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# HARBOUR SPIEL

January 2026  
Issue 421



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Harbour Spiel



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## EDITOR

Brian Lee

## CIRCULATION (2,300)

Copies of the *Harbour Spiel* are mailed free to 1,375 homes between Egmont and Middlepoint and are available by paid subscription and free at locations throughout the Sunshine Coast.

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

## CONTRIBUTORS

**This month we thank:** Moe Colton, Brian Croft, Leonard Lee, Colin Levings, Robert Livingston, Shane McCune, Powell River Museum and Patti Soos.

## COVER

Mount Daniel fights to block Dec. 9's mid-morning sunrise. (Brian Lee photo)

## ADVERTISING

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February issue mails Jan. 30  
Advertising bookings before Jan. 15

## editorial

# How I made a waffle from a molehill



Brian Lee

In case anyone thinks it's easy to run this little rag, a mini controversy erupted last month that might change your mind.

“Wafflegate” started out as an innocent good news story in which the Pender Harbour and Area Residents’ Association announced a solution to the perilous fate of Madeira Park’s community gardens.

On Nov. 14, PHARA issued the following:

“The good news is that once the roof is replaced, the Pender Harbour Community Club has agreed to take over both maintenance and fundraising for the gardens.”

Yay.

Since it was an extremely simple story and PHARA has always been reliable, I might have just run with it.

But I thought I should be a good reporter and quickly confirm from the PHCC that it was accurate.

I also wanted to give the PHCC an opportunity to claim some well-deserved good will for saving this community asset.

I’ll admit to a bias here — two generations of my family have served on the community club board and I include it as one of our most important community organizations.

But I was also on a deadline with 20 other minor distractions flooding my inbox so I was just expecting a quick confirmation that the club would indeed maintain the gardens after the hall’s roof was completed.

A few days later, a PHCC board member confirmed by email that the board had agreed to take on the gardens.

That was all I needed to put this story to bed and wait for my Canadian Association of Journalists award to arrive for breaking this nugget.

In hindsight, I should have paid more attention to the part where he also hinted that PHARA’s announcement only reflected “somewhat what the board has agreed to.”

He insisted I contact the president of the PHCC for their official response.

“No, nothing has been decided yet,” she told me.

“We the community club are busy trying to get the hall project underway and we have not made a decision on the gardens as of yet.”

Suddenly my simple little story had taken a complicated turn.

I had one “yes,” one partial “yes” and one “no.”

Now confused, I sought further clarification:

“OK, so why has PHARA announced that the community club has then? I’m confused,” I asked.

“It is community club property, I am sure we will have to figure something out,” she said.

“We just need to do the roof project right now.”

In my story, I described this inconvenient contradiction as a “waffle,” which prompted the PHCC’s response on p. 10.

One definition of waffling is “to avoid making a definitive decision.”

Perhaps I might have used “wavered” or “hesitated” instead.

But I still would have been wrong because the issue now seems to be that PHARA may have taken the club’s partial commitment as a full one, and then I distorted it further.

I apologize for adding to the muddle.

To clarify for anyone still confused, the PHCC did not “waffle” but are simply unable to commit to the maintenance of the gardens until after their roof construction is completed.

(But they might.)

**P. H. MUSIC SOCIETY PRESENTS J. P. CORMIER: Sun. Jan. 11, 2 p.m.**

“Stories and Songs from the Heart,” live, from Cape Breton, the Pender Harbour Music Society is pleased to welcome singer/songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and storyteller, J. P. Cormier. With a career spanning decades, J. P. has earned accolades for his virtuosic guitar playing, heartfelt lyrics and rich, soulful voice. His music transcends genres and borders, blending elements of folk, bluegrass, Celtic and country.

**P. H. WOMEN'S CONNECTION PRESENTS SIMON GIDORA AND ISABELLA PERRON: Tue. Jan. 27, 10 a.m.**

The Pender Harbour Women's Connection is ushering in 2026 by proudly presenting Simon Gidora with his partner, Isabella Perron, on Jan. 27. Although this young couple are developing an international music career, they have chosen to make Madeira Park their home.

Gidora was raised on the Coast and began his musical career early in life taking violin lessons and performing with the Coast String Fiddlers (which he now conducts). As a teenager his astounding violin solo in the Pender Harbour Chamber Music 2014 festival “Rising Star” program, raised many eyebrows in admiration. In the same year, he was part of the highly acclaimed Forza String Quartet. As well as continuing violin studies, he went on to study voice, conducting, piano and composition. Since returning to the Sunshine Coast, he has taken on a plethora of musical duties, including an active teaching schedule and conducting the Sunshine Coast Community Orchestra.

Perron, born in Montreal, is also a multitalented musician — violinist, violist, singer, and pianist — known for her expressive artistry and belief in music's healing power. She also began her musical life early, with her solo debut at age 7 and the release of her first album at age 12. She is now performing world-wide.

Although both have extensive classical academic training, they embrace many genres and have received numerous awards. Together, they have formed Duo Mycelia, a multi-genre duo that writes and performs original music across Canada. Come along and meet these talented young musicians who will tell a bit of their background, why they came here, future plans, and will entice us to embrace the new year by performing some lively Celtic tunes.

Pender Harbour School of Music doors open at 9:30 a.m.. Drop-in fee is \$4 and refreshments are included.

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# Loon Foundation bulks up board at Nov. 29 AGM

The Loon Foundation has re-established a full board of directors after dropping to the minimum required under the societies act in October.

The *Harbour Spiel* reported in November that the organization behind the PODS project lost five of seven directors shortly before its longtime executive director, Michael Jackson, also stepped down.

At the foundation's annual general meeting in Madeira Park on Nov. 29, the board was restored with seven new directors stepping up to help guide the non-profit during the construction phase of its \$30 million-plus PODS project in Irvines Landing.

In addition to returning directors Lana Brandt, interim executive director, Will Corse and Brendan Glauer, the Loon Foundation has added:



**Candace T. Campo (xets'ems'a)**, cultural director for the shíshálh Nation, anthropologist, and founder of Talaysay Tours.



**the hiwus (Chief) Lenora Joe**, Chief of the shíshálh Nation and community leader.



Justin Trudeau.



**Mike McDermid**, founding member of the Ocean Wise seafood program and co-founder of The Fish Counter, an award-winning sustainable seafood market and restaurant in Vancouver.

award-winning sustainable seafood market and restaurant in Vancouver.



**Kathy Minehan**, a Sunshine Coast resident and professional geologist (retired) with over 30 years in environmental consulting, including environmental field investigations, technical reporting and senior project management.



**Bob Patrick**, a long-time resident of Sechelt, professor of geography and planning at the University of Saskatchewan and a member of the Global Institute for Water Security.



**Christine Thomas**, a registered professional biologist with over 25 years in environmental consulting, specializing in assessing and managing the impacts of contaminants on the environment.

From a Dec. 5 Loon Foundation

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statement:

“These individuals bring expertise in biology, geography, shíshálh Nation culture, water security, renewable energy, communications and fundraising, strengthening the foundation’s ability to expand its impact and advance its mission.

“The Loon Foundation is a registered non-profit charity “dedicated to protecting biodiversity, connecting people with the natural world, and fostering responsible stewardship for future generations.

“Developed in close collaboration with the shíshálh Nation, the Pacific Ocean Discovery Station (PODS) will be a vibrant, net-zero facility that inspires, engages, and empowers all its visitors, students and academic researchers with the wonders of the coastal waters of our region.

“PODS aims to demonstrate by example that scientifically-driven decision-making is essential to finding viable solutions to the most pressing environmental challenges of our time.”

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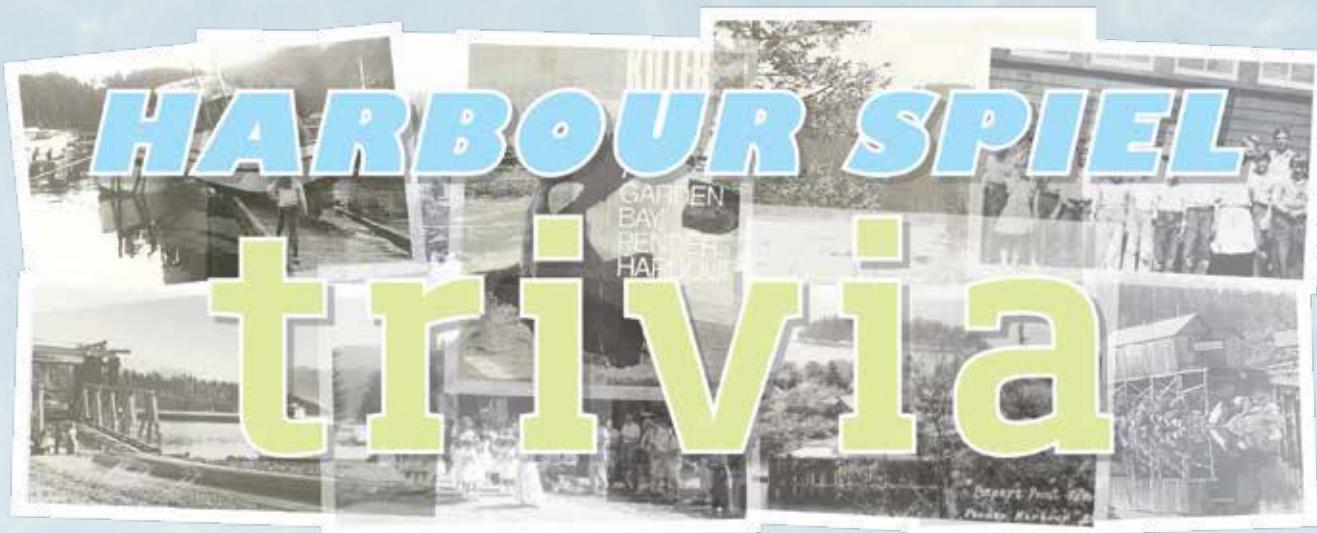
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**1. What grades does the Pender Harbour Secondary School accommodate?**

- a. 6-12
- b. 7-12
- c. 8-12
- d. 9-12

**2. What year did the Egmont Heritage Centre open?**

- a. 1976
- b. 1986
- c. 1996
- d. 2006

**3. Where does Anderson Creek empty into?**

- a. Bargain Harbour
- b. Oyster Bay
- c. Agamemnon Channel
- d. Silver Sands

**4. What is the previous name of Garden Bay's Dan's Grill and Greens?**

- a. Colonel Flounder's
- b. Frances's Take Out
- c. Lucy's Fish and Chips
- d. LaVerne's Grill

**5. What was the name of the recently demolished fish boat at the entrance to Madeira Park?**

- a. *Harbour Calm*
- b. *Harbour Pride*
- c. *Harbour Spirit*
- d. *Harbour Hope*

**6. What is a "whistlepunk?"**

- a. logger sending signal by steam whistle
- b. 1950s Dept. of Fisheries officer
- c. Overloaded logging truck
- d. Sports fishing slang for feisty pink salmon

Answers: p. 34

Four-plus: **Local**

Two-plus: **Newbie**

Less than two: **Townie**

## Anodonta: Fresh water mussels of Hotel Lake

The Hotel Lake Advisory Association continues to expand residents' understanding of local freshwater ecology.

This summer, Brian Croft was taking video of a prickly sculpin dashing about in Hotel Lake when he said the camera caught "something."

"Some weeks later when editing I saw this weird looking creature, so I froze the frame and took a screenshot," Croft said.

It turned out to be Anodonta, a genus of freshwater mussel.

Croft told the *Harbour Spiel* that the precise identity (scientific names include the genus and species, as in "Homo sapiens") is not easy to find.

Although only seven species of freshwater mussels exist in the Pacific Northwest, it is no simple task to positively identify the mussels in Hotel Lake.

The reasons for this are further explained on the HLAA website at [www.hotellakeadvisory.com/freshwa](http://www.hotellakeadvisory.com/freshwa)

termussels.

It wasn't a new discovery — anyone who has snorkelled in local lakes has likely seen signs of mussels but Croft said "It may come as a surprise how important these small creatures are to the health of the lake."

According to the HLAA "mussels" page, nearly three-quarters of the 297 native freshwater mussel species in North America are believed to be imperilled and in the last century, 35 species are thought to have become extinct.

Freshwater mussels often live in densely populated groups or beds, partially buried in the sand, gravel or silty-bottom of a body of water.

From the HLAA mussels page:

"Once established as adults, they can move short distances to escape adverse environmental conditions and can also burrow down into the lake bottom.

"Our Hotel Lake mussels are long-term brooders that breed in

the summer and spawn in the fall or spring.

"Living only 10 to 15 years, our local Anodonta mussels have one of the shortest lifespans of all freshwater mussels."

Croft writes that mussels rely on the presence of a specific or non-specific host-fish to reproduce effectively and the loss or absence of a host-fish will lead to the eventual loss of that associated mussel community.

That's important to the local ecological web because they continuously ingest water into their top siphon, filtering, digesting and excreting useful nutrients for underwater insects.

Filtered water, fecal material and undigestible particles are expelled back into the habitat thus removing pollutants, algae, zooplankton and bacteria from the water.

For more information on the local fresh water mussel population and the work the HLAA is doing, visit [www.hotellakeadvisory.com](http://www.hotellakeadvisory.com).



Brian Croft/Hotel Lake Advisory Association

This summer while taking video of a prickly sculpin (*Cottus asper*) dashing about in Hotel Lake, Brian Croft caught this image (left) of a strange 'something.' The creatures turned out to be Anodonta, a genus of freshwater mussels. They were easily missed because they were covered in dense algae. The photo on the right is earlier video frame of a Hotel Lake Anodonta mussel bed relatively free of algae cover. 'These are quite prevalent on the floor of Hotel Lake and wherever you see them the water quality is very clear, largely because these mussels filter the water,' says Croft. They can number in the thousands and, cumulatively, they can represent the largest animal biomass in the waterbody where they live.

# 2025 harbour spiel review



Brian Lee

JANUARY: The Christ the Redeemer Church becomes the Pender Harbour Community Church as the two amalgamated.



Brian Lee

JUNE: Pender Harbour and Area Residents Association town hall meeting April 30.



Joel Payeur

JUNE: On May 4, Joel Payeur completes a non-stop 24 hour looping run up, down and around Pender Hill to raise money for the Pender Harbour Community Hall roof fundraiser.



P. H. Volunteer Fire Department

DECEMBER: The P. H. Volunteer Fire Department celebrates Monty Rolston's 50 years of service on Nov. 5.



Lorraine Wareham

FEBRUARY: Raquel and Dawn Joe, daughters of the late Donna Joe, the featured author in Tyner Park's storybook walk.



Brian Lee

MAY: As in every year, the April Tools Boat Building Challenge showcases the finest of local boat building and paddling talent.



Brian Lee

JULY: This anchored derelict dock mysteriously caught fire in Whiskey Slough and drifts dangerously in the early hours of June 9.



Brian Lee

NOVEMBER: On Oct. 14, the *Malaspina Sky* ferry passes Fearney Pt. in an alternate route around Nelson Island to avoid BC Hydro power line replacement work across Jervis Inlet.

# 2025 harbour spiel review



Brian Lee

MARCH: It takes awhile to dig out after some serious snowstorms in February.



Brian Lee

MAY: This fire that was reported on the side of the Egmont Forest Service on April 18 was out by April 21.



Brian Lee

August: The Pender Harbour Secondary School class of 2025 at their graduation ceremony on June 25.



Darlene Fowlie

OCTOBER: A spectacular lightening storm awes boaters across the Georgia Strait on Aug. 31.

January 2026



Hotel Lake Advisory Association

APRIL: Brian Croft (l) receives the BC Lake Stewardship Society 'outstanding volunteer award' on behalf of local volunteers helping to study Hotel Lake.



Loon Foundation

APRIL: PODS receives its building permit, held proudly by Michael Jackson, executive director of the Loon Foundation.



submitted

AUGUST: Some of the 28 volunteers who help clean up the Middlepoint forest service road at the 2025 Trash Bash May 3.



Brian Lee

SEPTEMBER: Stellar weather graces the annual Pender Harbour Wooden Boat Show on Aug. 8 to 10.

Page 9

## P. H. Community Club clarifies community garden intentions

Editor,

The Dec. 2025 *Harbour Spiel* (p. 7), “Despite announcement, community gardens’ fate still unclear,” states that PHARA announced in their November newsletter, “that the P. H. Community Club, owner of the community hall property beside the Madeira Park Elementary School field, agreed to take over both maintenance and fundraising for the gardens on their property.”

And further states, “Since that time, the PHCC has waffled on that commitment.”

This characterization is inaccurate and does a disservice to the many volunteers and board members of the PHCC.

In a letter to the editor, “The end of our community gardens?” (*Harbour Spiel*, Oct. 2025, p. 15), PHARA informed the community of all of their attempts to continue the legacy of Don Fraser and his generosity of maintain-

ing the gardens for the past 25 years.

Although an appreciated effort, PHARA took on the responsibility of exploring options for maintaining the gardens without consulting the PHCC.

The October letter goes on to declare PHARA’s unsuccessful attempts to solve the issue of costs and maintenance of the community gardens, stating, “We are frustrated to say that every avenue we tried has reached a dead end.”

PHARA then met with two PHCC board members and others to discuss possible next steps to find a way to maintain the gardens.

The discussions from that meeting were reported to the full PHCC board, which confirmed that, as the gardens are on PHCC property, the gardens fall under PHCC’s responsibility in principle.

The PHCC board also decided that it would determine a concrete way forward for the gardens after completion of its renovations and up-

grade project, so that any commitment would be realistic and sustainable.

This sequence of events shows a board acting cautiously and responsibly, not “waffling” on a commitment it never formally made in the terms described in your article.

The PHCC has recognized its responsibility for the gardens but has also been clear that it must first complete a major renovation and upgrade to the hall before it can plan and resource ongoing garden maintenance and fundraising properly.

We respectfully request that you publish a clarification to reflect these facts and to remove the implication that PHCC has backed away from a firm promise.

Doing so would help ensure readers receive an accurate picture of both PHARA’s acknowledged fundraising limits and the PHCC’s considered approach to meeting its responsibilities.

Marlene Cymbalist  
P. H. Community Club board

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## Adamson: NDP losing the plot

Editor,

Recent events at the University of Victoria, and the response that followed in the legislature, raise concerns that go beyond partisanship.

A member of MLA Dallas Brodie's entourage — specifically her cameraman — was physically assaulted while filming on campus.

The incident was captured on video.

When MLA Brodie asked Premier David Eby to condemn the violence, he chose not to do so.

Instead, he replied, "I suspect the member got exactly what she wanted at the university," and added,

"Her conduct is reprehensible.

"It is embarrassing.

"I wish she would stop it."

These remarks avoided the central issue — the violent targeting of someone accompanying an elected representative in the course of their work.

A premier does not need to agree with an MLA to uphold a basic democratic standard.

When political violence occurs, leadership demands a clear, unambiguous response.

What British Columbians heard instead was deflection and personal attack — not a rejection of violence.

This moment matters.

Canada is experiencing a rise in political hostility, and the boundaries that once protected democratic engagement are being tested.

When a premier refuses to condemn violence because he disagrees with the person reporting it, he sends a dangerous message — that intimidation is permissible when aimed at those outside his party's narrative.

That is not leadership.

That is not the standard this province deserves.

Political violence cannot be excused, minimized or reframed.

It must be condemned every time, without qualification and without regard for who is asking the question.

It is time to re-establish that boundary.

British Columbia needs leaders who will speak honestly, act responsibly, and defend the democratic rights and physical safety of everyone who participates in our political process — not only those who share the government's views.

The health of our democracy depends on it.

Steven Adamson

### photojournal



submitted

Valuable sasquatch habitat was recently destroyed to make room for a new boat to adorn the turnoff into Madeira Park. The 37-foot fibreglass *Farrell True North* will replace the rotten *Harbour Spirit* seen here. The *Harbour Spirit* has since been demolished but a former resident took these shots during a quick visit this past September and unknowingly took one of the last shots of the *Harbour Spirit* — and what is only the fourth ever verified photo of a local sasquatch.

## Heritage conservation act clarification



*Leonard Lee  
Area A director, SCRD*

The entire Sunshine Coast is a potential archeological site protected by the BC Heritage Conservation

Act.

The province maintains a register of BC heritage sites and objects and the HCA decides if a provincial alteration permit is required to make any improvements as defined in the Builders Lien Act or any that would decrease the heritage value of a site or object.

To summarize, it's illegal to disturb ground on a registered site without a permit, but it goes beyond this to include damaging, desecrating,

or altering a provincial heritage site or a provincial heritage object if you stumble upon an unrecorded site or object.

Even if a property isn't in the registry, it's still illegal to damage, alter or remove a heritage object from a site that contains evidence of human habitation or use before 1846.

If a heritage object is encountered while work is underway, a permit must be acquired to continue.

When someone applies for an SCRD development permit or building permit, often to excavate part of their property to build a home, we check the provincial registry to see if the property is in the registry, and then the applicant will be advised on prudent next steps.

The SCRD and many home

builders obtain a permit before breaking ground, even on properties not in the registry, because it typically lowers costs and avoids work stoppages if an artifact is encountered.

Changes proposed by the SCRD to the HCA were intended to streamline the permitting process but we did not propose changes to basic archeological site protection as detailed in the current version of the HCA.

### 2026 WATER SERVICE COSTS

SCRD water service customers pay an annual parcel tax listed on their provincial property tax notice plus user fees billed by the SCRD annually (Egmont and Earls Cove) or quarterly (North and South Pender).

Regional water costs have increased by \$65.76 (5.35 per cent) for



## Sunshine Coast Regional District

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

### Board and Committee Meetings

#### Committee of the Whole

January 8 at 9:30 a.m.

#### Committee of the Whole

January 22 at 9:30 a.m.

#### Regular Board

January 8 at 1:00 p.m.

#### Regular Board

January 22 at 1:00 p.m.

#### Electoral Area Services Committee

January 15 at 9:30 a.m.

Agendas are available at  
[www.scrd.ca/agendas](http://www.scrd.ca/agendas).

**Taking down your Christmas lights and finding ones that don't work?** Don't trash them, recycle them for free at Green Recycling In Pender Society, B-13136 Sunshine Coast Highway, Madeira Park.

#### HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR VOYENT ALERT!?

It's easy, FREE and a great way to be informed about emergency-related alerts on the Sunshine Coast. There are multiple ways to register, including landline calls and cell phone notifications → [www.scrd.ca/alert-system](http://www.scrd.ca/alert-system)

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



### ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER?

Winter is here, and with it the potential for more extreme weather that can impact services and your safety. Check out the following resources for information and tips to be prepared during winter:

- **Emergency Preparedness** – Get better prepared for extreme weather and emergencies using the resources at [www.scrd.ca/emergency-preparedness](http://www.scrd.ca/emergency-preparedness)
- **Extreme Weather** - Check the latest weather warnings at [www.weather.gc.ca](http://www.weather.gc.ca)
- **Driving Conditions** - For the latest road conditions, advisories and tips, visit [www.drivebc.ca](http://www.drivebc.ca)

Did you know? The SCRD is not responsible for road maintenance or plowing in Pender Harbour and Egmont?

If you have concerns about road maintenance or snow removal, please contact Capilano Highways a 604-983-2411 or [info@capilanohighways.ca](mailto:info@capilanohighways.ca)

an annual fee of \$1,295 including the parcel tax of \$545 (\$65.76/5.3 per cent increase) and user fee of \$750 (no increase).

The parcel tax increase will build long-term capital reserves by \$500,000 a year (\$44 per customer) and fund the short-term capital plan with \$1.8 million (\$21 per customer).

We kept user fees at 2025 levels in spite of a new \$15,000 data acquisition system and \$100,000 for increased costs of archeology fieldwork, excavation, hauling and paving.

The average North Pender water service cost is up by \$23.87 (1.56 per cent) for an annual cost of \$1,553.87, which includes a parcel tax of \$703.87 (\$173.87 or a 32.81 per cent increase) and volumetric user fee of \$850 (decrease of \$150, or -15 per cent).

The parcel tax increase will build long-term reserves by \$45,000 a year (\$68 per customer) and fund the short-term capital plan including watermain replacements, Garden Bay treatment plant upgrades, and upgrades to meet fire flow standards (\$105.87 per customer).

The average South Pender water service cost is up by \$135 (8.85 per cent) for an annual cost of \$1,660, which includes a parcel tax of \$810 (\$210 or a 35 per cent increase) and a user fee of \$850 (a decrease of \$75.00 or -8.88 per cent).

The parcel tax increase will build long-term capital reserves by \$100,000 a year, or \$94.88 per customer, and fund the short-term capital plan including watermain replacements and infrastructure upgrades to meet fire flow standards (\$115.12 per customer).

In 2026, North and South Pender will implement volume-based, variable user fees starting at \$850 a year,

an estimate of what 45 per cent of customers will be charged, with the remaining 55 per cent of customers facing higher user fees for higher water use.

With property-specific service fees outdated by nearly 20 years and the introduction of water meters, bylaw 778 was approved to increase the charge for turning on and off water service at the curb from \$50 to \$100 and to introduce fees of \$2,500 for physically disconnecting a water service from the system.

Other charges will include \$1,300 to test and replace a meter (unless the original meter was over-registering use by two per cent or more) and \$200 for billing adjustments because of leaks.

## WASTEWATER SERVICE RATES

All Area A wastewater (sewage) plants have comprehensive asset management plans in place for several years now, with frontage fees and user

utility fees calculated and approved years in advance.

Planned operating costs and capital reserves are reviewed annually to identify plants showing significant deviance from their plan, which is then corrected with a bylaw update to increase or decrease the utility fees.

Most plants didn't need a bylaw amendment, so 2026 rates will remain as planned, which is a \$50 frontage fee increase and no user fee increase (Painted Boat Resort will have the largest increase at 4.54 per cent).

The Lee Bay plant has suffered an operations deficit for several years, so user fees will be increased by \$127.33 (15.86 per cent), which when added to the pre-planned \$50 frontage fee, will result in a \$177 (15.16 per cent) increase.

## CONTACT ME

Email [leonard.lee@scrd.ca](mailto:leonard.lee@scrd.ca) or call/text (604) 212-0406 about SCRD issues that matter to you.



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## Ed Ricketts: An iconic American marine biologist's time in Pender

*Colin Levings,  
Retired marine ecologist*

There have been many stories written about the famous and infamous people who have visited Pender Harbour over the years but one person who has not been tagged, as far as I can tell, is American marine biologist Edward Flanders Ricketts (1897-1948).

Ricketts ran a biological supply company in Monterey, Calif.

In 1939, he published *Between Pacific Tides* with his friend Jack Calvin.

That book would go on to become the bible for marine ecologists on the west coast of North America and is now in its fifth edition.

Before the book was published, Ricketts visited Pender Harbour twice — once in 1930 and again in 1932.

Though he was here only a few days, some of his observations are mentioned in the book.

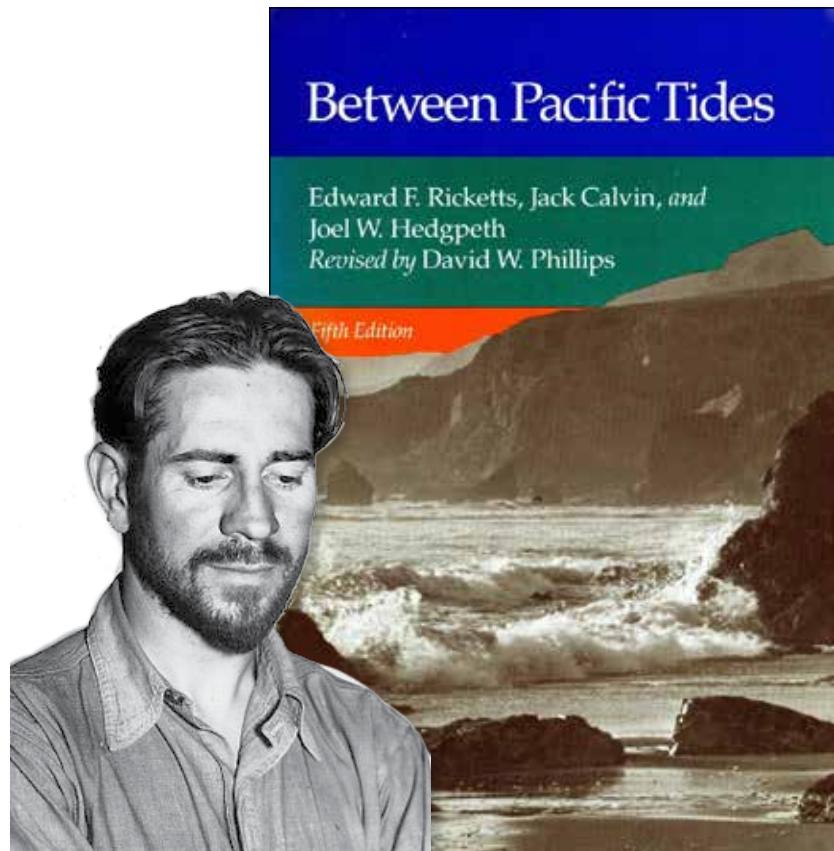
Not just a scientist, Ricketts was also well connected to the literary and philosophical scene in Monterey.

Famously, he was a friend of Nobel-prize winning author John Steinbeck and their careers were intertwined.

Steinbeck wrote the foreword to the 1948 revised edition of *Between Pacific Tides* and Ricketts is recognized as “Doc,” a main character in Steinbeck’s novel *Cannery Row*.

Ricketts’s work in Pender Harbour seemed to be relatively unknown until I started looking into his sampling in BC while I was writing a paper for a natural history journal.

In particular, his visit to BC in August 1930 had not been known before I found records of his barnacle and amphipod (sand fleas) collections



California Views Historical photo collection: The Pat Hathaway photocollecton/Amazon.ca

Ed Ricketts (in 1937) and his book, *Between Pacific Tides*.

from Charles Island at the mouth of the Harbour and at Donley’s Store near where the current prawn processing plant on Francis Peninsula sits now.

The specimens are in the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C.

It is not clear how he got to Pender Harbour on this trip but he probably came from Vancouver Island on one of the Union Steamship vessels.

After driving up from California, he likely crossed into Canada via the ferry at Anacortes or the Olympic Peninsula.

I also found collection records in 1930 from Comox so perhaps he got

the boat from there or Nanaimo as he also worked at Qualicum Beach.

We know from other collecting trips he made in BC that he went ashore while the steamship was in port for a few hours.

He likely stayed longer in Pender Harbour in 1930, however because to collect on Charles Island he would have needed a small boat and he collected barnacles on Aug. 11 and 13.

Perhaps he stayed for a few days at the Irvines Landing Hotel.

In 1932, Ricketts and Jack Calvin made a stop in Pender Harbour while on a trip from Tacoma, Wash. to Sitka, Alaska on Calvin’s 10-metre boat *Grampus*.

locally

## Harbour in the 1930s

Also aboard was another friend, New Yorker Joseph Campbell, an expert on literature and comparative religion.

Campbell was well known for his writings on “the hero’s journey.”

They crossed from Nanaimo and were in the Pender Harbour area July 3 and 4.

It is not exactly clear where they sampled in the Harbour on this trip but we know sure for he made observations on Agamemnon Channel, not far from Green Bay, while on their way further north.

He sampled with a small dredge net in the channel and noted the spectacular fauna of the tide-swept area, especially the large red sea cucumbers.

Specimens were sent to the museum at Harvard University in Massachusetts.

Ricketts mentions Pender Harbour in his book but it is not clear if this work took place in 1930 or the 1932 trip.

He was interested in the feeding habits of sea anemones and he fed one a chiton (sea cradle) to observe the digestion rate.

Also mentioned in his book are dredge collections from the mud in the Harbour where he found encrusting sponges and bristle worms.

It would be interesting to find out if there is any local historical information on Ricketts’s visits to Pender Harbour.

There are few details of his time in the area — most of his notebooks were lost in a 1936 fire in his laboratory.

However, Stanford University in California has done a remarkable job of putting available information on line for those wishing to dive deeper



iStock

Exterior of Pacific Biological Laboratories on Cannery Row in Monterey, Calif. The lab was owned by Ed Ricketts and was featured in Steinbeck's novel *Cannery Row*.

into his life and work at Pender Harbour and elsewhere in BC.

As well as being a “deep thinker” interested in the human condition, Ricketts was an amazing conservationist and scientist for his time and is credited with many original ideas on

marine communities and ecosystems.

His observations in 1930 and 1932 were a component of his vast knowledge base on intertidal life on the west coast of North America and his visits here are part of the legacy of the Pender Harbour area.

## Look here first.

The Harbour Spiel Business Directory has long been your best bet for sourcing services from trusted community members.



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- Reid Electric.....(604) 883-9309

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# G.....

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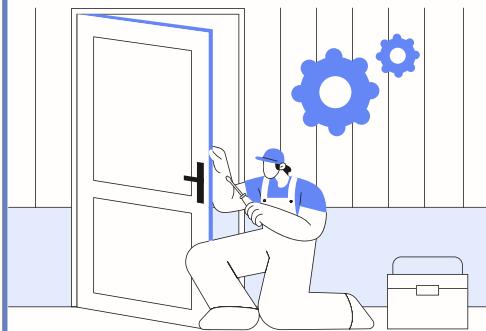
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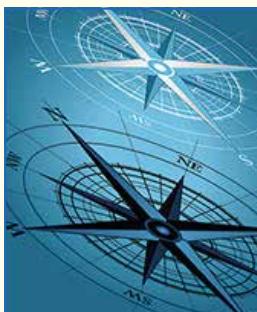
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## PHHC welcomes new doctor to the Health Centre

The Pender Harbour Health Centre is excited to introduce and welcome Dr. Derek Williams, who is joining the Health Centre team in early January as our new part-time family doctor.

Dr. Williams is joining us from Montana in the U.S. and has been practicing medicine for 25 years.

During this time, he also served as a medical doctor for the U.S. Army in the Middle East and southwest Asia.

Dr. Williams brings many years of experience and knowledge to the Health Centre team.

In December, 200 unattached patients from the provincial health connect registry were connected to Dr Williams.

For many of these folks it had been years waiting to get connected to a doctor locally.

Over the coming months Dr Williams will be attaching more patients from the health connect registry.

If you do not have a physician and are not on the provincial registry, we encourage you to sign up at [www.healthlinkbc.ca/find.../health-connect-registry](http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/find.../health-connect-registry).

In other good news, Dr. Bazilli has not indicated that she is leaving her practice anytime soon.

This means that if you are connected to Dr. Bazilli, you will remain attached to her when Dr. Williams joins the PHHC.

We are excited for Dr. Bazilli to have a fellow doctor at the Health Centre, and we are excited for them to collaborate moving forward.

The Pender Harbour Health Centre Board



Dr. Derek Williams, Family Physician (l) and Nick Gaskin, PHHC executive director.

and staff would like to thank Dr. Bazilli for her dedication and commitment to the PHHC, her community and her patients.

We would also like to thank D. Williams and his wife for choosing the PHHC and the Sunshine Coast to live and practice.

The leadership team at the Health Centre will continue to look at ways of bringing more family doctors to the PHHC.

If you have questions about PHHC doctors, we encourage you to reach out to Nick Gaskin our executive director at [nick.gaskin@penderharbourhealth.com](mailto:nick.gaskin@penderharbourhealth.com).

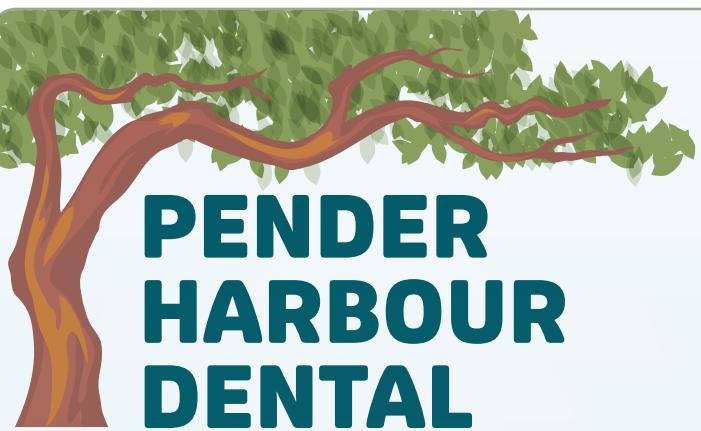


Margaret Stanley/Powell River Museum

## **Sunray cabin, Nelson Island (1964)**

Harry Roberts finished his unique cabin at the Western end of Roberts Beach on Nelson Island in 1938. He lived there until the mid-1970s, when he became too ill to care for himself. Since that time, volunteers have cared for the cabin and it remains standing to this day. To withstand the intense southeast storms, Roberts built Sunray low to the ground using cedar logs towed from Texada Island and a healthy supply of materials deposited on the nearby beach.

The post and beam construction offers a glimpse into the mind of a talented builder with an artistic flair who seemed to react to changes in topography or a sudden abundance of materials and/or inspiration as he went along. Sunray has 16 different standing walls, designed in a labyrinthine spiral that can be a little disorienting. As you wander through the cabin you begin to notice that each room is constructed on a different level, often with dangerously low beams that punish the unwary or normal sized adult – Roberts wasn't a tall man. The lowest and largest room of the house sits a step down from the front entrance with a hand-built fireplace and chimney. Painted floor tiles and glass balls embedded in the concrete add colour to what must have been a comfortable escape from winter's SE gusts.



# PENDER HARBOUR DENTAL

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Dr. Hynd has taken a great deal of advanced training in oral surgery and specifically dental implant placement, restoration and care. He takes great pride in helping people with missing teeth or loose-fitting dentures.

**Dr. Endre Sinkovics**, or Dr. Dre for short, graduated from the University of British Columbia. He is originally from Budapest, Hungary. Dr. Dre is passionate about his profession and eager to make a difference in people's lives. His patients have told him they appreciate his kind and caring approach to dental care. He believes in finding the root cause of a problem and educating the patients while also providing gentle treatment for their concerns. Before dental school at UBC, Dr. Dre completed an honours degree in molecular biology and biochemistry with a minor in biomedical physiology and kinesiology at S.F.U.



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Where: Pender Harbour School of Music

When: Full moon evenings from 7-9 p.m.  
Jan. 3, Feb. 1, March 3, April 1

Follow Pender Harbour Community School on Facebook to confirm meetings

Extra drums available - Free event

*Thank you!* 

Thank you to Parker and Carrie for helping the PHSS PAC & the 2027 Grad Class with the take down and clean up of the Light Up The Town display!!

*Thank you!*

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**YOUTH POOL NIGHT 2**

Movie, float and games

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### POOL AND WET AREAS:

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

Monday & Tuesday 7am to 1pm	Wednesday 7am to 1pm 3:30pm to 8pm	Thursday 7am to 1pm	Friday & Saturday CLOSED	Sunday 10am to 4pm
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Drop-in Activities are great way to add activity to your day in a fun, social setting!

## MYPASS DROP-IN ACTIVITIES:

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

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

### MYPASS MIX IT UP

Thursdays, 9am

### MYPASS LAND MEETS WATER

Tuesday & Thursday, 10:30am

### MYPASS AQUAFIT

Tuesday & Thursday, 9am

Applications for 2026 LIFE Financial Assistance care now available.

Learn more about this program: [www.scrd.ca/financial-assistance/](http://www.scrd.ca/financial-assistance/)

Seniors  
Helping  
Seniors

## PENDER HARBOUR SENIORS INITIATIVE

Sponsored by:  
**Smart Fund**  


### HARBOURSIDE FRIENDSHIP PROGRAM

Sponsored by:

**P. H. Health Centre &**  
**P. H. Health Auxiliary**

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

# Happy New Year!

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

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

Jan. 22 – A day with the students from the Madeira Park Elementary School  
(Free lunch for all who attend program.)

Jan. 29 – In honour of Family Literacy Week, our local Pender Harbour Library  
volunteer will give a presentation on all the services they offer.

## CARPET BOWLING: Wednesdays, Jan. 21 & 28

At the Pender Harbour Community Hall, 1-3 pm. Cost \$3.

## CHAIR YOGA: Mondays & Fridays, Jan. 19, 23, 26 & 30

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

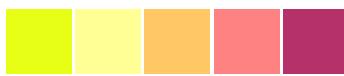
## CHAIR YOGA: Wednesdays, Jan. 21 & 28

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

# Pender harbour tides ~ january 2025

Cooler colour codes indicate lower tides. For kayaks and small boats accessing Canoe Pass (Beaver Island), these colour codes (right) indicate what should usually provide sufficient depth for passage. Note: variability occurs due to barometric pressure, wind conditions, etc.

Canoe Pass:



January	1AM	2AM	3AM	4AM	5AM	6AM	7AM	8AM	9AM	10AM	11AM	Noon	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM	
Thu 01	7.9	10.6	13.0	14.6	15.3	15.2	14.5	13.7	13.1	13.0	13.4	14.1	14.8	15.1	14.6	13.0	10.7	7.9	5.1	2.7	1.1	0.6	1.2	2.9	
Fri 02	5.4	8.4	11.3	13.8	15.5	16.0	15.7	14.8	13.8	13.0	12.9	13.3	14.0	14.6	14.9	14.3	12.6	10.1	7.2	4.4	2.0	0.6	0.3	1.2	
Sat 03	3.2	6.0	9.2	12.2	14.7	16.1	16.4	15.8	14.7	13.5	12.7	12.5	12.9	13.7	14.4	14.6	13.9	12.2	9.7	6.8	4.0	1.8	0.5	0.5	
Sun 04	1.6	3.9	6.9	10.2	13.2	15.4	16.5	16.4	15.5	14.2	12.9	12.1	12.0	12.5	13.3	14.0	14.3	13.5	11.8	9.3	6.5	3.9	1.9	1.0	
Mon 05	1.2	2.7	5.2	8.3	11.5	14.2	16.0	16.6	16.2	15.0	13.5	12.2	11.4	11.3	11.9	12.8	13.5	13.7	13.0	11.4	9.0	6.5	4.2	2.5	
Tue 06	1.9	2.5	4.2	6.8	9.8	12.8	15.1	16.4	16.5	15.7	14.3	12.7	11.3	10.6	10.6	11.2	12.1	12.8	13.1	12.5	11.0	8.9	6.7	4.8	
Wed 07	3.6	3.3	4.2	6.0	8.6	11.4	13.9	15.7	16.4	16.1	15.0	13.4	11.7	10.4	9.7	9.8	10.4	11.3	12.1	12.4	11.9	10.7	9.1	7.3	
Thu 08	5.8	5.0	5.1	6.2	8.1	10.4	12.8	14.8	16.0	16.2	15.5	14.1	12.4	10.7	9.4	8.8	8.9	9.6	10.5	11.3	11.7	11.5	10.7	9.5	
Fri 09	8.2	7.2	6.8	7.1	8.2	10.0	12.0	13.9	15.3	15.9	15.6	14.6	13.0	11.2	9.5	8.3	7.8	8.0	8.7	9.7	10.7	11.3	11.4	11.0	
Sat 10	10.2	9.4	8.8	8.6	9.1	10.1	11.6	13.1	14.4	15.3	15.4	14.8	13.5	11.8	10.0	8.4	7.3	6.9	7.1	7.9	9.0	10.1	11.0	11.5	
Sun 11	11.6	11.3	10.8	10.4	10.3	10.7	11.6	12.7	13.7	14.6	14.9	14.7	13.7	12.2	10.5	8.7	7.2	6.2	6.0	6.3	7.1	8.3	9.6	10.9	
Mon 12	11.8	12.3	12.4	12.1	11.8	11.7	11.9	12.5	13.2	13.9	14.3	14.4	13.8	12.7	11.0	9.2	7.4	6.1	5.3	5.2	5.7	6.7	8.1	9.7	
Tue 13	11.2	12.4	13.2	13.4	13.2	12.9	12.6	12.6	12.9	13.3	13.8	14.0	13.8	13.0	11.6	9.8	7.9	6.3	5.0	4.4	4.5	5.3	6.6	8.3	
Wed 14	10.1	11.9	13.2	14.1	14.2	13.9	13.5	13.0	12.8	12.9	13.2	13.5	13.7	13.3	12.2	10.7	8.8	6.9	5.3	4.1	3.7	4.0	5.1	6.8	
Thu 15	8.8	10.8	12.7	14.0	14.7	14.7	14.2	13.5	13.0	12.7	12.8	13.1	13.4	13.4	12.9	11.7	9.9	7.9	6.0	4.4	3.4	3.2	3.8	5.3	
Fri 16	7.2	9.5	11.7	13.5	14.7	15.0	14.7	14.0	13.2	12.6	12.4	12.6	13.0	13.3	13.3	12.6	11.1	9.2	7.0	5.1	3.6	2.8	2.9	4.0	
Sat 17	5.8	8.0	10.5	12.7	14.3	15.1	15.1	15.1	14.5	13.5	12.6	12.1	12.1	12.4	12.9	13.3	13.2	12.3	10.6	8.4	6.2	4.3	3.0	2.5	3.0
Sun 18	4.4	6.6	9.2	11.7	13.7	15.0	15.3	14.9	13.9	12.8	12.0	11.6	11.8	12.4	13.0	13.3	13.0	11.9	10.0	7.7	5.5	3.7	2.6	2.5	
Mon 19	3.5	5.3	7.8	10.5	12.9	14.7	15.5	15.3	14.4	13.2	12.0	11.3	11.1	11.6	12.3	13.0	13.3	12.8	11.4	9.3	7.0	4.9	3.3	2.6	
Tue 20	3.0	4.4	6.7	9.4	12.0	14.2	15.4	15.6	14.9	13.7	12.3	11.1	10.5	10.7	11.4	12.3	13.0	13.1	12.5	10.9	8.8	6.6	4.6	3.4	
Wed 21	3.1	3.9	5.8	8.3	11.0	13.5	15.2	15.8	15.4	14.3	12.8	11.3	10.2	9.8	10.2	11.1	12.1	12.8	12.9	12.1	10.5	8.5	6.5	4.8	
Thu 22	4.0	4.2	5.4	7.6	10.2	12.7	14.7	15.8	15.8	14.9	13.4	11.6	10.1	9.1	9.0	9.6	10.6	11.7	12.5	12.6	11.9	10.4	8.6	6.9	
Fri 23	5.6	5.2	5.8	7.3	9.5	11.9	14.0	15.5	15.9	15.4	14.0	12.2	10.3	8.8	8.0	8.8	8.8	10.0	11.2	12.1	12.3	11.7	10.6	9.1	
Sat 24	7.8	6.9	6.9	7.7	9.3	11.4	13.4	15.0	15.8	15.6	14.6	12.8	10.8	8.8	7.4	6.8	7.0	7.9	9.3	10.6	11.7	12.1	11.9	11.1	
Sun 25	10.0	9.1	8.6	8.8	9.7	11.2	12.9	14.4	15.4	15.6	15.0	13.5	11.5	9.4	7.4	6.1	5.6	6.0	7.0	8.4	9.9	11.3	12.1	12.2	
Mon 26	11.8	11.2	10.6	10.3	10.6	11.4	12.6	13.9	14.9	15.4	15.2	14.2	12.4	10.3	8.1	6.2	4.9	4.5	4.9	5.9	7.4	9.1	10.8	12.0	
Tue 27	12.7	12.8	12.5	12.1	11.9	12.0	12.6	13.5	14.4	15.0	15.2	14.7	13.3	11.4	9.1	6.9	5.1	3.9	3.5	3.9	4.9	6.6	8.5	10.4	
Wed 28	12.1	13.2	13.8	13.7	13.4	13.0	12.9	13.2	13.8	14.4	14.8	14.9	14.2	12.7	10.6	8.3	6.0	4.2	3.0	2.6	3.0	4.3	6.1	8.3	
Thu 29	10.6	12.6	14.0	14.7	14.6	14.2	13.6	13.3	13.3	13.6	14.2	14.6	14.6	13.9	12.3	10.2	7.8	5.4	3.5	2.3	1.9	2.5	4.0	6.1	
Fri 30	8.7	11.2	13.4	14.8	15.4	15.2	14.5	13.7	13.1	12.9	13.2	13.8	14.3	14.4	13.8	12.2	10.0	7.5	5.0	3.0	1.8	1.5	2.3	4.1	
Sat 31	6.5	9.3	12.0	14.2	15.5	15.8	15.3	14.3	13.2	12.4	12.3	12.6	13.3	14.0	14.3	13.7	12.2	9.9	7.3	4.8	2.8	1.6	1.5	2.6	



Patti Soos

Santa Claus was photographed making nice with Josephine Mayne at the Pender Harbour Community Christmas dinner on Dec. 7.

## harbour seals



**Note your Harbour Seal of Approval or Disapproval.**  
By email only: [editor@harbourspiel.com](mailto:editor@harbourspiel.com). Include full name and telephone number. (Editor will edit for length.)

A Harbour heart seal of approval and huge gratitude towards **all of Pender Harbour Food Bank's Harbour hearts — all of our Harbour businesses, clubs, groups and individuals** who have given in time and effort and generosity. We are so much better together.

Joka Wright  
PHFBS coordinator

A Harbour Seal of bright white smiles goes out to **Dr. Hynd and his amazing crew** for rounding up 125 toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste.

Thank you for partnering with us once again.

Joka Wright  
PHFBS coordinator

“Spreading Kindness” Seals of Approval to **all who donated monetary gifts, toys and gifts** to those locally in need this Christmas and importantly all year long as well.

With sincere thanks and appreciation to all.

Lyn Charlton



Combining superior, professional workmanship and honest, friendly service with competitive rates!

A newly established exterior home and yard maintenance company from a third-generation Coast resident.

- ✓ Lawn mowing
- ✓ Weed control
- ✓ Fertilizing
- ✓ Spring/fall cleanup
- ✓ Leaf blowing
- ✓ Gutter cleaning
- ✓ Power washing
- ✓ Exterior window cleaning
- ✓ Wood splitting & stacking
- ✓ Evergreen/shrub pruning
- ✓ Hedge trimming
- ✓ Boat & watercraft winterizing
- ✓ Fall bulb planting
- ✓ Odd jobs

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Allen Phillips — Owner/Operator

[eavestoeearth@gmail.com](mailto:eavestoeearth@gmail.com)

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## TRAWLER FOR SALE



## 36.5 foot Lynnwood

Two owner vessel (1985) w/6BD1 turbo charged Isuzu diesel (3,100hrs) • 26X18 3 blade prop. Large rudder • New batteries • Solar panels 1100 litres diesel (full) • 150 gallons fresh water Fiberglass fuel tanks • Fresh water flush • Rocna anchor (300 ft chain) • Swim ladder • Autopilot Beautiful stainless rails, great walk-around, spacious interior and assumable 40 ft. slip at Gibsons Marina (with marina approval)!

**\$65,000**

Selling due to health issues

**778-317-3396 [ticman10@gmail.com](mailto:ticman10@gmail.com)**

## Pender Harbour Seniors Housing Society Outreach Healthy Meal Program



**Donations gratefully accepted.  
Tax receipts will be issued.**

**FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE:**

**Call Linda — 604.883.2819, Wendy — 604.883.2514 or Anky — 604.883.0033**

# SKOOKUMCHUCK VIEWING TIMES JANUARY

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

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

1. 9:42 AM -S, 1:19 PM +S
2. 10:48 AM -S, 2:20 PM +S
3. 11:41 AM -S, 3:21 PM +S
4. 12:29 PM -M
5. 1:14 PM -M
6. 1:59 PM -M
7. 2:42 PM -M
8. 3:25 PM -M
9. **8:38 AM +XL**, 4:06 PM -M
10. 9:06 AM +L
11. 9:37 AM +M
12. 10:14 AM +M
13. 10:58 AM +S
14. 11:51 AM +S
15. 9:42 AM -S, 12:50 PM +S
16. 10:30 AM -S, 13:49 AM +S
17. 11:12 AM -S, 2:44 PM +S
18. 11:49 AM -S, 3:35 PM +S
19. 12:25 PM -M
20. 12:59 PM -M
21. 1:32 PM -M
22. 2:03 PM -M
23. 2:34 PM -M
24. 3:05 PM -M
25. 8:22 AM +L, 3:40 PM -L
26. 9:03 AM +M
27. 9:52 AM +M
28. 10:50 AM +M
29. 8:25 -S, 11:58 AM +S
30. 9:42 AM -S, 1:11 PM +S
31. 10:36 AM -S, 2:22 PM +S

*These are estimates only and not intended for navigation.*

## harbour almanac



### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

**\$391 billion**

The current approximate value of the global AI market.

**\$3.5 trillion**

According to Grandview Research, the global AI market is expected to reach nearly \$3.5 trillion by 2033

**12.2%**

According to StatsCan, in the second quarter of 2025, 12.2% of Canadian businesses reported having used AI to produce goods or deliver services over the 12 months preceding the survey. (An increase from 6.1% in the second quarter of 2024.)

~ StatsCan, Exploding Topics.com, artificial intelligence

**35.6%**

Among the 12.2% surveyed above, the largest segment using AI were in information and cultural industries.

**35.7%**

Businesses that reported having used AI over the last 12 months that used it for text analytics.

**80%**

AI users report an average 80% improvement in productivity.

**92 million**

According to one estimate, the number of jobs AI could replace by 2030.

**170 million**

According to the estimate above, the number of jobs AI could create by 2030.

**9x**

The multiple that the AI industry is projected to increase in value by around by 2033.

### JANUARY WEATHER

#### TEMPERATURES

January is our coldest month, with an average daily high temperature of 6.3 C and low of 2.9 C, giving us a mean daily temperature of 4.6 C. The highest January temperature recorded at Merry Is. is 13.2 C (Jan. 30, 1989); the lowest is -7.2 C (Jan. 29, 1969).

#### PRECIPITATION

We have an average of 46.2 hours of bright sunshine, 17 days with rain and three days with snow in January. Our average monthly rainfall is 118 mm; snowfall, 9 cm. The record daily rainfall recorded at the Merry Island weather station is 78.2 mm (Jan. 18, 1968).

## JANUARY ASTROLOGY

### CAPRICORN: DEC. 22 – JAN. 19

 Capricorns often experience hardship early in life, but their resourcefulness makes them survivors. Sometimes hard to get to know, they are loyal, responsible and down-to-earth. Your new year starts off positively with Saturn in Pisces from January to early February. Expect your creative spark to catch fire — but only if you let it. Open yourself to possibility by shedding the spiritual anchors that you've been dragging around since September. Start with your mother — she's held you down since the day you came out.

### AQUARIUS: JAN. 20 - FEB. 18

 Aquarians are original, independent humanitarians who shy away from emotional expression. This often makes them seem uncompromising and aloof. Aquarians are thoughtful listeners but they rarely tolerate someone they disagree with. This month, Mercury moves into your Twelfth House so hang on for a revitalizing metamorphosis. You will undergo a profound spiritual reckoning on Jan. 21 that will reveal the path forward. Breathe deep: An oil change will reveal an expensive problem with your transmission.

## BC BESTSELLERS

### For the week ending Dec. 6

The BC bestseller list uses sales data from over 80 independent bookstores in BC representing sales of BC published books released within the calendar year.

1. <i>A Season for Spies</i> by Iona Whishaw (Touchwood Editions)	6. <i>Trading Fate</i> by Graeme Menzies (Heritage House)
2. <i>The Canada Handbook</i> by Adrian Raeside (Harbour Publishing)	7. <i>Beneath Dark Waters: The Legacy of the Empress of Ireland Shipwreck</i> by Eve Lazarus (Arsenal Pulp Press)
3. <i>The Eh Team: A Celebration of Canadianisms from Elbows Up to Poutine</i> by Charles Demers, forward by Dakota Ray Hebert (Greystone Books)	8. <i>Inquisitive Raven</i> by Richard Wagamese, illus. by Bridget George (Douglas & McIntyre)
4. <i>John Horgan: In His Own Words</i> by John Horgan, Rod Mickleburgh (Harbour Publishing)	9. <i>Unceded: Understanding BC's Colonial Past and Why It Matters Now</i> by George M. Abbott (UBC Press)
5. <i>Coastal Connections: A History of British Columbia Ferries and Passenger Ships</i> by Derek Hayes (Harbour Publishing)	10. <i>The First Christmas Tree: An Innu Tale</i> by Ovila Fontaine, illus. by Charlotte Parent, translated by Ann Marie Boulanger (Orca Book Publishers)

~ Association of Book Publishers of BC

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 1 ~ **Dave Steppell, Paul Wharton and Cheryl Thompson.**

Jan. 2 ~ **Bill Hunsche, Vince Perreca and Salem Taylor**

Jan. 3 ~ **Colton Landry.**

Jan. 4 ~ **Crystal White and Avril Maveety.**

Jan. 5 ~ **Sue Lee, Betty Wenman and Taylor Phillips.**

Jan. 8 ~ **Sue Natall, Jodi Godkin and Destiny Wallbaum.**

Jan. 9 ~ **Arhea Howitt, Mario Lowther and Amanda Mayo.**

Jan. 10 ~ **David Pease.**

Jan. 11 ~ **Randy Cummings.**

Jan. 12 ~ **Lisa Duncan, Mary Ebert and Ryan Logtenburg.**

Jan. 13 ~ **Tia Haase and Betty Wray.**

Jan. 14 ~ **Dominic De La Canal, Norman Edwardson, Karlee Legge and Alannah Nichols.**

Jan. 15 ~ **Curtis Sample and Ron Kushner.**

Jan. 16 ~ **Cody Angus.**

Jan. 17 ~ **Anne Clemence and Tashina McLean.**

Jan. 18 ~ **Vanessa Lanteigne and Julie Marzolf.**

Jan. 19 ~ **Arieanna Henderson.**

Jan. 20 ~ **Gerald Mackie, Les Dornbierer and Hazel Jay.**

Jan. 22 ~ **Starr Harding, Lil Higgs, Leanne Legge and Troy Brown.**

Jan. 23 ~ **Taree Bathgate, Kelly Kammerle and Raeya Matthews.**

Jan. 24 ~ **Carolyn Ireland and Warren Dunaway.**

Jan. 27 ~ **Leona Colebank.**

Jan. 28 ~ **Vanessa Smith and Ikuko Kishimoto.**

Jan. 29 ~ **Jordan Field, Glen Scoular, Lorne Campbell and Tanya Bernier.**

Jan. 30 ~ **Lyle Forbes.**

## Harbour Spiel Jan. 2016: Applauding the five best beers of 2015

Moe Colton

*This article originally appeared in the Harbour Spiel, Jan. 2016. Its author maintains its truth still applies.*

I am good at one thing:  
Beer.

I knock back 10 or so beers a night and unlike most of the flakes calling themselves beer drinkers these days, I mix it up.

Tons of guys drain a case before bed but how many can tell you the last time they tried something different?

Drinking only Coors or Corona for 20 years sounds like marriage — a complete waste of time and money.

I drink whatever beer's put in front of me and I've tried them all.

I'll share that accumulated wisdom in the hope of guiding you to a better appreciation of the craft that goes into my favourite drink.

### MOLSON CANADIAN (ABV 5%)

“She’s been with me longer than my scars,” is from a country tune I wrote but it applies to Canadian too.

Molson’s finest is probably the reason I didn’t finish Grade 11 (I found my calling early).

Back then I didn’t pay much attention to a beer’s subtleties — it was all about getting through the flat faster than my beer pig buddy Gary.

Later on I came to drink alone, without distraction, and began to recognize the qualities that exposed Mr. Molson’s genius.

The maple leaf on the can should’ve been a hint.

How could I have missed that wispy maple veil that wraps the flavour yet never intrudes?

Magic.



The classic Canadian. If you don’t enjoy a half-dozen of these (what the author calls a ‘lunch kit’) a few times a year, you should move back to the States.

It’s been around since 1959 but only recently received the recognition it has long deserved.

In 2006, Molson Canadian won the gold medal for “North American style lager” at the prestigious Canadian Brewing Awards.

I was there but for the usual reasons, don’t remember it.

Serve Canadian cold as a half-but’s butthole with lightly salted potato chips — NO salt and vinegar.

Save your salt and vinegar chips to eat with beer you’ll want to rid your taste buds of — like just about any of the so-called “craft brews.”

They all taste like perfume.

### LUCKY LAGER (ABV 4.8%)

When I travel, I drink what the Romans drink.

When I travel to Vancouver Island, the Romans drink Lucky.

And why not?

The beer’s as good as any out there.

Somehow it got a reputation for being low-brow woodpecker snot but think again hippie — Lucky’s got serious taste.

Everyone on the Island already knows Mainlanders are ignorant of everything except the fibre content of their Lululemons.

So they don’t mind being alone in their appreciation of one of BC’s best beers — all the more for them.

And they need a lot.

Labatt Brewing Company declared Cumberland, BC to be the “Luckiest Town in Canada” in 2002 due to its incredible consumption.

As they say on the Island, “It isn’t what you have in your pants that makes you thankful, but what you have in your glass.”

Pair with a burger — the bitterness of the hops and high carbonation work to cut through the fat and cleanse the palette.



Vancouver Island beer drinkers covet the Lucky brand and because of its booming taste, you should too.

## OLD STYLE PILSNER (ABV 5%)

I don't always drink a flat of beer by myself but when I do, it's almost always my nostalgic favourite, Old Style Pilsner.

When I was a kid, all my alcoholic idols drank Old Style.

It was the first beer I drank.

I'd barely moved out of my diapers when Grandpa first tilted a glass of leftover Old Style foam and spit to my mouth.

It's been my favourite ever since.

First brewed in Lethbridge in 1926, Old Style now ships from Vancouver — perfect for 100-mile diets.

I spent the late '90s in Montreal and can say they would have been the best years of my life if I wasn't missing my Old Style.

I adapted with help of smoked meat and narcotics but I won't live anywhere I can't count the rabbits again.

It's a clean, crisp lager beer with



How many rabbits can you find? The author insists there are 103.

January 2026

medium body, smooth palate and distinctive hoppy aroma and finish.

So, it makes the perfect palette cleanser to pair with creamy cheese.

In other words, unless you want to look like a pretentious ass, put the wine away when you serve Camembert and brie — and serve Pil instead.

## KOKANEE (ABV 5%)

Few know that Kokanee has been around just as long as Molson Canadian — since 1959.

It's now BC's bestselling lager but let's face it, we don't drink Kokanee for the taste.

We drink it because we think Sasquatches are fun and its bright blue can makes an excellent target.

It's popularity with the weekend warrior becomes clear when you head off-road in BC.

You don't find a midden of shotgun shells and Dorito bags without a predictable number of Kokanee cans mixed in like redneck potpourri.

Kokanee is lightly hopped, flavourful and so pure you can almost taste the beaver's bladder from the mountain stream that goes into it.

Pair with pulled pork or pasta.



Get two of these — eight is never enough.

## BUDWEISER (ABV 5%)

I know Bud isn't technically "Canadian" but it's the most popular beer north of the wall and is every bit as good as anything else we got.

And despite what your know-it-all son-in-law will tell you, there's no difference in alcohol content between Bud and most Canadian beers.

Bud and Canadian are both five per cent alcohol by volume.

One interesting factoid that does set Bud apart from other beers: Anheuser-Busch adds 30 per cent rice to their recipe of hops and barley malt.

The result is a gluten-free beer and one that makes any refined beer drinker's top five.

If it's not in yours, you should go sit under a tree and ponder what your problem is.

Pair with cedar plank salmon.



The King of Beers? Maybe more like the Earl but Bud still makes the top five.

## community calendar

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

# JANUARY

Wed. Dec. 31.....New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 6 p.m.

Thu. Jan. 1.....Second annual New Year's Day Pyjama Party - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 11 a.m.

Fri. Jan. 2.....Live music with Eddy Edrik - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 6:30 p.m.

Thu. Jan. 8.....SCRD committee of the whole - SCRD boardroom, 9:30 a.m.

Thu. Jan. 8.....SCRD regular board - SCRD boardroom, 1 p.m.

Fri. Jan. 9.....Live music with Eddy Edrik - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 6:30 p.m.

Fri. Jan. 9.....P. H. School of Music Coffee House - P. H. School of Music, 7:30 p.m. (doors 7 p.m.)

Sat. Jan. 10.....Karaoke Party hosted by DJ Karl - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 6 p.m.

Sun. Jan. 11.....P. H. Music Society concert series presents J. P. Cormier - P. H. School of Music, 2 p.m.

Sun. Jan. 11.....Live music with the Sofa Kings - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 2 p.m.

Mon. Jan. 12.....Pender Harbour food bank pickup - P. H. Community Church, 10 a.m.

Thu. Jan. 15.....SCRD electoral services committee - SCRD boardroom, 9:30 a.m.

Fri. Jan. 16.....Youth Pool Night - P. H. Aquatic Centre, 6:30 p.m.

Fri. Jan. 16.....Live music with Eddy Edrik - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 6:30 p.m.

Sat. Jan. 17.....Painted Boat employment information session - Painted Boat Resort (Villa no. 31), 10 a.m.

Sun. Jan. 18.....Live music with Matchbox Blues - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 2 p.m.

Thu. Jan. 22.....SCRD committee of the whole - SCRD boardroom, 9:30 a.m.

Thu. Jan. 22.....Harbourside Friendships (lunch w/ MPES students) - P. H. Community Hall, 10:30 a.m.

Thu. Jan. 22.....SCRD regular board - SCRD boardroom, 1 p.m.

Fri. Jan. 23.....Live music with Eddy Edrik - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 6:30 p.m.

Sat. Jan. 24.....Robert Burns celebration - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 6 p.m.

Sun. Jan. 25.....Live music with Half Cut and the Slackers - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 2 p.m.

Mon. Jan. 26.....Pender Harbour food bank pickup - P. H. Community Church, 10 a.m.

Tue. Jan. 27.....P. H. Womens' Connection (Simon Gidora & Isabella Perron) - P. H. School of Music 112, 10 a.m.

Thu. Jan. 29.....Harbourside Friendships (P. H. Library presentation) - P. H. Community Hall, 10:30 a.m.

Fri. Jan. 30.....Live music with Eddy Edrik - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 6:30 p.m.

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

*"The beginning is always today."*

~ Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley

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