting applications to the paid position of recording secretary to take monthly board minutes. Please call Anky at (604) 883-0033.

WANTED

• **The P. H. Lions Club** hall renovation project needs a chainsaw, wheelbarrow, axes and flooring. To help, please call Neale (604) 883-3693.

WORK WANTED

• **Knees ripped in your favourite jeans?** Update that Chanel suit? For repairs, alterations, re-fashioning and custom sewing, call Billy. (604) 865-0640.

HARBOUR SEALS



Free! APPROVALS or DISAPPROVALS!

Send to: editor@harbourspiel.com.

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

A huge Seal to **the community** for your support and donations to make it possible for the PHSS band to perform in Disneyland. As well, a special thanks to **Stu and Dorothy Eggleton, Mr. and Mrs. Dodd, Howard and Mary White, Lafarge Aggregates Earle Creek, IGA, Guardian Pharmacy and Pioneer Tree Service** for your kind donations.

Jill Wagner
PHSS Band and Parents

A Harbour Seal of Approval to **the guys at Off the Hook Seafoods, Alex and Karl.** They not only found my wallet but they brought it to my home. Kindness like that is why it's great to be living in Pender Harbour.

Gloria Greenlaw

A Harbour Seal of Disapproval to **the jerks that broke into the elementary portable**, stole our hockey sticks and burned them. You ruined an activity that all us kids, from K to Grade 6, looked forward to. We hope the RCMP catch up with you!

Andrea Clerx
(for the MPES road hockey players)

A Dragontini Seal of Approval to **Wendy Haddock**, bus driver and manager extraordinaire, for driving all of us weary, cold, and exhausted paddlers to Deep Cove for the Dash for Cash Charity Event.

Louise Mackay
Dragontinis and
P.H. Paddling Society



PENDER HARBOUR
LEGION

MayEvents

- **May Day: Sat. May 21**
Legion burgers, hot dogs and pop behind the P. H. Community Hall
- **Cheap Beer Day**
Wednesdays: 2 - 6 pm
- **Poker**
Thursdays: 7 - 11 pm
- **Fish & Chips**
Fridays: 11 am - 7:30 pm
- **Meat Draw 3 pm**
Saturdays: 11 am - 8 pm
- **Mini Meat Draw**
Sundays: 12:30 - 3 pm

Fundraising?

Have a Quiz Night at the Legion.

Janice Christine Metcalfe (nee Semak)

MAY 28, 1962 – JANUARY 5, 2011



It is with great sadness we announce Janice passed away peacefully at home Jan. 5 with husband Rob at her side.

She fought a courageous year-long battle with cancer.

Janice was a natural born athlete, manager, mother and friend.

She grew up in Vancouver and moved to Pender Harbour in 1986 to operate the IGA store with Rob.

She fell in love with the area and the people of the community.

We are going to miss her big smile and hearty laugh.

She was predeceased by her father Peter and her mother Christina.

She is survived by husband Rob, children Brent and Tayler, sisters Anne Wutzke (Marv), Lynne Smith (Chris).

The family would like to thank everyone that helped out in the last year, especially the nurses at the Pender Harbour Health Centre and the many home support workers.

In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made in her name to the Pender Harbour Health Centre or the Ruby Slipper Fund.

A celebration of Janice's life will be held at our home at 3929 Francis Peninsula Road on Saturday, May 14 from 2 to 6 p.m.

Jack Royden Day

AUGUST 31, 1930 – MARCH 17, 2011

Following a courageous battle with lung cancer, retired Burnaby assistant fire chief Jack Royden Day passed away peacefully in the arms of his loving son Michael, at his home in Sechelt, BC, at 17 minutes into the day of the Irish.

Jack had a 40-plus year career with Burnaby, starting on the water works in the late '40s, and retiring from the fire department in 1989.

He is survived by his faithful sidekick Little Dolly, children and grandchildren, son Michael/Deborah (Jason, Ada Rudek), (Ashleigh, Garry Ram), (Brittany Grover-Darius), son Ron/Leanne (Brandon, Sheldon, Jack and Laura), daughter Shelly Bot (Kurtis, Kevin and Tamara), stepdaughter Carolyn/Peter Kiniak, granddaughters and extended family members, Sonya/John Ellen (Gordon,

Jonathan, Thomas and Timothy), Jodi/Mike Perri (Jessica and Emily), Brian Jeffries, step-daughter-in-law Evelyn Cumming (Charline Cumming, Philip Flynn-Dallas), sister Ellen Soderstrom, brother and sister-in-law, Mel and Ethel Day, many nieces and nephews, ex-wife Jeannine Day and many friends.

Special thanks go out to the Sunshine Coast home care nursing team

who were so wonderful to our Dad.

Also, Janis Magnusson and Louise Paulus — thank you for your loving friendship to Dad during his final months.

At the request of Jack, there will be no service, memorial or wake. Cremation has taken place.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the BC SPCA.

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Heading to the highlands: A winter trip to western Panama (Part II)



By Joe Harrison
(Continued from April issue)

From Boquete, a 90-minute drive to the west on a newly paved road around the base of Volcan Baru brought us to the Buena Vista bed and breakfast.

The new road twists through citrus fields and deep ravines past swift mountain rivers curtained by the tropical rainforest and hanging liana vines.

The road carried on through coffee fincas (estates) and over hillsides

to dairy operations where cattle roam through knee-high pasture with trees sheltering from the sun or rain.

This bed and breakfast is run by Canadians Claus and Dorothy Claassen, "With a C, not a K," chuckles Claus. "We're snooty."

This accommodation is the best of its type we have ever seen anywhere in the world.

The Claasens came to Panama from Calgary in 1995 and ran a similar setup on the Caribbean side before landing here 10 years ago.

Dorothy is a retired high school English teacher with a discriminating eye for the art she has chosen for her walls.

Her bread and cinnamon rolls served with papaya and pineapple are unforgettable.

Claus was raised as a Mennonite under Hitler's murderous madness. When Russian troops overran their little farm, he witnessed horrors with his mother and the soldiers that no eight-year-old child should face.

This gentle man has a saintly demeanour and a soft flowing unity with his garden that gets inside your head like perfume.

The Spanish term for this translates to "odour of sanctity."

A birding enthusiast, he has

planted dozens of plants to attract the nearly 50 species of birds spotted from the terrace.

For \$50 a night (\$40 if you stay a week) you start the day on a private deck with slices of papaya, melon, banana, grapes, oranges, bread and fresh muffins and a most delightful fruit bread, all wonderfully presented on ovoid shaped floral plates in a basket while you sip what has to be the best coffee in the world.

The fully-equipped suite comes with kitchen, bedroom-sitting room, bathroom in a bay window layout overlooking a magnificent tropical garden where the night insects lull you to sleep at night and you awake to a chorus of birdsong.

Idyllic? You bet.

Did I mention the small (15- by 30-foot) enclosed heated pool?

Only five feet deep but the orchids on the deck give it a magical feel.

At dusk, platter-sized toads bump at the screen door.

We were told that if you lean over to photograph one, it may squirt poison at your eyes.

There is a cosy swing seat on the terrace where you can take your book and binoculars to watch birds or look down to Concepcion or Davide on the Pacific where lights twinkle at night



Joe Harrison photo

One of the many farms that blanket the hillsides surrounding Volcan Baru.

and faraway steamers are frozen on a painted ocean heading for the canal.

On moonless nights fireflies blink on and off and the humming insects give a good simulation of what tininitus must be like until suddenly they stop, lulling you into thinking you've had a miraculous cure.

Then what we call the rasper begins — the loudest sandpaper swishing sound setting the hair on your neck straight up.

The assorted bubblings, whoops, and muffled croaks can send your heart racing as imagined iridescent reptiles leap out of the palm.

To the northwest, Golfito in Costa Rica steams at 40 degrees while to the northeast, the great hulking mass of Colombia explains why locals consider Panama part of South America.

We drove towards the Costa Rican border through another exquisite landscape of pasture, coffee finca, and rainforest.

Every day is another superlative.

CERRO PUNTA

Cerro Punta is a small centre where dozens of trucks loaded with potatoes, lettuce, cabbage and celery converge from the patchwork fields that quilt the steep hillsides of the caldera.

Unfortunately, the acrid smell of pesticides that drift from the red backpacks of workers is a jolting reminder of the modern world.

A highlight is Finca Dracula where thousands of orchids are hybridized, raised and exported.

The curious name comes from an original hybrid with a bloom resembling a bat.

Bats loom large in the local mythology ranging from the tiny vampires that lap blood from punctures on the bristly ears of pigs to the fox-like



Joe Harrison photo

A roadside vegetable stand near Cerro Punta. The author couldn't help but notice the intruding smell of pesticides drifting from the backpacks of workers.

fruit bats that devour papayas off the terrace overnight.

There are 74 distinct species on just one island in a lake on the canal.

At just under 10,000-feet, the thin air makes you light-headed when you step out of the car to take a photo.

The impossible green and the glare of crystal light transport you into a magical realm as the sun rises over the crater rim.

Descending back down to Volcan thousands of feet below, we are accompanied by rushing rivers and trout ponds where you can pay to catch your lunch which will be cleaned and packaged for you by young folks in long smocks.

Settlers from Switzerland set up farms here in the '20s and cosy but pricey chalet accommodation is available.

The quality does not bear much relation to the cost so visitors to this area should take note.

Online reviews are your best protection.

Another day we visited Los

Barriles, an archaeological site near Volcan run by Edna and her family.

The University of Berlin and the Smithsonian have conducted digs here but the government of Panama appears to take little interest and much information has been lost due to haphazard digging that has destroyed the context of artifacts.

The site is in a valley surrounded by volcanoes where a corn-based culture with a dense population thrived centuries ago.

Edna does her best to explain the history of the people who lived here and the curious stone cylinders (about the size of a keg of nails) that they left behind.

Hence the name, Los Barriles (barrels).

I was impressed by a concave stone with a 52-pound-smooth stream boulder sitting in the cavity.

Just a gentle push would set it rocking back and forth for a minute or so grinding seeds or corn into a fine flour for tortillas.

(Continued next month.)



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Knowing about strokes and TIAs could save your life

Compiled by Brenda Rowe

A stroke, or cerebrovascular accident (CVA), is the rapid loss of brain function(s) due to disturbance in the blood supply to the brain.

This can be due to ischemia (lack of blood flow) caused by blockage or a hemorrhage (leakage of blood).

As a result, the affected area of the brain is unable to function leading to the inability to move one or more limbs on one side of the body, inability to understand or formulate speech, or visual disturbances in one or both eyes.

ISCHEMIC STROKES

Ischemic strokes account for 87% per cent of strokes.

It is defined as a sudden loss of function due to loss of blood supply to an area of the brain that controls that function.

It is usually caused by partial or complete blockage of an artery that supplies the brain.

The underlying condition for this type of obstruction is the development of fatty deposits lining the vessel walls.

This condition is called atherosclerosis.

The plaque breaks away from the vessel wall and forms a clot.

HEMORRHAGIC STROKES

Hemorrhagic strokes account for about 13 per cent of stroke cases.

They result from a weakened vessel that ruptures and bleeds into the surrounding brain.

The blood accumulates and compresses the surrounding brain tissue.

TRANSIENT ISCHEMIC ATTACK

While transient ischemic attack

(TIA) is often labelled “mini-stroke,” it is more accurately characterized as a “warning stroke” — a warning you should take very seriously.

A TIA is caused by a clot.

The only difference between a stroke and TIA is that with TIA, the blockage is transient (temporary).

TIA symptoms occur rapidly and last a relatively short time.

Most TIAs last less than five minutes and the average is about a minute.

Unlike a stroke, when a TIA is over, there's no permanent injury to the brain

While the vast majority of strokes are not preceded by TIA, about a third of people who experience TIA go on to have a stroke within a year.

According to the American Heart Association, a TIA is a warning stroke and gives a patient time to act and keep a permanent stroke from occurring.

By recognizing TIA symptoms and getting to the hospital, the patient can get help in identifying why the TIA occurred and get treatment — either through medication or surgery — that can prevent a stroke from occurring.

The warning signs of for both strokes and TIA's are as follows:

- Sudden numbness or weakness

of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body.

- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding.
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes.
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or co-ordination.
- Sudden, severe headache with no known cause.

All of these warning signs should be taken seriously and people experiencing them should get to the hospital emergency department at once.

Early diagnosis can help to expedite treatment and referrals.

For more information about strokes check out these websites:

www.strokeassociation.org

www.strokecenter.org

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

The Pender Harbour Health Centre is currently holding an eight-week bereavement support group.

The support group started April 20 and runs from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Area A Seniors' Housing Outreach Healthy Meal Program



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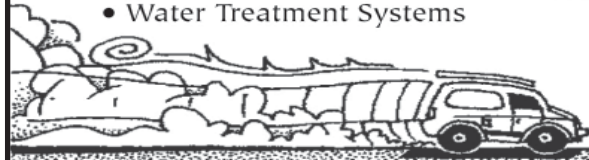
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 - LIONS' PANCAKE BREAKFAST
 - KIDS (12 & UNDER) FISHING DERBY GOVERNMENT DOCK
- 11:00
 - PARADE START
 - MAY DAY PARADE
- 11:30
 - CROWNING OF 66th MAY QUEEN
- 12 - 4
 - FIELD EVENTS AND CHILDREN'S GAMES
 - LONGBOARD HOCKEY
 - MAY POLE DANCE
 - BOUNCY CASTLE
 - LIVE MUSIC ON FIELD
 - \$500 CASH RAFFLE DRAW (3 p.m. main tent)
 - VENDORS
 - LOTS OF FOOD
- 5:30
 - CHILDREN'S DANCE (until 7 p.m.)
- 8:30 - 1
 - ADULT DANCE WITH DR. FUN AND THE PAINKILLERS

Tix \$25 @ Harbour Insurance, Miss Sunny's and the Painted Boat. Drinks:\$4 and DDs available after.

Parade and vendor entry forms are
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OUR MAY DAY

MAY 21

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ORGANIZATIONS

SERENDIPITY CHILD CARE

The Serendipity Child Care Centre annual general meeting will be held Tuesday, May 31 at 6 p.m. at Serendipity Child Care Centre in Madeira Park. A member from every family currently enrolled is required to attend. Board positions are open to non-parent members of the society too. The annual membership is \$5 per family and valid from Sept. 1 to Aug. 31 each year.

P. H. AND EGMONT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Pender Harbour and Egmont Chamber of Commerce will be hosting an evening dedicated to trails, walkways and bikeways for Area A at the P. H. Legion on May 12 at 7 p.m. Guest speakers will include Sheane Reid of the SCRD who will discuss how trails can be made, possible locations, methods, etc. Funding for these ventures cannot flow without community involvement and it is hoped each group, club or society will send representatives to provide input and help create a community committee that will liaise with our area's director. The meeting is open to all.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL AUXILIARY (P. H. BRANCH)

The third annual Mad Hatter's Mothers Day Tea hosted by the Pender Harbour Branch of Saint Mary's Hospital Health Care/Auxiliary, is coming to the Pender Harbour Legion on Saturday, May 7, from 1:30 to 3:30.

Create — and wear — your fancy hat and come and join in the fun. There will be lots of door prizes, a raffle, a 50/50 draw as well as prizes for the best hats.

P. H. WILDLIFE SOCIETY

The Pender Harbour Wildlife Society is very pleased to welcome accomplished nature photographer Derrick Ditchburn and looks forward to a presentation of one of his many nature slide shows. Derrick has had hundreds of his images and photos published in magazines and agencies such as Equus magazine, Canadian Yachting, Monarchy Magazine, Gardens West and a field guide to coastal flowers. He continues to photograph for Gardens West and his own nature site. You can preview some of his work at www.dereilanatureinn.ca. Everyone is welcome to attend this presentation which will take place at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 17, at Pender Harbour Secondary.

There is no charge. Refreshments will be served. This will be the last meeting of the society until September. Members will be contacted with details of their June picnic.



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Blues fest organizers forced to make 'Lines' change

Illness forced bluesman John Lee Sanders to cancel his upcoming appearance in the Pender Harbour Blues Festival set to take place June 3-5.

Sanders was set to play two shows at the eighth running of the festival, forcing organizers to scramble to fill the spot.

They came back with the sultry Diane Lines.

Lines played piano for Grammy-nominated Michael Bublé for two years.

She has also recorded and toured with Juno Award winning singer/songwriter Gary Fjellgaard and appears on Gary's CDs *Under Western Skies* and *The Best of Gary Fjellgaard*.

Diane has also toured throughout the U.S. principally as keyboardist and vocalist for Mac Frampton and the Hollywood Hills Orchestra.

Now based in Vancouver, Lines works with various artists and at various venues in town.

Most recently she has become the third member of the popular Acoustic Groove Trio with percussionist Tony Chamberlist and guitarist/vocalist Michael Taylor.

Lines performs gospel music with a trio and two back-up singers on Sunday morning at the Pender Har-



photo submitted

Sultry pianist and vocalist Diane Lines replaces John Lee Sanders at this year's Pender Harbour Blues Festival. Sanders was forced to withdraw due to illness.

bour School of Music, before ripping through swing, jump blues and boogie woogie Sunday evening at the Garden Bay Pub.

For more information including

ticket prices, where to buy tickets and show times check out the Pender Harbour Blues Festival website: <http://penderharbourbluesfestival.com>.

Pender Harbour Music Society presents:

THE EUPHORICS

Saturday, May 14 • 8 pm
Pender Harbour School of Music

Did someone say a capella?

Tickets: \$20 at Harbour Insurance (Madeira Park), John Henry's (Garden Bay), Visitor Info Centre (Sechelt) and Gaia's Fair Trade (Gibsons).

Sponsored in part by:  Pender Harbour Choir

www.penderharbourmusic.ca





Alan Moberg collection

Alan Moberg sent in this photo of the May Queen, her attendants and onlookers crossing the Madeira Park field on May Day in 1956. According to *Women of Pender Harbour*, Dorothy (Gregerson) Lee handed over her crown to May Queen Sandra (Lorentzen) Jones.

(If you have photos to share memories of family or friends, call the Harbour Spiel and we'll try to get them in.)

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April wakes up the golf course



By Jan Watson

Most of the snowbirds are back but sad to say they did not bring any warmer weather.

It really has been an unusually cold and wet start to the season but hopefully as you read this it will have warmed up and the ball will be rolling a lot further.

A reminder that everyone is welcome to all these events.

MEN'S DAY

The men started their season on March 22 with a stroke play event in two flights.

First flight refers to those playing with a handicap of 1 to 18 and the second flight are those with a handicap over 18.

First flight winners are as follows:

Low gross winner was Andrew Barker with 84.

The low net was taken by Terry Cowan with 63.

In the second flight, Wayne Babcock shot 88 to take the low gross while low net went to Al Wendland with 65.

KP on No. 3 was Garry Noble and on No. 6 it was Blair Priebe.

On March 29, Garry Noble and Wayne Babcock won the Blind Partners event.

Runners up were Jamie Tufford and John Cameron.

KP on No. 3 was Jamie Tufford and on No. 6 it was Brian Disney.

April 5 was unusual for the men — it was a rain-out.

An April 12 Stableford event was won by Brian Disney who got 22 points while John Duggan was close

behind with 21.

KP No. 3 was Blake Priebe and on No. 6, it was Bruce Forbes who landed closest.

LADIES DAY

On March 24 the ladies played with just three clubs of their choice plus a putter, and the winner was Kathy Bergman who netted 75. Second was Heather Cranston with 76.

March 31 saw a "Tic Tac Toe" event where there a point is awarded for first ball on the green, closest to the pin and first in the hole.

The winner was Heather Cranston with 24 points.

A competition for low and high putts for each nine was held April 7.

Jan Watson won the low putts with 12 on the front and 16 on the back while the high putts prize was shared by Joan Stanton and Helen Krantz — but that number was not disclosed.

April 14 saw a nine-hole scramble played in bitterly cold conditions.

After very close scores, the winners were Reni Ducich, Shelley Stunell and Carol Reid with 40.

This was followed by the annual spring lunch and meeting.

COMING EVENTS

The first Ladies' Steak Night will be on Friday May 13 at 5:30 p.m.

FROM THE 19TH HOLE

The Gospel According to St. Titleist

May thy ball lie in green pastures — and not in still waters.

~ Author Unknown

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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, 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 Patterson.

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

May 25 ~ Christina Stoutenburg.

May 27 ~ Cindy Schroeder.

May 28 ~ Mikey Thompson, 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.

MAY ASTROLOGY

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Taureans are seekers of peace and stability. Although unambitious, they are happy to be the powerhouse behind the scenes. They are sensible, healthy cynics who excel in relationships and backgammon.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 21)

Geminis are butterflies by nature, flitting from one attraction to the next. They are particularly drawn to tinfoil and should generally avoid situations involving confetti. They're easily bored but have lively, stimulating minds and can be witty and charming.

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OF MAY

FEDERAL ELECTION PRIMER

THERE ARE 308 SEATS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS UP FOR GRABS:

- Newfoundland and Labrador: 7
- Prince Edward Island: 4
- Nova Scotia: 11
- New Brunswick: 10
- Quebec: 75
- Ontario: 106
- Manitoba: 14
- Saskatchewan: 14
- Alberta: 28
- British Columbia: 36
- Yukon: 1
- Northwest Territories: 1
- Nunavut: 1

NUMBER OF SEATS HELD BY PARTY (OUT OF 308) AT DISSOLUTION:

- Conservatives: 143
- Liberals: 77
- Bloc Québécois: 47
- New Democrats: 36
- Independents: 2
- Vacancies: 3

REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTIES:

- Animal Alliance Environment Voters Party of Canada
- Bloc Québécois
- Canadian Action Party
- Christian Heritage Party of Canada
- Communist Party of Canada
- Conservative Party of Canada
- First Peoples National Party of Canada
- Green Party of Canada
- Liberal Party of Canada
- Libertarian Party of Canada
- Marijuana Party
- Marxist-Leninist Party of Canada
- New Democratic Party
- People's Political Power Party of Canada
- Pirate Party of Canada
- Progressive Canadian Party
- Rhinoceros Party
- United Party of Canada
- Western Block Party

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).

Skookumchuck
viewing
times
~ May ~



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

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

May 1	10:25 am -L, 5:04 pm +XL
May 2	10:38 am -L, 5:46 pm +XL
May 3	10:50 am -XL, 6:27 pm +XL
May 4	10:59 am -XL, 7:07 pm +XL
May 5	11:22 am -XL, 7:47 pm +XL
May 6	12:07 pm -XL, 8:29 pm +XL
May 7	6:49 am +M, 1:08 pm -XL
May 8	7:39 am +M, 2:14 pm -XL
May 9	8:38 am +S, 3:20 pm -L
May 10	10:03 am +S, 4:27 pm -L
May 11	11:50 am +S, 5:34 pm -L
May 12	1:07 pm +M, 6:46 pm -L
May 13	2:18 pm +L, 8:05 pm -M
May 14	8:41 am -L, 3:21 pm +L
May 15	9:21 am -XL, 4:21 pm +XL
May 16	9:40 am -XL, 5:18 pm +XL
May 17	10:33 am -XL, 6:11 pm +XL
May 18	11:26 am -XL, 7:01 pm +XL
May 19	12:17 pm -XL, 7:49 pm +XL
May 20	1:05 pm -XL, 8:35 pm +XL
May 21	1:54 pm -L, 9:19 pm +XL
May 22	8:09 am +S, 2:44 pm -L
May 23	9:28 am +S, 3:35 pm -L
May 24	11:09 am +S, 4:28 pm -M
May 25	12:23 pm +M, 5:26 pm -M
May 26	1:30 pm +M, 6:33 pm -S
May 27	2:29 pm +L, 7:49 pm -S
May 28	9:32 am -L, 3:24 pm +L
May 29	9:59 am -L, 4:13 pm +L
May 30	9:46 am -L, 4:58 pm +XL
May 31	10:12 am -XL, 5:41 pm +XL

These are estimates only and not intended for navigation.

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Little litter problem

By John Wade



Hi John,

My family has a five-year-old neutered male cat named Dusty.

For about four and half years we've never had a problem but over the last few months things have changed.

Dusty is refusing to use his litter box.

We've had numerous tests done (fecal, urine and x-rays) without much to indicate why he stopped.

Then a couple a weeks ago my brother noticed Dusty struggling without success to pee.

We rushed him to the vet and he underwent surgery for a blocked urinary tract.

When he came home he seemed to be interested in using the box again and we figured his problem was due to a lack of control as a result of his urinary problems.

However, he's back to avoiding the litter box again even though we have a box available on every level of the house.

I think he's developed a phobia about the litter box as he seems anxious around it and leaps out as soon as he can after I tried placing



him in one.

My brother thinks it's strictly physical and that we just haven't pinpointed the exact cause.

Or perhaps he might be suffering side effects from the medication

he's on post-surgery?

We love this cat dearly, is there anything we can do to train this cat to use his litter box again.

Thanks,
Alison

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A cartoon illustration of a man in a white shirt and blue overalls, wearing a hard hat, working on a roof with a hammer. The text 'We love roofing!' is written above him.

The logo for Village Vintner, featuring the name in a stylized font with a wine glass graphic.

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Hi Alison,

It could be medication side effects, the same or even a different physical or behavioural issue.

It's possible he's connected the litter box with pain.

It's hard enough to tell what's going on physically and mentally with dogs because they can't talk but even if cats could, I think they'd cling to their privacy with the eccentricity of a reincarnated Howard Hughes.

They hate giving information away.

Litter box problems are probably the most common early warning that a cat is seriously distressed.

The problem is pinpointing the problem.

It's not normally a part of the

yearly physical for pets but I believe every pet should have blood work done each year, particularly when they're healthy, so the veterinarian has a baseline to compare to.

When it's not a physical issue it's almost always cleanliness.

After a while some cats see their litter box like they're a crime scene investigator with black lights for eyeballs.

I always recommend throwing away all litter boxes and replacing with new and it's amazing how often that gets things on track.

Cleaning alone rarely works.

It won't be conclusive, but one way to test if this is a behaviour problem is to try different litter in an object the cat is less likely to connect with the traditional litter box.

Something without sides for instance.

You could try just a large piece of cardboard with litter on it.

I understand it might be messy but if your cat starts to use the area you can start introducing something with a slight edge, like a cookie sheet and later a regular tray.

Good luck.

Regards,
John Wade

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

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Roofing choices bring comfort and environmental benefits



By Alan Stewart

May is a great time to take stock of your property maintenance needs.

If you've been faced with puddles of water on the floor or flapping blue tarps on the roof while waiting for the dry days of summer, why not consider some alternative roofing materials?

They may be the solution for a more comfortable home and add value to your property.

While the traditional tar shingle roof continues to be the cost effective choice for home owners, the dark absorptive surfaces tend to increase temperatures within the home, even with significant insulation and ventilation in the attic.

If you've ever stuck your head in that rectangular access hatch in the late afternoon on a hot summer's day, you'll know what I mean.

And if you have vaulted ceilings without the protective barrier of an attic the heat within the house can be unbearable.

Warmer temperatures are not only uncomfortable for humans and pets, but they have a significant effect on the lifespan of a roof.

That means the cost savings on



the front end may be reduced over time as hot roofing products may not meet their full life expectancy.

In dense urban areas, warm surfaces also contribute to the build-up of heat which can lead to an increase in summertime peak energy demand, air conditioning costs, air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, heat-related illness and even mortality.

On a hot summer's day the rooftop temperature of a black surface can climb to nearly 32 C compared to only 10 C on a white roof.

Cool roofs use materials that reflect solar energy and as a result, yield

less air conditioning, lower costs and longer life spans of roofing materials.

It's a win-win for the pocket book and the environment.

For residential buildings, cool roof materials can include clay and concrete tiles, metal coating and composite shingles.

They come in a wide range of colours and the composite shingles can't be visually distinguished from standard roofs.

Even choosing conventional shingles in white or grey will make a difference in the house temperature and won't cost you more.

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COMPOSITE SHINGLES

Composite shingles are a blend of various roofing materials and additives that makes the composite shingle high quality.

Composite shingles are recognized for their durability.

While other roof shingles last on average about 15 to 20 years, composite shingles are usually warranted for

30-50 years.

Today composite shingles are manufactured with a range of special additives allowing for some attractive features, such as those that make them resistant to algae and moss and UV degradation as well as colouring to resemble cedar shakes.

Composite shingles do not crack, split, blister, peel or warp.

CONCRETE AND CLAY

Concrete and clay roof tiles come in many forms, and from many areas of the world.

While concrete roof tiles have only been on the scene for the past 100 years or so, clay tiles have been produced for a millennium and have certainly proven themselves.

But not all clay tiles are the same as some regions of the world produce clay that is too porous, therefore not freeze-thaw resistant or resistant to water permeability — certainly an issue in our area.

Beyond their esthetics, fireproof characteristics and durability, clay tiles have great insulation values and naturally reflect the sun's heat.

GREEN ROOFS

An environmentally friendly roofing option is a "green roof," which uses rooftop vegetation to lower house temperatures and in turn reduce urban heat and energy use, manage storm water runoff, enhance biodiversity, and improve air quality.

The cost of building a green roof varies greatly depending on structural costs as well as the depth of soil, the plants, the size of the roof, the need for an irrigation system and whether the green roof is accessible for your family to enjoy.

When deciding on roofing material, it's wise to consider more than just the price per square foot.

Adding a green roof or alternative heat reflective roofing surface may add years of comfort in the summer and carefree living throughout the rest of the year.

Not only that, a unique roof can add character and charm to your property which can ultimately add value to your investment.

Please send any suggestions for future columns to alan@sunshine-coasthomes.com.

Denture dilemma dissolved

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

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

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

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

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

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

denture can be anchored.

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

In studies, dental implants are shown to preserve bone and reduce gum tissue loss — all problems faced by patients who have had their teeth removed.

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

Would implant-supported dentures make a difference in your life?

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



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What do you really know about golf?

By Tony Rabachuk

Maybe you know what a golf ball looks like and that you hit it off the grass with a club.

If you do, then you know as much as I did when I was invited out for a game with my friends.

At first I was skeptical but I got up early that Saturday morning and decided to give it a try.

But when I landed in the parking lot I couldn't believe my eyes.

A large club house sat surrounded by enormous trees, small lakes and flowing creeks — the scenery was breathtaking.

I didn't own clubs so it was decided that I was going to share with my friend.

I walked into the clubhouse and joined them for coffee and conversation as we awaited our tee time.

Someone noticed I wasn't wearing a collared shirt.

Whoops. You see, the game of golf has many rules and a dress code is one of them.

Luckily, the club house was able to rent a shirt to me for the day.

Good etiquette is required on and around the grounds, from the way you look to the way you talk.

Now that I'm properly clothed I need to purchase my ticket or green fees as they call it.

With my passport to play in hand, my group of four made our way to the first tee box (the designated area from which you take your first shot at the start of every hole).

There are 18 holes in a round of golf and since we had to wait for the group in front of us for a few minutes, it seemed a good time to do a few stretches and get an idea about the game.

So from what my friends told me, this is what I am trying to accomplish.

Basically, I am supposed to try to hit the golf ball from the tee to the other end which is called the green.

On the green is a flag marking a hole in the ground called the cup.

My tools to accomplish this job are a set of 14 golf clubs.

Each club is chosen and designed for various types of shots and distances.

At the beginning of every hole the golf ball is put on a tee which supports the ball above the ground.

A club called the driver is used to hit the ball as far as I can down the area called the fairway.

Once the ball is on the fairway I have to hit the ball straight off the grass with another club called an iron or a wood.

My next shot or two will be aimed towards the flag and, hopefully, end up on the green.

Once on the green a club called the putter is used to finesse the ball into the hole.

I then need to calculate my shots

and record it on the score card.

This process will be repeated for all 18 holes.

All I need to do is hit the ball from one end to the other end and put it in the cup using the least number of shots (or strokes as they call it).

It sounds easy enough — let's play.

After stepping up on the box and placing my tee and ball in the ground, I line up my driver to the ball.

I take a back swing, then a forward swing, and bang, there it goes straight down the fairway.

Nice shot.

After we all finished scattering our respective balls all over the fairway, it's time to go find them.

An average shot from the tee can be as short as 25 yards to 250 or more.

Any given hole can be 100 yards to a length of about 500 hundred yards, so be prepared to do a lot of walking.

Finally, I have reached my ball.

Now I have to decide how far I am to the green, and what club to use.

Sometimes there are distance markers in the area of your ball that give you an idea just how far it is to the green.

While I'm waiting to borrow my friend's club, I'll look to find a marker.

I have 180 yards to the green.

Out of the 14 clubs I decide to try my partner's four iron.

I aim the ball towards the flag and gave it my best shot.

Boom. And away it goes landing right on the green.

"Yeah! Good shot," yells my friend.

All this walking turns out to be a great opportunity to chat a little, take



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advantage of the beautiful scenery on a gorgeous day while getting acquainted with the other players.

When we all get to the green, I have to evaluate the terrain and determine the best path to put the ball in the hole.

I realize that it is about 25 feet away, so with putter in hand, I line up the shot and hit it towards the cup.

It just misses and rolls to a stop three feet away.

If the ball were two feet or less from the cup my friends would throw me my ball and call it a “gimme.”

But it isn’t so I line it up and tap it into the cup.

When we’re all done I record my score while we walk to the next hole and repeat it 17 more times.

It took fours to play and by the end of it, I was completely amazed, physically exhausted and anxious to play again.

You should understand that golf isn’t a game of high speed or aggression like other sports.

Instead, it is more of a personal game that requires a lot of patience, skill and time.

From experience, it’s not a good idea to share clubs with another player, it just doesn’t work. (Also, many courses do not allow it.)

Make sure you have your own or you can rent some at the golf course.

You can set up a game for a group of four, as a twosome or as a single and join a group of three.

I now understand the game is more than just a sport.

Golf can be a healthy escape from the drudgery of everyday life, recharging your mind, body and soul. Get out and try it.



3rd Annual Mad Hatters Mother's Day Tea

Saturday, May 7th, 2011
Madeira Park Legion Hall
Time: 1:30pm - 3:30pm
Admission: \$10-Adult; \$2 - Children

Door Prizes

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Wei Hsu: The first non-native Pender Harbourite (Part X)



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

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

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

By Anne Crocker

Part X: (Continued from April 2011)

After unexpectedly selling off his entire accumulation of preserved salmon to his Sechelt neighbours, Wei Hsu spent much of the winter of 1874 fishing and fine-tuning his rudimentary cannery.

Cutting and shaping pieces of tin before soldering them into cans by hand was slow and prone to failure.

Hsu's attempts at teaching Qwuní to solder the tins failed.

Qwuní thought it women's work and Hsu alone was left responsible for producing the cans.

Even with Hsu's practiced hands, a predictable portion of the cans that went through the canning process failed during the cooking stage.

Canning wasted a lot of fish and labour but when it worked, Hsu was able to stockpile salmon for long periods of time while awaiting buyers.

Up until that point, buyers for his and Lucy's salmon were infrequent and random.

When the weather suited it, he'd sometimes take as much smoked and canned salmon as he could carry over to Nanaimo.

There he'd often trade it for supplies in the bustling Chinatown district near the waterfront.

Lucy didn't know that those supplies often contained a generous package of opium.

He'd arrive home with equipment or tools and flour but steal away one package out of sight.

Lucy accepted Hsu's fondness for opium but didn't like how it seemed to stifle his ambition.

Increasingly, she found she was covering for him when he was under its spell.

Much of the profit from their salmon sales went directly back into outfitting the shed over the water in front of their home

It was fast becoming a legitimate processing plant.

Smoking salmon hung from an enclosed loft which received the benefits of fires smouldering below.

Nearby were salting vats and the drying racks while just outside the entrance to the shed, stood a large cookstove under a lean-to.

It was a rough appliance but provided a hot fire for the massive cook pot that held over a dozen large tins at a time.

Here the filled tins were cooked.

Hsu's operation wasn't nearly on the scale as some of the developing canneries down on the Fraser River but during the peak canning periods in the summer they were able to can 400 to 500 cans a week — just as long as they had enough cans on hand.

What couldn't be canned was salted or smoked and the three men were able to stockpile a sizable amount of salmon, even through the winter season when the salmon were scarce.

Throughout that winter Hsu found they were barely able to keep up with the demand for both the canned and salted salmon they were producing.

Surveyors, government agents, loggers and whaling crews were passing through Pender Harbour with much more frequency than the year before.

As the Vancouver sawmills set up logging camps in nearby inlets, Hsu's Pender Harbour

Harbour Spiel



Image courtesy of Hsu family archives

Irvines Landing, May 1875. This painting by Mary Hsu shows the Hsu family home on the left and the smokehouse/cannery on the right that was fast becoming known not only for canned and smoked salmon but other staples like bread and eggs.

canning enterprise was the closest thing to civilization for many of the transient workers.

As the number of visitors grew, Lucy realized there was a growing opportunity for trade.

As the winter turned to the spring of 1875, she found she could easily sell loaves of bread or extra eggs from her chickens.

Soon the saltery shed was doing double duty as a trading post for transient boaters.

While the men were off fishing, she and Inix prepared items to sell along with canned or salted salmon.

If one of the men happened to shoot a deer, Lucy made sure to mention to anyone that stopped in that she had fresh venison available.

By that summer, word had spread about the Chinese man and his Indian wife and it was fast

becoming a regular port of call for many of the men who worked nearby.

Not all of his customers were polite and Hsu was well aware of the nicknames many called their operation.

“Chink Point” was recognized to refer to Wei Hsu’s Pender Harbour home but he was an easy-going man and had seen far worse than the racism encountered here.

Still, he didn’t like leaving his wife and daughter home alone while fishing during the busy season and usually tried to ensure either he, Qwuní or Smqáma remained nearby.

But most who stopped in welcomed human contact with Hsu and his family and a loaf of fresh baked bread.

(Continued next month)

Page 45

BC Bestsellers:

(For the week of April 17)

1. *Quinoa 365* by Patricia Green & Carolyn Hemming
2. *Backyard Bounty* by Linda Gilkeson
3. *Patriot Hearts* by John Furlong
4. *Adventures in Solitude* by Grant Lawrence
5. *Trauma Farm* by Brian Brett
6. *The Zero-Mile Diet* by Carolyn Herriot
7. *Vij's at Home* by Meeru Dhalwala & Vikram Vij
8. *The Sentimentalists* by Johanna Skibsrud
9. *How Bad are Bananas?* by Mike Berners-Lee
10. *Voices of British Columbia* by Robert Budd

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BOOKS

Nightwood Editions excerpt: Joe Denham's



Excerpt from
*The Year of Broken
Glass* by Joe Denham
(Nightwood Editions)

The wind gusts
up and I look into its
cold flare.

Something float-
ing to the north on the choppy, dark-
blue water catches the sunlight and
shines and glimmers like a mirror.

I retrieve my binoculars from the
cabin and spy what looks like a light-
blue, translucent ball through them.

An old glass fishing float adrift, I
assume.

Although this is an unheard-of
rarity in waters this far inland, my first
thought is not to bother with it.

Jin Su gave birth to our daughter
Emily on the first of January this year.

Anna and I had taken Willow to
her parents in Sicamous for the holi-
days, a tradition we established when
Willow was born.

The previous winter I had
thought over Christmas dinner with
Anna's folks to use the elevated holi-
day price for live crab as an excuse to
bus home early on Boxing Day and
be with Jin Su, at the time a new and
unfamiliar lover overwhelming my
thoughts and desires, my ability to be
present in any place or time without
her.

I used the ensuing snowstorm
to postpone my returning to retrieve
her and Willow for two weeks while
Jin Su and I huddled in the shelter of
each other in the middle of the snow-
hushed city.

I did the same this past season,
so Emily was born into my hands,
wailing with her otherworldly fire,
in Jin Su's little apartment in South
Vancouver in the early hours of Janu-
ary first, dawn just breaking over the

city of glass.

And ever since that day, glass is
what I've broken.

Unwittingly I've sent countless
drinking glasses from the kitchen
counter to the tile floor, shattering.

I broke the tempered glass above
our covered sundeck while cleaning it
of cedar debris, the bathroom window
while playing baseball with Willow
in the yard, and Anna's stained-glass
lamp, bashing into it with my head.

I dropped to the tile two of the
three 30-litre glass jugs we use to
retrieve pristine drinking water from
the public artesian well in nearby
Gibsons, and the last I tossed empty
into the back seat of my SuperCab
where it bounced off a tote of mend-
ing wire spools and smashed out the
rear window.

I've taken to wearing contacts—
I'm nearsighted—which I hate, and
have tucked my glasses away at the
back of Anna's underwear drawer,
hopefully safe from the jinx that's
come upon me.

So my first thought is to consider
the retrieval of the distant float to be
futile, as I'll more than likely smash it
to bits just trying to bring it aboard.

I look again through the bin-
oculars (it's a miracle they've thus
far been spared) and of course I can't
resist.

So I set the last trap and buoy
line out and fire up the engine.

As I approach the float I drive the
boat just beyond it, turn perpendicular
to the northerly chop, then shut the
engine down and step out on deck as
the boat drifts slowly downwind.

It's of the lightest blue and
opalescent like oil, and as the orb of it
bobs on the rippling water a rainbow
of colour seems to swirl upon its inner

BOOKS

The Year of Broken Glass

surface.

I imagine all sorts of shatterings as I drift to within arm's reach, dip my hands in and cradle it onto the boat.

Held close, its opalescence disappears and it seems a grimy, timeworn ball of thick blue glass.

Amazing — assuming that it wasn't set adrift in the inlet, but travelled in from the Georgia Strait and likely the open Pacific beyond — that it made it through those waters and the narrow, tumultuous mouth of the

Skookumchuck intact.

How old is this thing?

And where did it come from?

It's almost hypnotic, this ball of flotsam, as I turn it round and round in my warming hands, dismissing my previous fear for its integrity in my care, certain it has weathered worse.

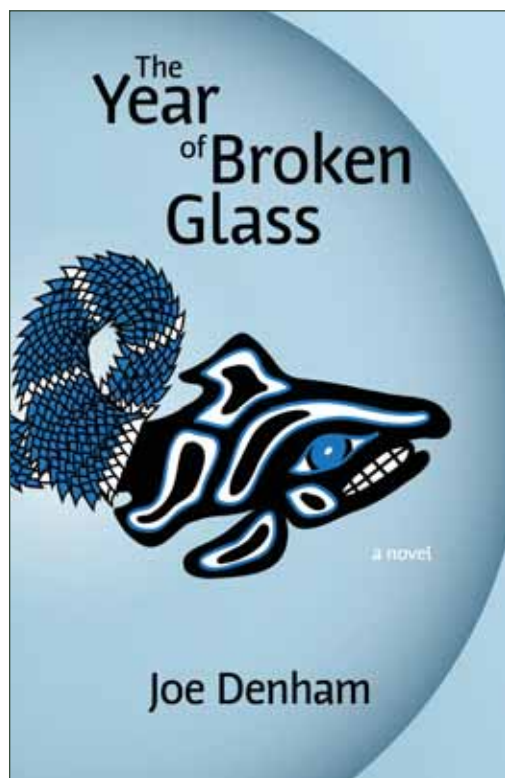
There's a large insignia stamped into the glass: a strange-looking serpentine fish with a forked, triple-finned tail, each fin splayed out and conjoined with the others at its base like a fan.

It's like no fish I've ever seen or heard of, like something from another world.

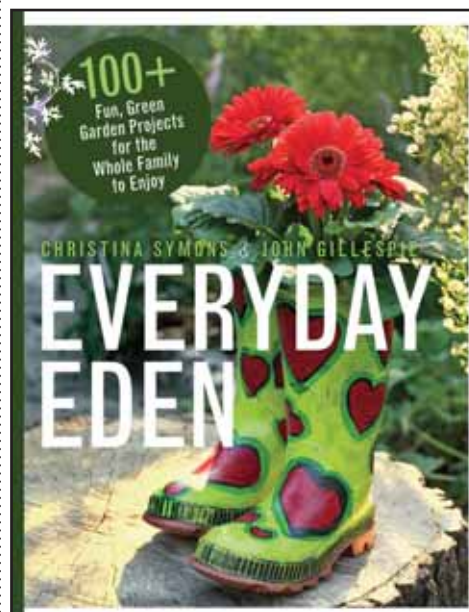
Joe Denham is the author of two poetry collections, *Flux* (2003) and *Windstorm* (2009), and one novel, *The Year of Broken Glass* (2011).

His work has appeared in numerous magazines and anthologies including *Open Field: 30 Contemporary Canadian Poets*, *The New Canon: An Anthology of Canadian Poetry* and *Breathing Fire 2: Canada's New Poets*.

He lives with his wife and two children in Halfmoon Bay and works as a commercial fisherman throughout coastal British Columbia.



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Time flies like an arrow, fruit flies like a banana. (Groucho Marx)

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Eight is enough to ask for more from this election campaign

By Shane McCune



A lot of pundits have labelled this “the election about nothing.”

It certainly could have been about so much more. Here are eight big, fat “non-issues” that could have and should have been discussed during the campaign.

1. CHILD POVERTY

In November 1989, with one in eight Canadian children living in poverty, the House of Commons unanimously passed a resolution to pursue “the goal of eliminating poverty among Canadian children by the year 2000.”

More than two decades later that fraction hasn’t budged, leaving Canada 22nd-worst of the 31 OECD countries in terms of child poverty. More than 3 million Canadians are poor and 610,000 of them are children.

On the other hand, even well-fed kids can’t vote.

2. HEALTH CARE

Yes, the words “health care” cropped up frequently during the campaign, with all sides agreeing that medicare is in trouble.

But I don’t recall much in the way of specific proposals from any party beyond a promise from all of them to maintain the six-per-cent annual bump in medicare transfer payments to the provinces.

Health costs as a percentage of GDP declined slightly in 2010. But serious problems remain and will get worse as the population ages.

Former Bank of Canada governor David Dodge, now employed by the conservative C.D. Howe Institute, lobbed a grenade into the election campaign with a call for an “adult conversation” about medicare, which is code for more privatization.

Well, maybe that’s what we need. I doubt it, but after seeing how brainwashed Americans cling to the most expensive and unfair health care system in the G8, we should take care not to be equally dogmatic in defence of our own.

The current 10-year accord on health care between the feds and the provinces expires in 2014. Who should be at the negotiating table?

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3. THE ENVIRONMENT.

Seems only yesterday Canadians told pollsters this was their No. 1 concern. Of course, that was before the recession.

Pound for pound, we’re just about the worst greenhouse gas generators in the world. Tarsands development will make this exponentially worse, and the European Parliament is already muttering about sanctions against Canada.



Don’t laugh. Our forest industry started hugging trees as well as cutting them when Greens pushed for a boycott of B.C. lumber unless we slowed the cull of old growth.

And how did we manage to get through an election without talking about the epidemic of boil-water advisories across the country? Especially in First Nations communities, which brings us to . . .

4. ABORIGINAL ISSUES

Again, hardly a peep about this, but that’s no surprise. First Nations may be the fastest growing populations in Canada, but they’re too widely dispersed to make an impact on any but a handful of ridings.

One of the first things Stephen Harper did on taking power was to rip up the Kelowna Accord. That 2005 document, hammered out over 18 months, was the first comprehensive plan involving federal, provincial, territorial and native governments to improve employment, education and living conditions for First Nations.

The First Nations population has more than doubled in the past 30 years. More than half of all aboriginal people are under 25. Let’s see . . . hundreds of thousands of idle, ill-educated young people living in impoverished isolation from the general population. What could possibly go wrong?

5. FOREIGN POLICY

There hasn’t been much debate about Canada’s changing role and image in the world, despite our humiliating defeat in elections to the UN Security Council. Canada pioneered the UN peacekeeping force, and



AND ANOTHER THING...

as recently as 1992 was the single largest contributor of personnel to UN peacekeeping missions. Last year we ranked 55th, right behind Slovakia and just ahead of Yemen. Bangladesh has 10,700 soldiers wearing blue berets; we have 50.

Of course we have deployed thousands of troops on NATO missions from Bosnia to Afghanistan, and now Libya. We've gone from UN peacemaker to U.S. powder monkey. Shouldn't we talk about that?

6. FREE TRADE

Speaking of our closest allies, they're still screwing us on free trade.

When U.S. President Barack Obama and Congress introduced their 2009 stimulus package to fight the recession, it included "Buy American" provisions that were flagrant violations of trade agreements. Our negotiators managed to win the right of Canadian companies to bid on a few contracts — days before tenders closed in February 2010, with 98 per cent of stimulus cash already earmarked.

But the Americans won wide-open access to bid on Canadian infrastructure projects worth \$25 billion until September 2011.

During the election? Not a murmur from anybody, not even the NDP.

7. PROHIBITION

When, oh when, will one or more of the federal parties muster the guts to legalize marijuana? Like its 1920s alcohol-based forerunner, weed prohibition criminalizes a huge swath of otherwise law-abiding citizens, funds gangs, drains police resources and clogs courts.

There have been umpteen committees and commissions since the 1970s recommending legalization or at least decriminalization, but neither Tories nor Grits seem



inclined to risk offending our paranoid neighbours to the south. The NDP seems scared of being considered flaky.

Speaking of drugs, a research paper published in the U.K. medical journal *The Lancet* in the last two weeks of the campaign showed Vancouver's supervised injection site has reduced overdose deaths significantly. But the Harper government is pressing ahead with its May 12 appeal in the Supreme Court of Canada to shut it down.

Another court has ruled criminal sanctions against possession of marijuana bought on the street are unconstitutional as long as medical users cannot obtain the drug through proper channels.

Deafening silence.

8. ELECTORAL REFORM

Our first-past-the-post system isn't working. It contributes to voter apathy and arrogance on the part of "winners" who can snag a majority of Commons seats with well under 40 per cent of the vote, then run roughshod over the Opposition.

Germany, New Zealand and Scotland all use some form of mixed member proportional representation, which assigns seats both to individual winning candidates and to parties according to popular vote. Such a system would almost certainly give the Greens a seat or two while spreading power beyond the big city ridings of southern Ontario and Quebec.

The Conservatives and Liberals are cool to the idea; they're both heavily invested in the winner-take-all FPTP system and don't care for the idea of a Parliament where compromise and co-operation would be the norm.

But the NDP, Bloc Québécois and Greens should be giving this the hard sell. Not only does it serve their interests, it might prove popular with voters.

It's too late for any of these ideas to gain traction in this election. But it may not be long before they get another chance.

Depending on Monday's vote, winners and losers alike may not be sending their signs to the recycling depot just yet.



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. April 29.....Registration for the 5th Annual Garden Bay Classic Fishing Derby - 3 days
Sat. April 30.....10th annual April Tools Wooden Boat Challenge - Millennium Park, races start at 2 p.m.
Sun. May 1.....Sunday Jam w/ Larrie Cook and the Blues Masters - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
Mon. May 2.....FEDERAL ELECTION VOTING
Mon. May 2.....P. H. Food Bank pickup - P. H. Community Church, noon
Thurs. May 5-8.....IGA spring gardening parking lot sale - IGA Madeira Park
Fri. May 6-17.....Harbour Gallery presents “Abstracted” featuring J. Malaka, W. Simmonds and S. Harrison.
Sat. May 7.....3rd annual Mad Hatters Mothers Day Tea - P. H. Legion, 1:30 p.m.
Sun. May 8.....Mother’s Day
Sun. May 8.....Sunday Jam w/ Gaetan and the French Connection - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
Tues. May 10.....P. H. Women’s Connection gathering discusses Eldercollege - P. H. School of Music, 10 a.m.
Thurs. May 12-14.....“Baskets! Paper! Color!” with Jackie Abrams - FibreWorks Studio & Gallery
Sat. May 14.....P. H. Music Society presents The Euphorics - P. H. School of Music, 8 p.m.
Sun. May 15.....Sunday Jam w/ Gaetan and the French Connection - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
Mon. May 16.....P. H. Food Bank pickup - P. H. Community Church, noon
Mon. May 16-18.....“(Re)Cover the Surface” with Jackie Abrams - Fibreworks Studio & Gallery
Sat. May 21.....66th May Day
Sun. May 22.....Attack of Danger Bay 10 downhill longboard race - shuttle bus pickup at the Oak Tree Market
Sun. May22.....Sunday Jam w/ Peter B3 and guests - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
Tues. May 24.....P. H. Women’s Connection annual general meeting - P. H. School of Music, 10 a.m.
Sun. May 29.....23rd annual Garden Bay Golf Classic - P. H. Golf Course, 10 a.m.
Sun. May 29.....Sunday Jam and golf tourney wrap w/ Larrie Cook - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
Mon. May 30.....P. H. Food Bank pick up - P. H. Community Church, noon
Fri. June 3-5.....P. H. Blues Festival - three days, various locations

FERRY DEPARTURES

~ Effective to May 18, 2011 ~

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	Horseshoe Bay	Earl's Cove	Saltery Bay
6:20 a.m.	7:20 a.m.	◆ 6:30 a.m.	◆ 5:35 a.m.
8:20 a.m.	9:20 a.m.	8:25 a.m.	7:25 a.m.
10:20 a.m.	10:00 a.m. (Apr. 22 only)	10:25 p.m.	9:25 a.m.
11:00 a.m. (Apr. 22 only)	11:20 a.m.	12:20 p.m.	11:20 a.m.
12:20 p.m.	1:20 p.m.	4:25 p.m.	3:20 a.m.
2:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m. (Apr. 25 only)	6:25 p.m.	5:25 p.m.
3:00 p.m. (Apr. 25 only)	3:30 p.m.	8:20 p.m.	7:20 p.m.
4:30 p.m.	4:00 p.m. (Apr. 21 only)	10:05 p.m.	9:15 p.m.
5:00 p.m. (Apr. 21 only)	5:30 p.m.		
6:30 p.m.	7:25 p.m.		
8:20 p.m.	9:15 p.m.		
♥ April 22 only	◆ April 25 only	◆ Daily except Sunday.	

Deep Thoughts . . .

“Friendship is like peeing your pants. Everyone can see it,
but only you can feel its warmth.”

— Jack Handey



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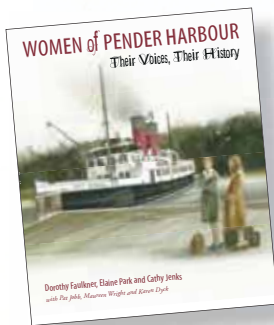


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- MAY 8: Joe Stanton & the Precious Littles
- MAY 15: Gaetan & the French Connection
- MAY 22: Peter B3 & guests
- MAY 29: 22nd Annual Garden Bay Golf Classic
w/ Larrie Cook & the Bluesmasters

Pub Specials

- FRIDAY: All U can eat fish and chips \$14 (5-7 p.m.)
- FRIDAY: Meat Draws - Proceeds to P.H. Blues Society
- WEDNESDAY: Wing Night (5-8 p.m.)
- SATURDAY: Prime Rib
- SUNDAY: Eggs Benny



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